

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

As leaders of cities across the United States, we are writing to express our support for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that administers national service programs including AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

We know that Americans want to help solve the problems facing their communities, including students not reading at grade level, blighted neighborhoods, homelessness, and unemployment. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps enable citizens to serve for a significant period of time, helping to ensure their neighbors' needs are met in a cost-efficient way. Working hand in hand with thousands of local partners, CNCS programs engage more than 344,000 Americans in results-driven service at more than 50,000 locations across the country each year. These dedicated national service members recruit and manage more than three million additional volunteers who help to create jobs, support veterans and military families, deliver disaster relief, prepare a better-trained workforce, promote health, strengthen local economies, lessen dependence on government, and make neighborhoods safer.

American voters overwhelmingly support the federal investment in CNCS. A poll conducted by TargetPoint Consulting shows that 83 percent of voters want Congress to maintain or increase funding for national service programs. Voters believe that national service helps to prepare young people for the workforce, build stronger neighborhoods and communities, and restore important values of patriotism and civic duty to young people.

CNCS is also a smart public investment. The federal appropriation for CNCS accounts for a mere .03 percent of the federal budget overall, but this modest investment delivers significant returns. Research by economists at Columbia University demonstrates that every dollar invested in national service generates returns to society of nearly four dollars in terms of higher wages, increased output, and community-wide benefits. Additionally, for every \$10 in federal money appropriated for CNCS, another \$15 is separately raised from other sources to fund national service partnerships in urban, rural and suburban communities nationwide.

Despite overwhelming public support and a clear return on investment, the White House's fiscal year 2018 budget blueprint proposes to eliminate CNCS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. We know the current budgetary climate requires tough decisions regarding federal spending, but if enacted, the White House's recommendation would have a detrimental effect on our communities. At a time when cities face many challenges, we urge you and your colleagues to protect funding for CNCS—an investment that will strengthen our communities, our people and our nation.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Mayor William Bell Sr., Birmingham, Alabama Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Anchorage, Alaska Mayor Timothy Elinski, Cottonwood, Arizona Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Arizona Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe, Arizona Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, Arizona Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock, Arkansas Mayor Tom Tait, Anaheim, California Mayor Chris Canning, Calistoga, California Mayor Glenn Sylvester, Daly City, California Mayor Margaret Finlay, Duarte, California Vice Mayor John Bauters, Emeryville, California Mayor Serge Dedina, Imperial Beach, California Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach, California Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, California County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Los Angeles, California Mayor Bruce Delgado, Marina, California Mayor Reuben Holober, Millbrae, California Mayor Jill Techel, Napa, California Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland, California Mayor Tom Butt, Richmond, California Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento, California Mayor Alan Galbraith, Saint Helena, California Mayor Joe Gunter, Salinas, California Supervisor Norman Yee, San Francisco, California Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose, California Mayor Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana, California Mayor Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, California Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, St. Benicia, California Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, St. Benicia, California Mayor Corey Warshaw, West Covina, California Mayor Debora Fudge, Windsor, California Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, District of Columbia Mayor Steve B. Wilson, Belle Glade, Florida Mayor Henry Hawkins, Century, Florida Mayor Henry Hawkins, Century, Florida Mayor Cary Glickstein, Delray Beach, Florida City Commissioner Mitchell Katz, Delray Beach, Florida Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne, Florida Commissioner Beverly Williams, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida Mayor Tomas Regalado, Miami, Florida Mayor Teresa Jacobs, Orange County, Florida Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando, Florida Mayor Tom Campenni, Stuart, Florida City Commissioner Gil Ziffer, Tallahassee, Florida Mayor Jeri Muoio, West Palm Beach, Florida

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Signatures as of May 18, 2017