

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2018

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 increase funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in fiscal year (FY) 2019. 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:

- Deploying nearly 4,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members who provided relief and recovery assistance after the California wildfires and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria;
- 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;
- Helping Americans lead healthier lives by addressing public health issues like the opioid crisis;
- 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;

- Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older generations to provide over 43,000 seniors and Americans with disabilities with in-home support; and
- Creating pathways to employment and a pipeline of citizen leaders.

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.

In FY 2018, CNCS received an increase of \$33.6 million. We are grateful for this increase, which will help expand the number of AmeriCorps members serving in communities across the country. There is extraordinary demand from nonprofit organizations and communities for more positions that exceeds available resources, and we encourage you to build upon this increase and work to expand the program to 100,000 AmeriCorps members each year.

We are aware of the difficult fiscal choices our country faces, but it is our hope that you continue to recognize and support the important work of CNCS and its members. We urge you to increase funding for CNCS in FY 2019. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



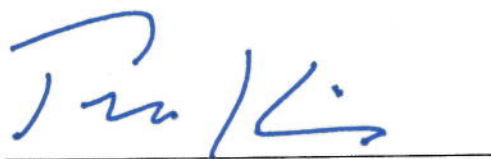
Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



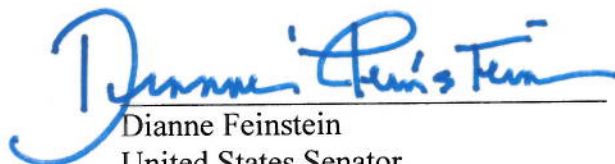
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



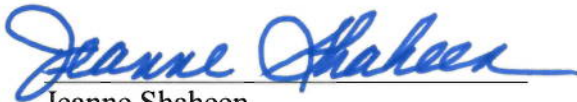
John Kennedy
United States Senator



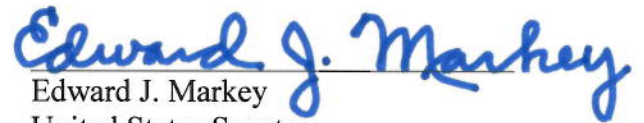
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



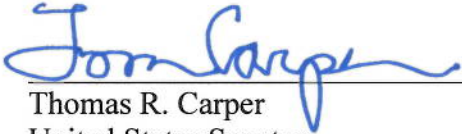
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



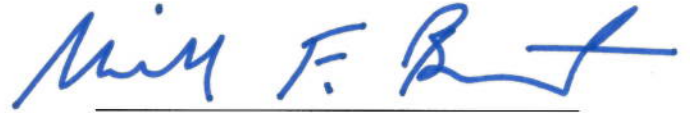
Jeanne Shaheen
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Edward J. Markey
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Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



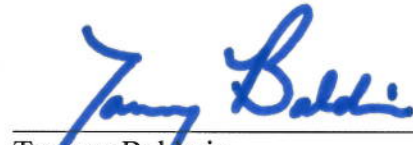
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



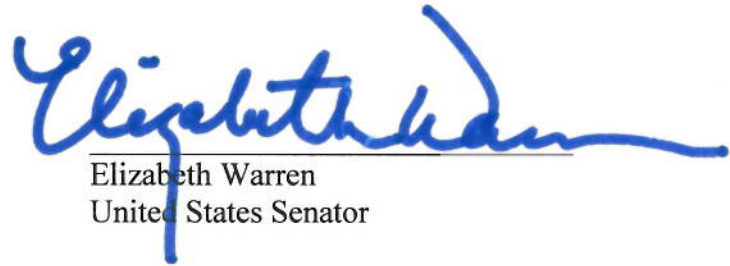
Joe Manchin III
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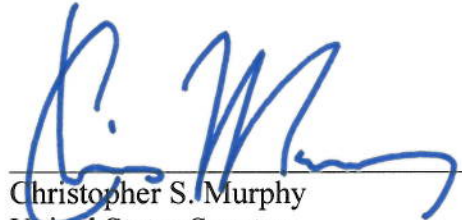
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
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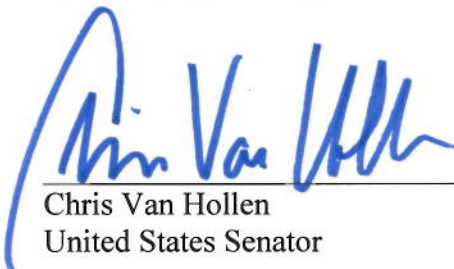
Elizabeth Warren
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Christopher S. Murphy
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Richard Blumenthal
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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



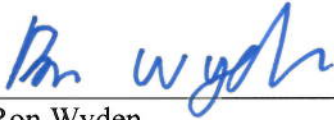
Sheldon Whitehouse
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Tina Smith
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Ron Wyden
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Debbie Stabenow
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Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Richard J. Durbin
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Martin Heinrich
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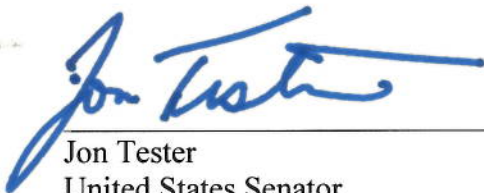
Amy Klobuchar
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Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

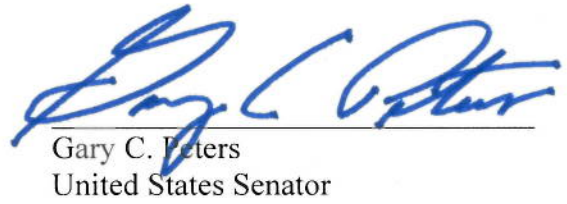


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator




Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator

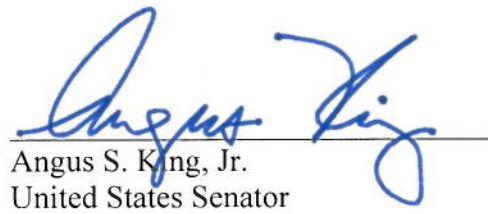

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United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator