



America FORWARD

January 13, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Enzi:

When the Senate returns this month, we ask that you move expeditiously to approve Patrick Corvington to the position of Chief Executive Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). In March 2009, both chambers of Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act by overwhelming bipartisan margins. The bill authorizes a dramatic expansion of national service opportunities, tapping the energy and ingenuity of our citizens to address critical problems while helping innovative and effective nonprofit organizations by providing needed human capital. In December, Congress approved the largest appropriation (\$1.149 billion) in the history of CNCS, empowering the agency to strengthen existing programs and begin to invest in the new initiatives authorized in the Serve America Act. Buoyed by this landmark year, the service community is ready to address America's most pressing challenges. However, CNCS remains without permanent leadership to oversee this expansion and ensure accountability, transparency, and results.

Mr. Corvington brings a unique set of skills and expertise that are right for these times. His extensive background in nonprofit leadership and capacity-building, evaluation and performance measurement, and systems reform will be helpful to a field poised for major growth with high expectations for results. Mr. Corvington's relationships with grassroots organizations, national nonprofits and foundations, social entrepreneurs, and systems reformers will bring many new partners to national service and expand service and innovation as solutions to community needs.

The national service field supports the President's nomination of Patrick Corvington and looks forward to working with him to implement the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and take national service, volunteer service, and social innovation to scale. At a time when many families and communities are struggling, Americans are stepping forward in record numbers to serve, ready to roll up their sleeves to help solve the growing challenges facing our country. We appreciate the Senate's efforts to expand opportunities for all Americans to give back to their communities and country, and we urge you to confirm Patrick Corvington, who is ideally suited to guide CNCS through this period of unprecedented growth.

Yours in service,