

For Immediate Release

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Missouri Mayors Join Forces to Support National Service
Urge Congress to Protect Funding for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps

Kansas City, MO (May 9, 2018) – Seventeen mayors, representing Missouri’s largest cities and small towns, have come together to urge the U.S. Congress to protect funding for national service programs, including AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

In a letter to U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, the bipartisan mayors say that: “Despite the overwhelming public support and a clear return on investment, the White House fiscal year 2019 budget blueprint once again proposes to eliminate CNCS [the Corporation for National and Community Service], AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. We know the current budgetary climate requires tough decisions regarding federal spending, but if enacted, the Administration’s recommendation will have a detrimental effect on our Missouri communities. At a time when cities face many challenges, we urge you and your colleagues to continue your efforts to protect funding for CNCS – an investment that will strengthen our communities, our people, and our nation.”

Senator Blunt is Chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, Education, and Related Agencies, which is responsible for funding national service programs. The letter follows his tour last week of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School in Kansas City, where programs like AmeriCorps City Year Kansas City enable Americans to help solve the problems facing their communities, including the following: students not performing at grade level in English, reading, science, or mathematics; blighted neighborhoods; homelessness; and unemployment.

4,770 Missourians of all ages and backgrounds completed AmeriCorps and Senior Corps service activities between April 14, 2017 and April 13, 2018 that helped meet local needs, strengthen communities and increase civic engagement through national service. Each year, approximately 1,000 AmeriCorps members and 4,000 Senior Corps volunteers serve at nearly 1,000 sites across the state.

The letter was signed by:

- Mayor Brian Treece, City of Columbia
- Mayor Larry Henderson, City of Eldon
- Mayor James Knowles III, City of Ferguson
- Mayor James R. Hark, City of Hannibal
- Mayor Eileen Weir, City of Independence
- Mayor Carrie Tergin, Jefferson City
- Mayor Gary Shaw, City of Joplin
- Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James, Jr., Kansas City

- Mayor Jerry Mills, City of Kirksville
- Mayor Denton Kooyman, City of Malden
- Mayor Susan McVey, City of Poplar Bluff
- Mayor Lois J. Magdit IV, City of Rolla
- Mayor Ken McClure, City of Springfield
- Mayor Sally Faith, City of St. Charles
- Mayor Lyda Krewson, City of St. Louis
- Mayor George A. Lauritson, City of St. Robert
- Mayor Luge Hardman, City of Waynesville

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