

## **To the Editor of the Times,**

Reading the Times Opinion page on June 12<sup>th</sup>, I was very concerned with Bob Herbert's "Out of Sight" referring to the high percentage of teenagers and young adults who are not in school and basically have no hope of finding work. He asks, "What could be done to create jobs to bring us as close as possible to full employment?"

I note that our high schools do provide special programs for groups such as the gifted and talented and also for the handicapped. However there is a lack of attention to the students not needing a special program and not college bound. I call them "the middle."

I envision a plan that would allow students to choose a paid apprenticeship which will teach a skilled trade, e.g. electrician, carpentry, plumbing, landscaping, locksmith. The student would be paid for his work as an apprentice. This would be an inducement for him or her to stay in school. Paying the student as an apprentice would help the family and also improve our lagging economy.

I realize this is a very complex problem and needs careful research, probably by a non-profit think tank. Isn't this what a big business would do if they were losing their customers?

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