



VOICES *for* NATIONAL SERVICE

1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20009 | info@voicesforservice.org | (202) 742-7374

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
648 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

We are writing in support of President Biden's nomination of Michael Smith as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service or AmeriCorps agency.

For the past year, AmeriCorps grantees and members have acted quickly and creatively to address gaps in services and persistent inequities that have only been worsened by the pandemic. AmeriCorps has put nearly all of its available resources behind this crisis, but there is more to be done and the agency's programs are in high demand. With decades of executive experience working to improve communities, bridge divides and unite people to address tough problems, Michael Smith is the perfect person to work with the 70,000 nonprofit organizations across the country that are leveraging national service as a results-driven strategy to respond to the pandemic and meet community needs.

Mr. Smith has also worked to reduce barriers and expand opportunity for all Americans, and he has a vision for advancing equity through service. His experiences will be valuable as the agency seeks to make service more accessible and inclusive, increasing the diversity and cultural experiences of its service members and bringing more equity and inclusion to its grantmaking.

Many of us have worked with Mr. Smith in some of his previous roles and we believe that he is uniquely well-suited to lead AmeriCorps and build a new path forward. His energy and passion for creating lasting change and putting people at the center of solving the problems facing their communities make him an ideal candidate to direct the agency.

Additionally, AmeriCorps is led by a Board of Directors that provides overall guidance to the agency and senior leaders, including the CEO. The Board of Directors can include up to 15 bipartisan members who are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. President Biden has nominated five new board members that have extensive experience in public policy, national service, and community engagement.

Given the scale of need in our communities, and the critical role that AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors are playing in helping to meet those needs, we urge the Senate to move expeditiously on all of the AmeriCorps nominees. The agency needs its full leadership team in place, and we ask that you approve these nominations as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

AnnMaura Connolly, President, Voices for National Service
Sheila Boxley, Chair, Voices for National Service Steering Committee and President & CEO, The Child Abuse Prevention Center
Adrienne Andrews, Executive Director, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers
Mike Baldwin, Director, Prevent Child Abuse California
Jim Balfanz, CEO, City Year, Inc.
Elisa Villanueva Beard, CEO, Teach For America
Kristen Bennett, Chief Strategy Officer, Service Year Alliance
Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America
Stephanie Biegler, Chief Program Officer, Child Abuse Prevention Council
Naila Bolus, CEO, Jumpstart
Chris Bugbee, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation
Paul Caccamo, CEO, Up2Us Sports
Chris Canfield, Executive Director, Conservation Trust for NC
Jay Cranman, CEO, Hands on Atlanta
Elizabeth Cushing, CEO, Playworks
Patrick Dobard, CEO, New Schools of New Orleans
Michael Duffy, President, Great Oaks Foundation
Curt Ellis, Co-Founder and CEO, FoodCorps
Kaira Esgate, CEO, Americas Service Commissions
Maria Fabula, CEO, Community Resource Center
Jocelyne Fliger, President, AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network
Marc Freedman, CEO, Encore.org
Dr. Anita Friedman, Executive Director, Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties
Josh Fryday, Chief Service Officer, California Volunteers, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Dreana Gentry, Executive Director, Partners for Education
Lisa Glover, President and CEO, LISC
Michael Griffith, Executive Director, Breakthrough Central Texas
Emily Haber, CEO, Massachusetts Service Alliance
Jenny Hatch, Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance
Mayme Hostetter, President, Relay Graduate School of Education
Vanessa Kirsch, Co-CEO, New Profit
Gary Kosman, CEO, America Learns
Heather Jenkins, CEO, The Literacy Lab
Michelle Jolin, CEO and Co-Founder, Results for America
Helen Lowman, President and CEO, Keep America Beautiful
Jaqueline M. Lucier, Chief Strategic Planning Officer, Connecticut Office of Higher Education Center
Emily McCann, CEO, Citizen Schools
Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO, Family Service of Rhode Island

Scott McFarland, Executive Director, Missouri Community Service Commission
Nolan Mears, President Elect, National Senior Corps Association
Stephanie Meeks, CEO and President, Student Conservation Association
Amy Meuers, CEO, National Youth Leadership Council
Tulaine Montgomery, Co-CEO, New Profit
Eunice Nichols, Vice President, Innovation, Encore.org
Brendan Norman, Executive Director, Mt. Adams Institute
David Paine, CEO, 9/11 Day
Natalye Paquin, CEO, Points of Light
Monica Ritchie, Executive Director, Volunteer Mississippi
Craig Robinson, CEO, College Possible
Zack Rosenberg, CEO, SBP
Betty M. Ruth, President, National Association of RSVP Directors, Inc.
Alan Safran, CEO and Co-Founder, SAGA Innovations
Scott Segerstrom, Executive Director, Colorado Youth Corps Association
Andrew Seligsohn, President, Campus Compact
Deborah Smolover, Executive Director, America Forward
Samuel Sokolove, Executive Director, Service New Mexico Commission
Rob Spath, CEO, Conservation Legacy
Mary Ellen Sprenkel, CEO, The Corps Network
Dana Stein, Executive Director, Civic Works, Inc
Audrey Suker, CEO, Serve Minnesota
Anne-Marie Taylor, Executive Director, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource
Ashley Taylor, Director of Government Partnerships, FoodCorps
John Uzeta, CEO, Public Allies, Inc.
John Valverde, President and CEO, YouthBuild USA
Martin Weinstein, CEO, Bay Area Community Resources
Adeola Whitney, CEO, Reading Partners
Michael Williams, Director, California Family Resource Association
Valarie Wright, President, National Senior Corps Association
Kita Yang, Chief Practice Officer, Minnesota Alliance of Youth