

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Alexander, Chairman Blunt, Chairman Scott, Chairman DeLauro, Ranking Member Murray, Ranking Member Cole and Ranking Member Foxx:

We are writing to encourage you to expand and strengthen AmeriCorps and Senior Corps in the next coronavirus relief package. Americans are still grappling with the crippling impact of COVID-19, and national service programs are being asked to step up to help fill critical gaps in services.

Earlier this year, Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S. 3964, the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic through National Service (CORPS) Act to strengthen and expand national service over a three-year period with the goal of including the funding and provisions from that legislation in the COVID-19 relief package. The CORPS Act has strong bipartisan support with 8 Republicans and 8 Democrats cosponsoring. The CORPS Act calls for the expansion of AmeriCorps positions from 75,000 to 150,000 in the first year, 200,000 in the second year and to 250,000 by year three. The bill prioritizes funding for activities directly related to COVID-19 and expands national service in rural and high poverty communities. It also encourages participation by members of low income and underrepresented communities by increasing the living allowance, doubling the education award, and making college more affordable for those who serve.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members across the country have acted quickly and creatively to address gaps in services and persistent inequities that have only been exacerbated by the virus. The national service members have delivered millions of meals, conducted hundreds of thousands of wellness checks, expanded access to health screenings, set up temporary isolation sites, organized blood drives and are providing virtual teaching, tutoring, and mentoring to students. National service is making a tremendous difference, but we need more boots on the ground to address the needs in our communities.

The U.S. is also facing its highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression and the effects of COVID-19 on jobs and the economy will be felt well into the future. Increasing the number of AmeriCorps service positions can help those who are unemployed and recent college and high school graduates develop workplace skills while contributing to our recovery. During their service, members earn a living stipend and a scholarship to help pay back student loans or to go on to college.

In May 2020, TargetPoint Consulting conducted a poll of registered voters in sixteen battleground states. The public opinion research found that the American people clearly recognize the value of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps at this extraordinary time. Eighty percent of voters across party lines support increasing the federal investment in national service to further help communities respond to and recover from COVID-19. This includes 70 percent of Republicans and 90 percent of Democrats.

As you continue to negotiate another coronavirus stimulus package, we urge you to include S. 3964. According to a recent study from ICF, every \$1 in federal taxes invested in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps return over \$17 to society, program members, and the government. Any additional money invested in the federal national service programs would provide a significant benefit to taxpayers while providing critical aid and relief during the pandemic. The CORPS Act is a bipartisan approach to an urgent problem and its funding and legislative provisions should be included in any coronavirus relief and economic stimulus legislation that is considered by Congress.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Andrews, Executive Director, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers
Mike Baldwin, Director of Statewide AmeriCorps Programs, Prevent Child Abuse of California
Jim Balfanz, CEO, City Year

