

BACKGROUND INFO ON SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

Senator Murray continues to advocate for the inclusion of a **\$1 billion youth jobs program** in the economic stimulus package that will create up to **1 million jobs for teens this summer**. This critically needed jobs program meets the stimulus package's goals by focusing on the economically disadvantaged with a short term program. The summer jobs program also falls in line with Senator Murray's long-term goals of building a skilled workforce and securing our communities.

Targeted, Timely, and Temporary

- The Summer Jobs program is *Targeted* (to the economically disadvantaged), *Timely* (jobs would be created by this summer) and *Temporary* (this is a one time infusion of funds for jobs this summer).
- Authorizes \$1 billion for youth activities under the Workforce Investment Act.
- Makes funding available for the period April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 which can only be used for summer jobs and not other year round activities.

Money Will Go to Local Economies

- Summer jobs program will provide an immediate stimulus to local economies.
- Summer jobs help supplement the income of families living in poverty.
- Working teens will spend the money they earn in their communities. In fact, research from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University has shown that for every \$1 a teen earns, it has an accelerator of \$3 in the local economy.
- Communities and cities benefit when young people are engaged productively during the summer, providing much-needed services in hospitals, day care centers, senior centers, parks and public and private organizations.

An Introduction to the World of Work

- People who get early work experience as teens make more money.
- Early work experience raises earnings over a lifetime by 10 – 20 percent. (Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University)
- There is a serious and growing need for jobs for low-income young people.
- Unemployment is increasing: the unemployment rate increased to 5% -- a year ago the rate was 4.4%; the unemployment among 16 to 19 year-olds rose to 17% (up from 13% in December of 2006), and the unemployment rate for African American 16 to 19 year-olds increased 5% in one month – jumping to 34.7% (the rate was 20% in December of 2006).

Off the Streets and Into the Workplace

- Participation in a summer jobs program can help reduce criminal and high-risk behavior for youth.
- Police often say they see an increase in juvenile violence during summer months when schools are out.
- An increase in the availability of summer jobs will help steer youths off the dangerous path to gang participation and violent crime.