

2016 OFFICERS

President
Melodee Colbert-Kean
Councilmember
Joplin, Missouri

First Vice President
Matt Zone
Councilmember
Cleveland, Ohio

Second Vice President
Mark Stodola
Mayor
Little Rock, Arkansas

Past President
Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor
Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director**
Clarence E. Anthony

Deputy Executive Director
Antoinette A. Samuel

September 22, 2016

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Education and the Workforce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the 19,000 cities, villages and towns represented by the National League of Cities (NLC), we thank you for your leadership through the introduction of the Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2016. We are pleased to support this legislation that would assist our members by authorizing funding to support critical summer and year-round employment programs for at-risk and disconnected youth.

As noted in NLC's *State of the Cities 2016* report, which documents the issues that matter most to mayors by examining State of the City speeches from across the country, closing the achievement gap and focusing on workforce development programs are essential to local economic development agendas. Summer and after-school programs are key tools that mayors think about when addressing these issues and, as such, many have made it a priority to direct local funding towards these programs. However, these resources are not enough to meet the demand and many seek the support of private investment to provide as many work opportunities to young people in their communities as possible.

As you know, the estimated 5.25 million disconnected young adults in our communities have enormous potential, given the proper support and resources, to make significant contributions to our country. If enacted, the Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2016, would allow more cities, villages and towns to invest in subsidized summer employment opportunities as well as partially-subsidized year-round employment opportunities. These programs, in addition to the important work focused on community partnerships addressing high school graduation rates

and youth employment rates, will work to close the skills gap and better enable our disconnected youth to transition into the labor market.

As Congress continues its work through the end of this year, we encourage passage for the Opening Doors for Youth Act of 2016 to provide increased support to the critical youth jobs programs across our country. We look forward to partnering with you and your colleagues in support of its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence E. Anthony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director