

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We thank you for your past support of national service programs and respectfully ask that you provide sufficient funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in fiscal year (FY) 2018. This strategic investment in national service will support CNCS's vital programs and help our country meet the goals of the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-13).

CNCS is our country's leading provider of grants that support and promote national service and volunteerism. Through programs like AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, CNCS engages more than 325,000 national service participants in results-driven service at more than 50,000 locations across the country each year. Working hand in hand with thousands of nonprofit organizations – including the American Red Cross, City Year, Habitat for Humanity, Public Allies, United Way, Catholic Charities, and Teach For America – these dedicated Americans recruit and manage millions of additional volunteers as they work to promote employment opportunities, deliver disaster relief, prepare a better-trained workforce, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, promote health and wellness, and provide essential services to some of our most vulnerable populations, including children and seniors, as well as veterans.

National service is a public-private partnership that 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. CNCS – which leverages more than \$1.26 billion in resources from the private sector, foundations, and local agencies – is helping organizations across the country work in creative ways to tackle our most persistent and costly challenges by:

- Assisting local communities with relief and recovery efforts after natural disasters, including the devastating flooding in Louisiana and West Virginia this past year; the water emergency in Flint, Michigan; and long-term recovery for other disaster-stricken communities such as those in Joplin, Missouri;
- Serving nearly 750,000 veterans and military family members each year, 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 supports in one out of four persistently low-achieving schools;
- Assisting over 280,000 low-income families and individuals across the country with free tax preparation services; and
- Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older generations to provide over 43,000 seniors and

Americans with disabilities with in-home support.

National service programs harness the energy and ingenuity of our nation's most valuable resource – our citizens – to address community needs and help local economies grow. A 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 benefits. By transforming the lives of those who volunteer, national service programs are also a smart investment in our country's future. National service expands opportunity and enables participants, especially young Americans, to gain marketable job skills and pursue higher education, which increases their employability and earning potential. A report released by CNCS found that unemployed individuals who volunteer are 27 percent more likely to secure employment than those who do not volunteer.

We are aware of the difficult fiscal choices our country faces, but it is our hope that you continue to recognize the important work of CNCS and its volunteers. We urge you to ensure that in FY 2018, CNCS receives sufficient funding to best serve our communities.

Sincerely,



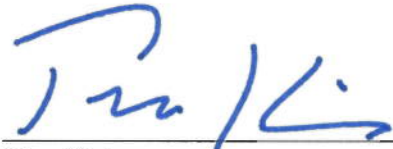
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United States Senator



Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



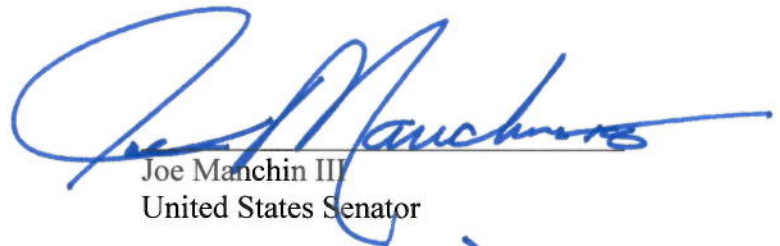
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



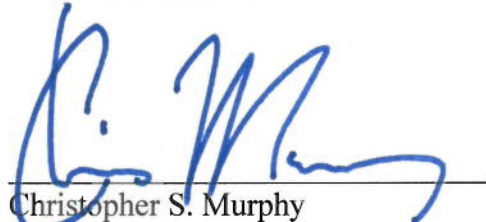
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



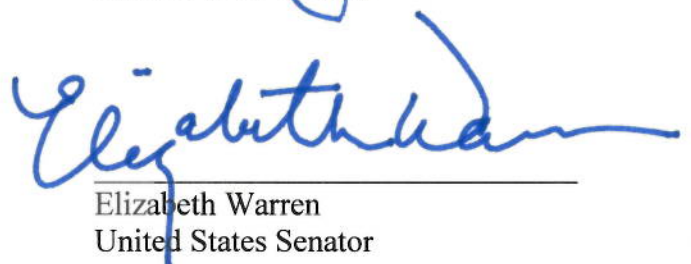
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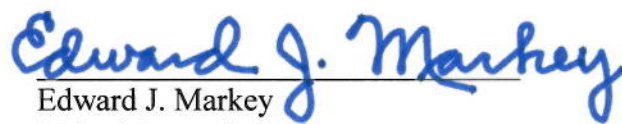
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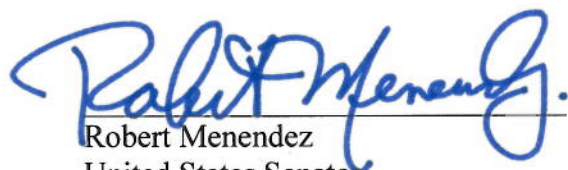
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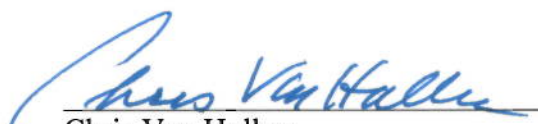
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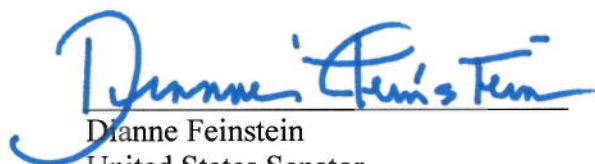
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Thomas R. Carper
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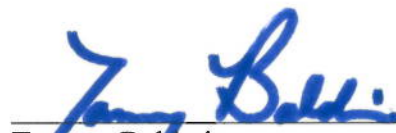
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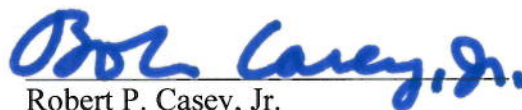
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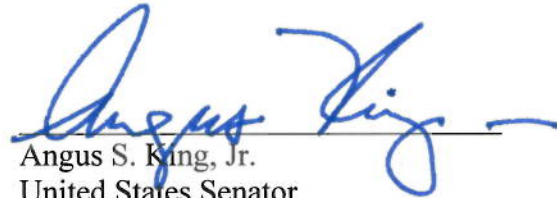
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