

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom J. Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and to respectfully request that you support increased funding for CNCS at the national service community-recommended level of \$1.46 billion for fiscal year 2016.

As you know, CNCS administers AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, VISTA, NCCC, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund and is the nation's leading grant provider for service and volunteering. Working hand in hand with thousands of local partners, CNCS programs engage more than 386,000 national service participants in results-driven service at more than 60,000 locations across the country each year. These dedicated Americans recruit and manage more than five million additional volunteers as they work to create jobs, deliver disaster relief, prepare a better-trained workforce, promote health, strengthen our economy, and improve communities nationwide.

National service harnesses the energy and ingenuity of our nation's most valuable resource – our citizens – to bolster the capacity of the social and public sectors to address local needs and save taxpayer dollars. A recent study by economists at Columbia University found that, for every dollar invested in national service, there is a \$3.95 return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased output and other community-wide benefits. In fact, national service programs are among the largest employers of young Americans, allowing participants to gain marketable job skills and experience and to increase their employability and earning potential. Service programs also benefit the unemployed: CNCS found that unemployed individuals who volunteer are 27 percent more likely to secure employment than those who do not volunteer.

National service is a public-private partnership which recognizes that no one sector can meet our challenges alone, and that America is at its best when citizens work together joined in common purpose. The resources provided by CNCS, matched by significant support from the private sector, are helping organizations across the country work in creative ways to tackle our most persistent and costly challenges by:

- Assisting with relief and rebuilding efforts after natural disasters, including the devastating tornadoes that hit Missouri, Mississippi, and Oklahoma over the past several years; the mudslides in Washington; Hurricane Katrina; and Superstorm Sandy, as well as long-term recovery for other disaster-stricken communities;
- Serving nearly 1.5 million veterans and military families in more than 200 communities, helping them to access benefits and services, obtain job training, and ensure their children receive mentoring and tutoring services;
- Increasing access to safe, affordable housing for thousands of families;
- Providing additional student support in one out of four persistently low achieving schools;
- Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older generations to provide over 800,000 seniors and Americans with disabilities with in-home support.

For all these reasons, we urge you to fund CNCS at the community-requested level of \$1.46 billion for FY 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



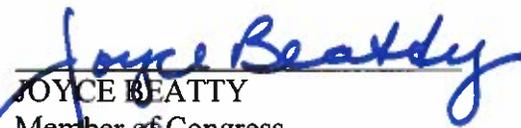
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National Service Caucus Co-Chair



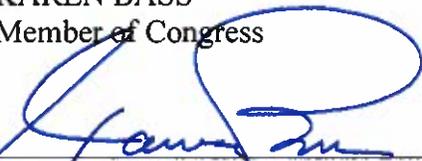
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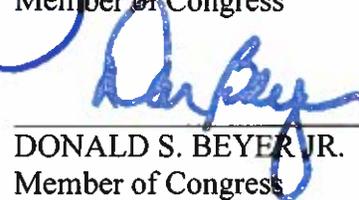
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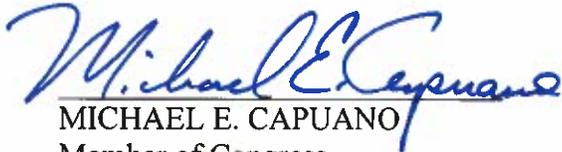
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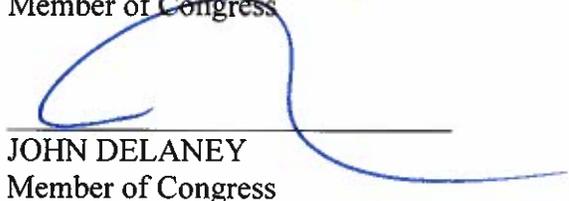
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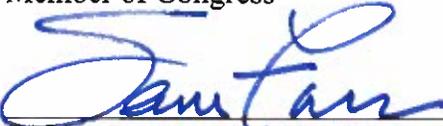
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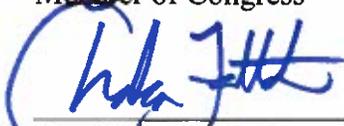
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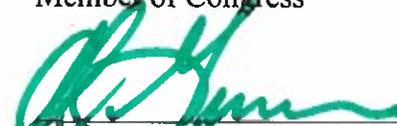
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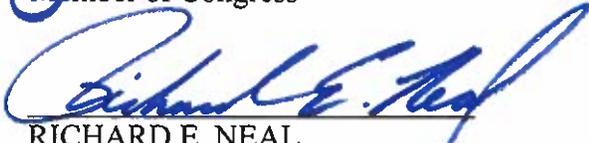
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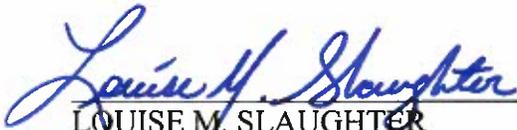

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