

Template Letters to the Editor (LTEs):
Thanking Congress for Support of AmeriCorps in FY26 Appropriations

Letters to the editor (LTE) are widely read not only by members of Congress and their staff, but also the general public, newspaper editors and reporters, and other opinion leaders. An LTE that speaks to a broader audience, and underscores AmeriCorps' vital importance to the local community, is a great way to get your legislator's attention and garner more public support. Following the passage of near-level funding for AmeriCorps in FY26 appropriations, you can use the template LTEs below to thank your members of Congress for their support.

Keep these helpful tips in mind for submitting your LTE:

- **Stay local:** Consider submitting it to a smaller local paper, not just the nearest big city paper. You'll have a better chance of getting published and still get noticed by your members of Congress.
- **Feel free to edit the template** to include relevant personal experience, local connections to the issue, or to put it in your own words.
- **Stick to word limits:** Papers have a word limit, and you must stick to it. Look up the word limit for your intended publication (google the name of the publication and "letter to the editor submission") prior to drafting. Be clear and concise – many only allow about 150 words.
- **Submitting your LTE:** You can find the email address for submitting your LTE on the newspaper's website. Paste your letter into the body of your email – do NOT include it as an attachment.
 - Many newspapers require that letter writers submit contact information with their letter. Phone numbers won't be published. This is just to verify your identity.
- **Keep us posted:** Voices for National Service is available to help edit your LTE and/or offer advice on placement, as needed. Please also let us know when your LTE is published, so we can pass it along to your members of Congress and amplify it on our social media channels. Contact Shanelle Oliver, soliver2@cityyear.org, for assistance.

Template Letters to the Editor

Title Ideas

- A Bipartisan Win for AmeriCorps and [State] Communities
- Bipartisan Support for AmeriCorps Delivers for [State]
- AmeriCorps Strengthens [State] Communities
- Thank You [Senator/Rep Name(s)]

Version One

To the Editor:

When students need tutoring, families need support after disasters, or communities need help meeting urgent local needs, AmeriCorps members step up.

That's why the recent bipartisan decision by Congress to fund AmeriCorps is such good news for communities across [State]. By sustaining more than \$1.25 billion for AmeriCorps programs, Congress reaffirmed the value of national service and its practical impact on the ground.

AmeriCorps members strengthen nonprofit and faith-based organizations throughout our state. At [Organization Name], they help us [briefly describe 1 concrete service or impact], enabling us to serve more people and respond more effectively to local needs.

We thank [name(s) of Senators/Reps] for their leadership and commitment to AmeriCorps. Their support is an investment in stronger, more resilient communities and a more engaged [State].

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Phone number, email]

Version Two

To the Editor:

In communities across [State], improving people's lives often depends on people willing to roll up their sleeves—and AmeriCorps members are among the most dependable partners local organizations have.

That's why the bipartisan decision by Congress to fund AmeriCorps is such a win for our state. By sustaining more than \$1.25 billion for AmeriCorps programs, Congress reaffirmed that national service delivers real results where people live and work.

AmeriCorps members provide essential support to nonprofit and faith-based organizations throughout [State]. At [Organization Name], they help us [briefly describe 1 concrete service or impact], giving our team the extra hands needed to expand services and deliver better results for the people we serve.

We thank [name(s) of Senators/Reps] for championing AmeriCorps and backing local solutions that work. Their leadership helps ensure communities across [State] have the people power to respond, recover, and thrive.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Phone number, email]

Version Three

To the Editor:

In a time when agreement can feel hard to come by, it's refreshing to see leaders come together around something that works.

That's why the recent bipartisan decision by Congress to fund AmeriCorps is such good news for communities across [State]. By sustaining more than \$1.25 billion for AmeriCorps programs, lawmakers reaffirmed the practical value of national service and its essential role in supporting local organizations.

AmeriCorps members strengthen nonprofit and faith-based groups throughout our state. When students need tutoring, families need support after disasters, or local program need extra hands, AmeriCorps members are often the ones stepping up. At [Organization Name], they help us [briefly describe 1 concrete service or impact], letting us serve more people and respond more effectively to community needs.

We thank [name(s) of Senators/Reps] for their leadership and commitment to AmeriCorps. Their support is an investment in stronger communities and a thriving [State].

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Phone number, email]