



Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

As mayors, 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 last week by Senators Coons and colleagues in the Senate and Representatives David Price (D-NC), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Tom Cole (R-OK) and others in the House, 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 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 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 child care 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 Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act would ensure AmeriCorps can provide surge capacity to support COVID 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.

We urge you to include the Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act in the next COVID-19 relief 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,

Tim Keller, Mayor of Albuquerque, NM
Justin M. Wilson, Mayor of Alexandria, VA
Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, TX
Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor of Baltimore, MD
Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA
Randall L. Woodfin, Mayor of Birmingham, AL
Chris Mehl, Mayor of Bozeman, MT
Byron W. Brown, Mayor of Buffalo, NY
Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago, IL
Steve Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC
Andrew Ginther, Mayor of Columbus, OH
Michael E. Duggan, Mayor of Detroit, MI
Emily Larson, Mayor of Duluth, MN
Van Broughton, Mayor of Elkins, WV
Cassie Franklin, Mayor of Everett, WA
Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River, MA
Jerome A. Prince, Mayor of Gary, IN
Roxann Wedegartner, Mayor of Greenfield, MA
Knox White, Mayor of Greenville, SC
Pat Moeller, Mayor of Hamilton, OH
Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford, CT
Patrick Taylor, Mayor of Highlands, NC
Steve Williams, Mayor of Huntington, WV
Richard Strick, Mayor of Huntington, IN

Eileen Weir, Mayor of Independence, MO
Lenny Curry, Mayor of Jacksonville, FL
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, CA
Joyce Craig, Mayor of Manchester, NH
Paul Coogan, Mayor of Milwaukee, WI
John Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford, MA
Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland, CA
Buddy Dyer, Mayor of Orlando, FL
Donald Grebien, Mayor of Pawtucket, RI
Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, OR
Jorge Elorza, Mayor of Providence, RI
Levar M. Stoney, Mayor of Richmond, VA
Rusty Bailey, Mayor of Riverside, CA
P.T. Wood, Mayor of Salida, CO
Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, TX
Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose, CA
Jenny Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, WA
Michael Tubbs, Mayor of Stockton, CA
Melvin Carter, Mayor of St. Paul, MN
James Mueller, Mayor of South Bend, IN
Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of Topeka, KS
Randy Toms, Mayor of Warner Robins, GA
Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC

List as of 5/15/20