



May 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As mayors of some of California's largest cities, representing more than seven million people, we write to urge you to include The Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act in the next COVID-19 relief package. The bill, introduced this week by Representatives David Price (D-NC), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Tom Cole (R-OK), among others, would provide a comprehensive, locally focused, national service strategy to help communities, including ours, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our own cities, State, and the country as a whole, contemplate the future, we know that the challenges to recovery for our grieving families, shuttered schools and churches, and halted economy are manifold. And as you know, the road to normalcy will require more than economic stimulus, even historic levels of it. We should call on Americans throughout California and across the country to step up and contribute through service.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) (CCC) to help America recover from the Great Depression. The 21st century version of the CCC, [AmeriCorps](#), and [Senior Corps](#) members, are already actively helping respond to the pandemic. They are serving at drive-thru testing sites, providing childcare for health care workers, helping deliver food and life-saving medicines to our most vulnerable, supporting students struggling with distance learning, checking in on isolated seniors, and more. But we need their help in far greater numbers if we are to successfully recover from one of the greatest challenges our country has ever faced.

The Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act expands AmeriCorps to 750,000 AmeriCorps positions over three years, and establishes a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to manage a quick deployment of AmeriCorps members to crisis areas. As we face the triple threat of a health, economic, and educational crisis, we should lean

into the robust and flexible national service infrastructure offered by AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to meet the acute needs mounting in our communities.

The Price-Matsui bill would ensure AmeriCorps can provide surge capacity to support COVID-19 contact tracing; job counseling, training and placement programs to get Americans back to work; hunger prevention programs to deliver meals to senior citizens or staff community and church food banks; and education programs to help our students make up for lost time in the classrooms. Investing in national service organizations will enhance communities' ability to address, respond, and recover from the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19. The bill is supported by more than one hundred organizations. Companion legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Chris Coons (D-DE) and 13 others.

We urge you to include the Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act in the COVID-4 package so we can tap the talent and energy of national service members to help our cities and the country respond to and recover from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

The California Big City Mayors Coalition



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento



Robert Garcia
Mayor
City of Long Beach



Libby Schaaf
Mayor
City of Oakland



Miguel Pulido
Mayor
City of Santa Ana



Rusty Bailey
Mayor
City of Riverside



Michael Tubbs
Mayor
City of Stockton