

The Socialist, Ecologist, and Republican Group in the Senate in the face of the crisis :

Rediscovering an ambition for youth

Faced with the crisis we are going through and the upheavals that await us, the Socialist, Ecologist and Republican group in the Senate has chosen to place the issue of youth support among its priorities. We must give our youth a wide credit by doing everything possible to enable them to emancipate themselves, whether from the point of view of education or access to employment.

Trusting and supporting youth is a matter of urgency, because, while young people are fortunately the least affected by the pandemic, they are unfortunately on the front line of the economic and social crisis.

We believe that the State, the guarantor of national solidarity and social justice, must intervene and implement public policies anchored in the daily lives of young people.

Accompanying young people so that they can cope with the social crisis

Young people between the ages of 18 and 25, who make up 30% of the employees of the companies hardest hit by the containment - restaurants, shops and leisure centers - have been deprived of income, while 670,000 students depend on it for their most basic needs - food, housing, clothing - and 20% of young people live below the poverty line.

Reactivation of assisted contracts

We must **immediately reactivate the assisted contracts**, which can be a strong and rapidly mobilizable lever of support: young people would bring their knowledge and skills to our municipalities and associations, and find, through this means, a first integration into employment.

Maintenance of housing subsidies

Moreover, during this crisis, increased income inequality and economic instability have further complicated access to housing. Thus, not only is it essential to **maintain housing subsidies**, but it will not be enough; we must go further and provide a temporary period for new aid measures, which will allow the most fragile to overcome their difficulties.

It is also necessary to **come back to the current housing policy** - under-indexation, after the freezing of the scale, of the personalized housing assistance, implementation of the solidarity rent reduction (RLS), but above all it is necessary to give up the reform, planned for 2020 and already postponed four times, of the APL, which will cause 600,000 people, including nearly 300,000 young people, to lose the allowance.

Creating an Income Base

We plead for a greater opening of the minimum social benefits to young people. It is necessary to widen the beneficiaries of the RSA and other social benefits by means of **a basic income** accessible to the under 25s, as several departments are experimenting. This would make it possible to set up a social mattress that would not leave any young people on the side of the road.

The rise of the Civic Service

This type of initiative should be accompanied by an **increase in civic service** that would allow more young people to multiply their experiences in a period when access to employment will be particularly complicated. By devitalizing a system that has proved its worth in favor of a universal national service that is still in its infancy and whose framework is not clearly defined, the government is taking risks with young people. We would also have liked to redeploy the resources of the SNU, which were not used up this year due to the COVID crisis and containment, in order to provide more funding for the Civic Service, which is particularly relevant at this time of health crisis and containment: assistance to isolated and elderly people, strengthening of the extracurricular supervision required due to the limited number of students in class, etc.

Reinforce the training of young people

The period of confinement has weakened the youth and has further accentuated the many existing fractures, educational, social and digital in particular.

These fractures are primarily educational. The number of dropouts has increased. The pre-cocoe reopening of schools on May 11th has not allowed the students most in need to find their way back to school.

Reducing the school fracture

For the past few months, it is still children from disadvantaged backgrounds who cannot be helped by their parents and who suffer from the situation. The gap between these children and the others is widening, risking becoming irremediable. Recruitment of additional staff, especially teachers, to carry out pedagogical and supervisory missions is urgent.

Set up a digital plan

During this crisis, the divide has also been digital. We would like to see a real digital plan put in place so that all school students have access to shelves and adequate training.

It is students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have paid the price for this educational distancing. Benefiting from less comfortable living conditions and a sometimes failing Internet connection, they experience the greatest difficulties in studying or preparing for their exams.

Upgrade all sectors

It is absolutely necessary to relaunch the Networks of Specialized Aid to Students in Difficulty, whose teams, composed of specialized teachers and psychologists, constitute a free support system for very fragile students.

The gradual elimination of the stations in this network led to its dismantling. It is, however, a device that symbolizes a true public service policy for education. There is an urgent need to relaunch these support networks for students and their families in order to fight against exclusion and academic failure.

Contrary to the government's plans to dismantle the vocational sector and seemingly eliminate the "bac pro", this sector needs to be strengthened. By maintaining high quality and adapted theoretical training and by developing real supervised and validating professional periods, we will enable the young people concerned to set up professional projects that will enhance their value.