



November 8, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

As you work to finalize funding levels for fiscal year 2020 within the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you support the House-passed level of \$1.14 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). In addition, we ask that you include an increase of \$1 million for the September 11th National Day of Service. This supplemental funding was included in the Senate Labor-HHS draft, released on September 18th, to fund patriotic acts of service that will honor victims and heroes on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

CNCS, a federal agency created 25 years ago, guides the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps national service programs, leads two national days of service, and supports volunteering across the United States. The agency's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Through grantmaking to thousands of local partners, CNCS engages more than 300,000 national service members in high-impact service to meet pressing needs that include boosting education outcomes, combatting the opioid epidemic, providing disaster response and recovery services, caring for the elderly, protecting the environment, and supporting our veterans and military families.

National service programs represent vital opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their communities, earn money for college, gain valuable work experience, develop skills to support future career success, and improve their own social connections and health. These programs provide immediate services of value, and communities with more extensive service initiatives have a better civic infrastructure, stronger labor markets, and more human and social capital.

Economists at Columbia University reported that every \$1.00 dollar invested in national service yields a \$3.95 return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased economic activity, and other community-wide benefits. Every federal dollar invested in national service yields \$2.20 in savings to other government programs. These figures show that national service is a valuable tool that should be leveraged, particularly in austere economic times, to ensure that community needs are met.

National service is also a public-private partnership, that recognizes that no one sector can meet our challenges alone. The investments in CNCS, which accounts for only .03 percent of the federal budget overall, is highly leveraged to maximize results and lessen dependence on government. For every \$10 that Congress invests in CNCS, an additional \$15 is raised separately from private sources to support national service programs in urban, rural and suburban communities nationwide.

We appreciate the Subcommittee's leadership in funding this agency and recognize fully the difficult fiscal choices that you face as you reconcile your bills. Thank you for considering our request to increase funding for CNCS in FY20. We firmly believe now is the time to invest in CNCS to ensure citizens' needs are met in a cost-effective way and to make our communities stronger and more connected.

Sincerely,