



Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As leaders of public charter schools and networks of public charter schools operating in communities across the country, we are writing to ask you to protect funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service and the national service members who help public schools effectively meet the needs of our nation's students.

Today, more than half of AmeriCorps resources are focused on helping students and schools succeed. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members support students in nearly 12,000 traditional district, public charter and parochial schools nationwide, including more than 3,300 national service members who serve across more than 720 public charter schools, partnering with teachers and school leaders to help ensure students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. All told, one in every ten public charter schools nationwide depends on services provided by AmeriCorps or Senior Corps members to meet student needs.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members help to provide critical services to students in need of additional support. By engaging citizens in intensive national service for significant periods of time, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, including many programs managed directly by charter schools or charter management organizations, support the execution of locally-selected solutions to pressing education challenges. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members help to keep students engaged in school, on track to key academic and socio-emotional milestones and on a path toward high school graduation, prepared for college and career success.

Additionally, AmeriCorps serves as a critical professional pipeline for tomorrow's teachers. Through participation in national service with programs like Teach For America, City Year, and Reading Corps, AmeriCorps members are exposed to the unique challenges facing our nation's students and schools. By self-selecting into the teaching profession after their term of service, AmeriCorps alumni create a robust and diverse supply of teacher leaders equipped to address complex student needs, and many of our charter schools recruit AmeriCorps alumni for teaching and other leadership positions.

On behalf of our students, educators, and schools, we urge you to protect funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps. If our schools lose our national service members, it will be exceedingly difficult to ensure students receive the attention and support they require to succeed in school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Michael Duffy, President, Great Oaks Foundation  
Stig Leschly, Chief Executive Officer, Match Charter Public School  
Jared Taillefer, Executive Director, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School  
Antonio Vance, Executive Director, Great Oaks Charter Schools - New York City  
Tim Ware, Founder, Veritas College Preparatory Charter School

*Signatures as of May 17, 2017*