Vision Statement: Investing in a skilled and robust workforce is essential to the future of America’s local economies. The Youth Workforce Readiness Act of 2019 will build knowledge, skills and learning experiences that will help youth prepare for the 21st century workforce and boost their economic potential over a lifetime. Out-of-school time programs build essential skills that are in demand by employers and are transferrable across all industries.

Background
Currently there are 5.9 million out-of-work Americans and employers are struggling to fill more than 7.5 million jobs. Young people are beginning to experience challenges around workforce readiness as well. There are 4.5 million young people who aren’t in school and don’t have a job. More than 75% of youth express concerns about whether they have the skills necessary to secure a job.

Bill Summary
The Youth Workforce Readiness Act (S. 3144/H.R. 5236) establishes a competitive grant through the Department of Labor’s Employment & Training Administration for eligible national, youth-serving out-of-school time organizations providing programs focused on four overarching pillars that support youth workforce readiness:

- **Essential-Skill Development**: supporting social emotional development through every developmental stage in both formal and informal learning experiences.
- **Career Exposure**: targeted programming through community business partnerships, providing discovery opportunities, career assessments, planning, and insights into both traditional and non-traditional career fields.
- **Employability & Certification**: opportunities including: interviewing, resume writing, financial literacy and certifications in specific areas that will help youth land their first job.
- **Work-Based Learning**: opportunities to apply skills in real-life, hands-on work experiences through local community business partnerships.

Additionally, the legislation re-establishes Youth Councils to work in coordination with local workforce boards providing expertise in youth policy.

Boys & Girls Clubs are now the 2nd largest provider of afterschool programs in rural America—second only to public schools. There are 1,058 rural Clubs that serve nearly 317,000 registered members.
Club Reach & Impact
Boys & Girls Clubs of America has the reach, scale and experience to prepare today’s youth for success in tomorrow’s workforce by teaching essential skills including good judgment/decision-making, communications and collaboration which employers named as the most in-demand competencies in the labor market.

Boys & Girls Clubs Pillars of Youth Workforce Readiness

According to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America 2018 National Outcomes Report:

- **97% of Club teens expect to graduate and 76% expect to attend college.**
- **More than twice as many 12th grade Club members express interest in a STEM career as 12th graders nationally.**
- **51% of Club girls expressed an interest in a STEM career compared to 14 % of their same-aged female peers nationally.**

Success Stories

**Boys & Girls Clubs of King County**, Washington operates a career development program called **YouthForce**, which connects local companies with talented youth through on-the-job experiences that are supported by individualized training and coaching through the Club. In 2017, YouthForce **served over 1,000 youth** through events and workshops focused on career and post-high school planning, while also providing over **150 youth** with internship opportunities. Local companies providing these internship opportunities included: Seattle Seahawks, Sounders FC, Walmart, Alaska Airlines, Acumatica and Amazon. In 2016, of the 112 who had internships, **66 obtained post internship employment or pursued additional education**.

The **Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs** served over **4,300 youth** with workforce development and STEM programs thanks to a grant awarded by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)—far exceeding the initial requirement of the grant. **63% of Club members participated in a career exploration program at the Club and over 51% of Job Ready participants obtained a position following their completion of the program.**

**Eighteen Massachusetts Boys & Girls Clubs** benefited from partnership with the Attorney General to provide summer jobs for low-income young people focused on health and wellness. Through the program, young people will be able to advance public health in their communities by providing health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address factors identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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