

# News Release

## *Congressman George Miller*

7<sup>th</sup> District, Calif. Senior Democrat, Committee on Education and the Workforce.  
Member, Committee on Resources. [www.house.gov/georgemiller/](http://www.house.gov/georgemiller/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Monday, July 21, 2003

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### **JUDGEMENT DAY FOR AMERICORPS**

*Rep. Miller calls on House Republicans to resolve AmeriCorps crisis by agreeing with the Senate to provide emergency funds*

*NOTE: Tonight, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to decide what national critical needs to fund for the current fiscal year, such as disaster relief and wildfire suppression. Republican appropriators, led by Representative Jim Walsh (R-NY), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that handles the money for AmeriCorps, have indicated that they oppose including emergency funding to cover a gap in the current year of AmeriCorps funding. The gap was caused by accounting errors and mismanagement by the Bush Administration. The Senate voted 71-21 on July 10<sup>th</sup> to provide an additional \$100 million to cover the critical shortfall that will deny service placements to 20,000 to young volunteers.*

WASHINGTON – In anticipation of a decision to be made tonight by a key House panel on whether to provide emergency funding for AmeriCorps to save the program from devastating cuts, Congressman George Miller (D-CA), the senior Democrat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, issued the following statement today.

“I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations panel to provide the additional \$100 million in funding necessary to restore the nearly 60 percent cut to AmeriCorps.

“AmeriCorps in an invaluable program that meets critical education, public health, and security needs of our communities and our country.

“I am dismayed that President Bush earlier had pledged to support AmeriCorps but has now turned his back on this valuable program. But today, House appropriators have an opportunity to make good on this issue and provide the funds necessary to resolve this crisis. Democrats on the committee have committed their support. But the House Speaker has not, and the committee Republicans have not. If they fail to approve the funds tonight, they will deny some 20,000 young Americans the opportunity to perform national service.

“We cannot allow the mismanagement of the Corporation for National and Community Service’s executives, who oversee AmeriCorps, to penalize thousands of innocent Americans who seek to serve their communities, and penalize the people who benefit from their good work.”

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