Sydelle Barreto, Senior Policy Associate, New Leaders
Scott Baier, CEO, College Bound
David Beard, Policy and Advocacy Director, School's Out Washington
Elisa Villanueva Beard, CEO, Teach For America
Laura Bellis, Executive Director, Take Control Initiative
Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America
Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Buffalo
Stephanie Biegler, Chief Program Officer, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento
Lori Bishop, Executive Director, Flint Hills Volunteer Center Inc
Caroline Blakely, President and CEO, Rebuilding Together
Naila Bolus, CEO, Jumpstart
Craig Bowser, CEO, The SAVE Farm
John Box, AmeriCorps Assistant Director, Waynesville R-VI School District
Sheila Boxley, President & CEO, The Child Abuse Prevention Center
Chris Bugbee, President/CEO, OneStar Foundation
Audra Clark, Executive Director, City Year Kansas City
Jesse Colvin, CEO, Service Year Alliance
Mary Connor, Executive Director, Soccer Without Borders
AnnMaura Connolly, President, Voices for National Service
Jay Cranman, CEO, Hands On Atlanta
Dawn Crayco, CT Program Director, FoodCorps CT
Elizabeth Cushing, President, Playworks
Brett D'Antonio, CEO, Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County
Maud Daudon, Executive Leader, Career Connect Washington
Michael Dodson, LTG USA (Ret)
Margo Dragos, Founder & CEO, ArtistYear
Steve Dubiel, Executive Director, EarthCorps
Michael Duffy, President, Great Oaks Foundation
Curt Ellis, Co-Founder & CEO, FoodCorps
Kenan Ender, Executive Director, AmeriCorps St. Louis
Kaira Esgate, CEO, America's Service Commissions
Mario Fedelin, CEO, Changeist,
Luke Forrest, Executive Director, CEDAM (Community Economic Development Association of Michigan)
Marc Freedman, CEO, Encore.org
Brian Gallagher, President & CEO, United Way Worldwide
Paul Giuliani, Deputy Director, Giants Community Fund
Angela Glore, Executive Director, First 5 Del Norte
Stephanie Grove, President, National Senior Corps Association
Emily Haber, CEO, Massachusetts Service Alliance
Mayme Hostetter, President, Relay Graduate School of Education
Jenny Hatch, Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance
Emily Hoyte, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together South Sound
Brandi Jimenez, Director of National Service, Citizen Schools
Ashley Johnson, CO-CEO, The Literacy Lab
Maurice Jones, President and CEO, Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Jerry Keir, Executive Director, Great Basin Institute
Gary Kosman, CEO, America Learns
Colleen Laing, Associate Director, Planning & Public Policy, United Way of King County
Jacqueline Lucier, Division Director, Connecticut Office of Higher Education

Erin Malone, VP of Education, Mission: St. Louis
Reese May, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, SBP
Heather Margolis, Executive Director, Montana Education Partnership
Emily McCann, CEO, Citizen Schools
Brigid McRaith, CEO, Mile High Youth Corps
Stephanie Meeks, CEO & President, Student Conservation Association
Amy Meuers, CEO, National Youth Leadership Council
Eric Nesheim, Executive Director, Literacy Minnesota
Janet Nichols, Military Community Liaison, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
David Paine, Co-Founder, 9/11 Day
Jeff Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Youth Corps
Rochelle Parker, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)
Daniel Parkhurst, Director of Policy & Communications, Washington Nonprofits
Natalie Paquin, CEO & President, Points of Light
Melinda Points, Executive Director, Oklahoma AmeriCorps
Craig Robinson, President, College Possible
Kori Redepening, CEO, Minnesota Alliance With Youth
Zack Rosenberg, CEO & Co-Founder, SBP
Chris Rosson, Executive Director, Teach For America Kansas City
Sue Santa, Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy, Girl Scouts of the USA
Kif Scheuer, Program Director, Local Government Commission
Emily Shields, Executive Director, Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact
Lee Silberman, CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk County
Scott Segerstrom, Executive Director, Colorado Youth Corps Association
Andrew Seligsohn, President, Campus Compact
Yonce Shelton, Catholic Volunteer Network, Executive Director
Susan Slater, Interim CEO, Reading Partners
Deborah Smolover, Executive Director & Managing Partner, America Forward/New Profit
Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO, The Corps Network
Audrey Suker, CEO, ServeMinnesota
Sue Simmons, President, Flint Hills Volunteer Center
Gene Sofer, Washington Representative, National Association of RSVP Directors
Rob Spath, CEO, Conservation Legacy
Ann-Marie Taylor, Executive Director, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC)
Ben Thomas, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps-NM
Jack Tomkinson, Executive Director, Urban Sparks
Jaime Uzeta, CEO, Public Allies
Emma Vadehra, Executive Director, Next 100
John Valverde, CEO YouthBuild USA
Robert Walthall, Program Manager Conservation, CLIMB CDC
Rebecca Winters, Program Director, Poplar Bluff Schools
Marty Weinstein, CEO, BACR
Michael Williams, Director, California Family Resource Council
Cindy Wu, Executive Director, LISC Bay Area

Signatures as of 9/28"