

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
648 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

We are writing in support of President Biden's nomination of Michael Smith as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service or AmeriCorps agency.

For the past year, AmeriCorps grantees and members have acted quickly and creatively to address gaps in services and persistent inequities that have only been worsened by the pandemic. AmeriCorps has put nearly all of its available resources behind this crisis, but there is more to be done and the agency's programs are in high demand. With decades of executive experience working to improve communities, bridge divides and unite people to address tough problems, Michael Smith is the perfect person to work with the 70,000 nonprofit organizations across the country that are leveraging national service as a results-driven strategy to respond to the pandemic and meet community needs.

Mr. Smith has also worked to reduce barriers and expand opportunity for all Americans, and he has a vision for advancing equity through service. His experiences will be valuable as the agency seeks to make service more accessible and inclusive, increasing the diversity and cultural experiences of its service members and bringing more equity and inclusion to its grantmaking.

Many of us have worked with Mr. Smith in some of his previous roles and we believe that he is uniquely well-suited to lead AmeriCorps and build a new path forward. His energy and passion for creating lasting change and putting people at the center of solving the problems facing their communities make him an ideal candidate to direct the agency.

Additionally, AmeriCorps is led by a Board of Directors that provides overall guidance to the agency and senior leaders, including the CEO. The Board of Directors can include up to 15 bipartisan members who are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. President Biden has nominated five new board members that have extensive experience in public policy, national service, and community engagement.

Given the scale of need in our communities, and the critical role that AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors are playing in helping to meet those needs, we urge the Senate to move expeditiously on all of the AmeriCorps nominees. The agency needs its full leadership team in place, and we ask that you approve these nominations as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,