

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

We are writing to thank the subcommittee for its past support of national service programs and respectfully ask that you increase funding for AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), in fiscal year (FY) 2024. This strategic investment will support CNCS' vital programs and help our country meet the goals of the bipartisan *Serve America Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-13).

CNCS is our country's leading provider of grants that support and promote national service and volunteerism. Through programs like AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, CNCS engages nearly 300,000 national service participants in results-driven service at more than 50,000 locations across the country each year. Working hand in hand with thousands of nonprofit organizations—including the American Red Cross, City Year, Habitat for Humanity, Public Allies, United Way, Catholic Charities, and Teach For America—these dedicated Americans recruit and manage millions of additional volunteers as they work to promote employment opportunities, deliver disaster relief, prepare a better-trained workforce, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, promote health, and provide essential services to some of our most vulnerable populations, including children and seniors, as well as veterans.

National service is a public-private partnership that recognizes that no one sector can meet our challenges alone and that America is at its best when citizens work together joined in common purpose. CNCS—which leverages approximately \$1 billion in resources from the private sector, foundations, and local agencies—is helping organizations across the country work in creative ways to tackle our most persistent and costly challenges by:

- Aiding the recovery from COVID-19 through supporting students with distance learning, helping schools to reopen safely, providing counseling and mental support to families, delivering food and medicine to vulnerable populations, helping struggling Americans access government nutrition and rental assistance, and staffing 311 and vaccine hotlines;
- Deploying AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to provide relief and recovery assistance to communities impacted by wildfires in California, floods in New Mexico and Missouri, and Hurricanes Ian and Fiona in Florida and Puerto Rico;
- Assisting more than 250,000 veterans and military family members each year with job training and employment services, benefit counseling, transportation, and housing

- support;
- Helping Americans lead healthier lives by addressing public health issues such as opioid and substance abuse prevention, reduction, and recovery;
- Increasing access to safe, affordable housing for thousands of families;
- Providing additional student supports in one out of four persistently low-achieving schools;
- Assisting over 200,000 low-income families and individuals across the country with free tax preparation services;
- Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older generations to help 360,000 homebound seniors live independently each year; and
- Creating pathways to employment and a pipeline of citizen leaders.

National service programs harness the energy and ingenuity of our nation’s most valuable resource—our citizens—to address community needs and help local economies grow. A 2020 study by economists at ICF found that AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors offer a significant return on investment: For every one dollar that Congress appropriates to these signature programs, they return over \$17 to society, program members and the government. By transforming the lives of those who serve, the AmeriCorps programs are also a smart investment in our country’s future. AmeriCorps expands opportunity and enables participants, especially young Americans, to gain marketable job skills and pursue higher education, which increases their employability and earning potential.

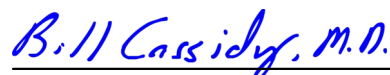
We are grateful of the increases Congress provided for AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors, and agency operations in recent years, which continue to help to strengthen our national service programs and bolster members’ living allowances. There is extraordinary demand from nonprofit organizations and communities for more positions that exceeds available resources, and we are strongly committed to working towards an AmeriCorps living allowance that covers a participant’s basic expenses during their service term. We encourage the subcommittee to build upon the FY 2023 increase and work to expand the program to 100,000 AmeriCorps members and to make further investments in member benefits. Should achieving these objectives not be possible this year, we ask that you take a meaningful step toward them by building on the President’s budget request and providing an increase of \$300 million.

We are aware of the difficult fiscal choices our country faces, but it is our hope that you continue to recognize and invest in the important work for CNCS and its members. We urge you to increase funding for CNCS in FY 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



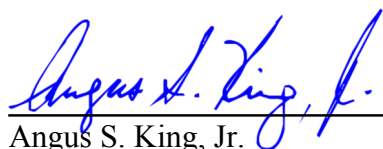
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



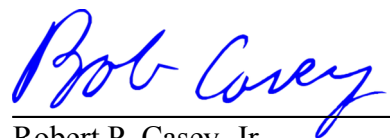
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



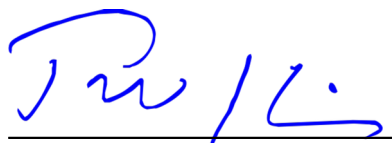
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



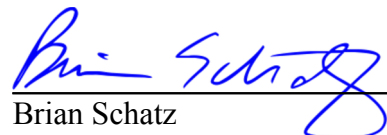
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



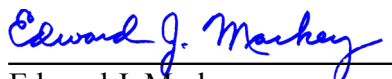
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



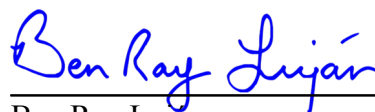
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



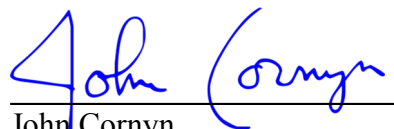
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



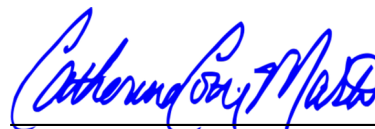
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



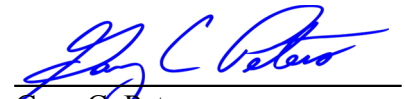
John Cornyn
United States Senator



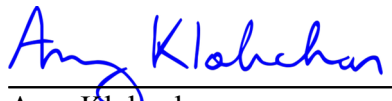
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator




Jon Ossoff
United States Senator




Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator




Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator




Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator




Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



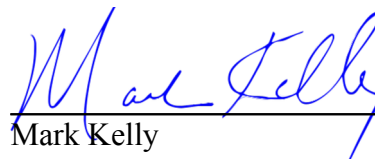
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



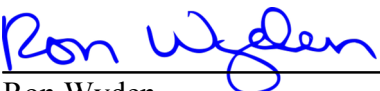
Jon Tester
United States Senator



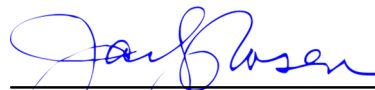
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator