

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

1. If you need help determining the members of your congressional delegation visit www.congress.org. This database will provide you with contact information for your elected officials.
2. You can call your Congressperson directly or be connected through the House Operator (202-225-3121) or Senate Operator (202-224-3121).
3. Once connected, identify yourself as a constituent and ask to speak to the Legislative Assistant in charge of national service and education issues.

A MESSAGE TO DELIVER BY PHONE OR LETTER

I am calling to ask Senator/Representative _____ to fully fund the President's budget request for the Corporation for National and Community Service

Due to the economic downturn, our communities are struggling and the demand for services is expanding exponentially. Nonprofit organizations need human capital to help them provide critical assistance to citizens in need.

Back in March, with overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. This bill proposes to use citizen service to address some of the most urgent challenges facing our nation. The bill taps into Americans' enthusiasm to serve, and it directs it to areas and issues where it can make the biggest impact.

Americans are ready to serve, stepping forward in record numbers to help our nation recover. Citizen leaders are designing creative new solutions to some of our most pressing problems such as tackling the dropout crisis and strengthening our schools, improving energy efficiency, safeguarding the environment, improving health care in low-income communities and preparing for and responding to disasters and emergencies. But for these efforts to reach their true impact and potential, Congress must invest in the Serve America Act.

This month Congress is scheduled to mark up the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, and I hope this package will include the President's full request of \$1.149 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service. This investment will add much needed capacity to community and faith-based organizations and units of state and local government that must address a spiking demand for social services with fewer resources. The federal investment would expand opportunities for millions of Americans to serve at every stage of life, and leverage exponentially more local volunteers and non-federal resources to improve the lives of millions of people in the United States.

(You should share your personal experience with national service and how important your program is to your community and the country. Please include detail on the increased demand for services, as well as the demand from people who want to volunteer and serve.)

I hope that Representative/Senator _____ will support the President's full budget request for the Corporation for National and Community Service when considering the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill. Thank you.