



U.S. Representative John B. Larson CT01

First Congressional Youth Cabinet

November 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- At 1 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiernan Majerus-Collin (West Hartford).
- Kiernan welcomed new CYC members and asked the other members to share what they believe has been the most significant experience they've had since joining the CYC. Members shared their involvement in working on issues such as creating safe places for at-risk youth in communities, poverty and its affect on children, youth and families, promoting policies in youth employment opportunities, promoting CT's "Dream It, Do It" manufacturing initiative, and the CYC Report to Congressman Larson on the status of Youth in the first district, among many initiatives they have worked on. In addition, CYC members shared how their experience in the policymaking process with the Congressman has enabled them to be effective youth advocates in their own communities, listing several examples of the impact of their organizing youth for various issues.
- CYC members provided town updates.

- Matt Wilson provided an update on the House and Senate versions of the resolution to create a “Presidential Youth Cabinet”
H.R. RES. 115 (Congressman Larson is the original sponsor) presently has seven House co-sponsors. The Senate bill number is still pending. This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for American youth to have a voice at the Executive level!
However, Matt stressed that the only way to ensure that this legislation ever passes and becomes law is for CYC members to connect with friends and family who live outside of the first district, both in CT and across the country and ask them to go to a link that allows them to **very easily** send a letter to the Member of Congress and ask them to sign onto and support the legislation.
Think of what our forefathers and mothers had to do in the days before our amazing technological advances to get support for various important causes, YOU can do this with the push of a button!

Here's Matt's email that explains what you need to share with your email contacts:

Hi everyone,

Here is the POPVOX link that allows you to send a form letter to your Congressman or Senator. Send it to all your friends and family. Filling out a form letter literally takes minutes.

<https://www.popvox.com/bills/us/112/hjres115/docs/presidentialyouthcouncil/0>

Here is a link for the Campaigns

Website:http://www.presidentialyouthcouncil.org/Presidential_Youth_Council/The_Presidential_Youth_Council.html

The Facebook Page is called Campaign for a Presidents Youth Cabinet

And the twitter handle is @gov4youth

- Kiernan moved onto the next item on the agenda-Planning for a youth focused conference in Connecticut for spring of 2013. Please see attached draft format that incorporates CYC suggestions to date. **Input and feedback from CYC members on the draft plan is requested!!!** CYC members want to use this event as an opportunity to promote awareness of the value of youth input into the policies and programs (planning, implementation and evaluation) that serve them and how youth input can make programs more effective, as well as providing information to youth and adults on how to build successful partnerships.
 - Kiernan asked Congressman Larson to provide an update from the nation's capitol.

Congressman Larson shared his perspective on the various post-election activities that were happening in Congress, including the important work of addressing sequestration. The Congressman defined sequestration for the CYC and gave an overview of what it would mean if steps aren't taken to prevent it from happening and some of the steps that he and the Caucus have been working on to protect the American middle-class and promote job creation in our state and nation.

- The Congressman and the CYC then engaged in an half hour give and take discussion on various issues they are mutually concerned with.
- At 12 noon, Kiernan adjourned the meeting.
- **Next CYC meeting date:** Sunday, December 16th 1p.m. until 3 p.m. Location to be announced shortly.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to the CYC members who helped me prior to the meeting! Your help was greatly appreciated! ☺

Special Note: The CYC coordinator will be in touch with everyone to share a date and details for a post New Year CYC Holiday Gathering. We're looking for a date that will allow senior CYC members presently away at college to also attend.