



For Immediate Release

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ENZI BILL WILL ALIGN YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT; FURTHER BENEFIT YOUNG ADULTS IN NEED

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) today introduced legislation to improve the "YouthBuild" program, so that it can better assist at-risk young adults in developing the education, training, and skills necessary to support themselves and to play an active role in strengthening the nation's economy.

"Under the leadership of DOL, the YouthBuild program will be more closely aligned with other job-building programs," Enzi said. "The skill and literacy requirements of today's and tomorrow's workplace cannot be met if we do not provide everyone access to lifelong education, training and retraining. This program provides valuable experience for young adults in the occupational and technical fields while building their knowledge to help them become and remain productive participants in the workplace."

Enzi's bill, the "YouthBuild Transfer Act," would transfer administration of the program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Department of Labor (DOL) in order to bring the program closer in line with state and local workforce programs ensuring that participants develop the skills they need for a lifetime of opportunities.

The YouthBuild program provides young adults aged 16 to 24 the opportunity to build or rehabilitate housing for homeless or low-income individuals in their communities while they study to earn their own high school diploma or GED. Since it was enacted in 1992, it has provided thousands of young people the chance to make a difference in their own communities and receive the education and training necessary for high-skills, high-paying jobs.

The bill is cosponsored by the Committee's Ranking Member, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

“This bill is a critical step towards improving the long-term competitiveness of the American economy by ensuring that our nation’s youth are prepared to enter the workforce. I appreciate the support and leadership of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this important issue,” Enzi concluded.

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