



STACEY PHEFFER AMATO
Assemblywoman 23rd District
Queens County

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April 22nd, 2020

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I am writing to you today regarding the planned elimination of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Specifically, to urge you not to eliminate this program while the state funding is still available, but to reform it to meet the challenges during this pandemic.

Presently, 75,000 high school students use this program. They participate in this program to gain professional experience for their resumes, to develop financial independence and experience balancing their personal budgets, and to build skills that will serve and benefit them all throughout their lives. The elimination of this program would have numerous unintended consequences, hurting the futures of our students and our local economies at the same time. Instead, we should be looking to modernize and reform this program to meet the changing landscape during this pandemic. Youth employees should be able to work remotely, be trained via teleconference, and participate in this program in the same way that folks working from home are. Business is not as usual now, but we can still make important investments in our youth and future economy, and should be making every effort to preserve and modernize this program.

I am therefore requesting that you preserve and modernize the Summer Youth Employment Program for the 2020 season. Please contact my office anytime at 718-945-9550, or through my email amatos@nyassembly.gov, if I can be of any assistance.

Thank you for reviewing this request.

Sincerely,

Stacey Pheffer Amato
Member of Assembly 23rd District, Queens

SPA:dsm