

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
& Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its 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) 2020. This strategic investment will support CNCS' vital programs and help our country meet the goals of the bipartisan 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 300,000 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 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 more than 5,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members who provided relief and recovery assistance after the California wildfires and Hurricanes Florence, Michael, Harvey, Irma, and Maria;
- Assisting nearly 750,000 veterans and military family members each year with job training and employment services, benefit counseling, transportation and housing support;
- Helping Americans lead healthier lives by addressing public health issues such as opioid and substance abuse prevention, reduction and recovery;
- Increasing access to safe, affordable housing for thousands of families;

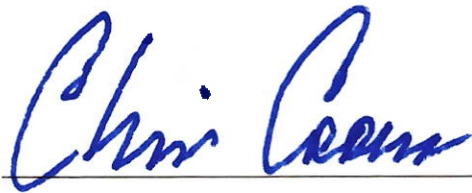
- Providing additional student supports in one out of four persistently low-achieving schools;
- Assisting over 280,000 low-income families and individuals across the country with free tax preparation services;
- Harnessing the skills and wisdom of older generations to help 380,000 homebound seniors live independently each year; 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 2019, CNCS received an increase of \$19 million, \$13 million for AmeriCorps State and National and \$6 million for Senior Corps. We are grateful of these increases, which will help expand the number of national members serving in communities across the country. There is extraordinary demand from nonprofit organizations and communities for more positions that exceeds available resources. We encourage the Subcommittee to build upon the FY19 increase and work to expand the program to 100,000 AmeriCorps members.

We are aware of the difficult fiscal choices our country faces, but it is our hope that you continue to recognize and invest in the important work of CNCS and its members. We urge you to increase funding for CNCS in FY 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



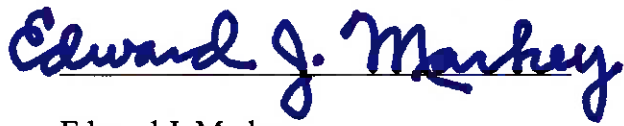
Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



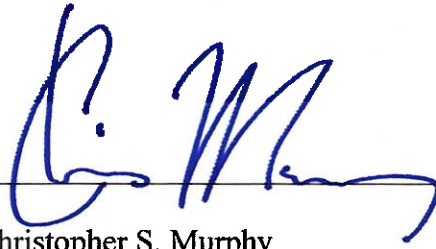
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
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Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



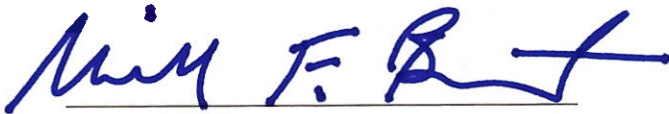
Debbie Stabenow
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Dianne Feinstein
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Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



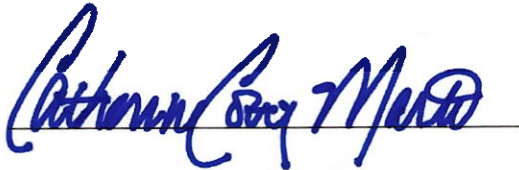
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



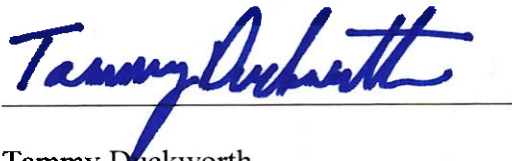
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



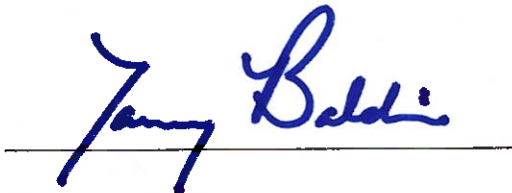
Jacky Rosen
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator




Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



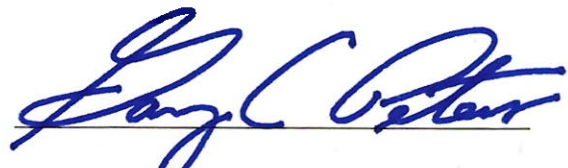
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



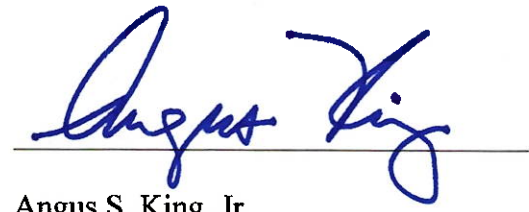
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



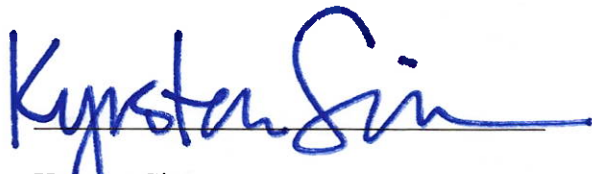
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



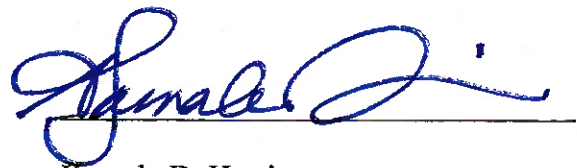
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



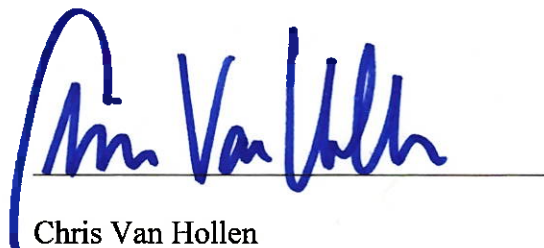
Richard J. Durbin
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Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
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Jon Tester
United States Senator