

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to urge that any future legislation considered in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 include provisions that help national service programs and their members continue to serve communities during this pandemic and throughout the subsequent recovery to best of their abilities.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) administers both AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, and these programs' current membership totals nearly 300,000 individuals serving communities through local organizations in every corner of this country, from classrooms to the sites of natural disasters with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These service members, many serving through non-profit and faith-based organizations, will play an integral role in both our nation's response to this pandemic and our recovery from it.

We believe a successful response to this pandemic will start and finish on the ground in communities across this country with the support of volunteers, from first responders to national service members. In order to ensure our national service programs and their public and non-profit members have the tools necessary to navigate and continue to serve effectively in the coming weeks and months, we ask that emergency funding be provided to CNCS. Further, we ask that CNCS, its grantees and members be temporarily granted several authorities to utilize in the coming weeks and months, including:

- Overriding CNCS regulations that cap the number of hours AmeriCorps members can spend in education, training and fundraising to support service activities in order to allow member to serve their communities with fewer confines;
- Waiving AmeriCorps and Senior Corps match (both during this pandemic and through the response to it) and allowing grantees to fully utilize their federal awards as they deal with the economic impacts of this pandemic on their non-CNCS funding sources as the economy takes a hit;
- Providing CNCS with the authority to carryover unexpended FY20 appropriated dollars and apply these resources to CNCS's FY21 COVID-19 recovery efforts or give CNCS the flexibility to transfer these funds between accounts and program lines to augment existing AmeriCorps and Senior Corps grants;

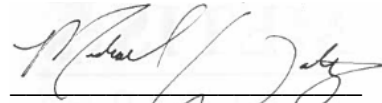
- Allowing Fixed Amount Grant recipients, many of which are small non-profits, to access their full federal funding if AmeriCorps members were suspended, exited early, or exit at the end of the service term with less than the target number of hours due to the pandemic;
- Providing CNCS with a waiver to allow AmeriCorps members to earn the full value of their Segal AmeriCorps Education Award if COVID-19 prevented them from fulfilling their service hour requirements as the award is already appropriated for the year and goes directly from the federal government to the student loan lender or higher education institution; and
- Excluding the AmeriCorps Education Award from federal income tax.

We encourage you to include the above in any forthcoming legislation in response to this pandemic and to coordinate with CNCS to better understand what their role in this crisis has been and will continue to be. Thank you for your continued leadership during this uncertain time.

Sincerely,



CHRISSY HOULAHAN  
Member of Congress



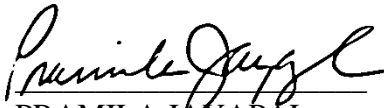
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Member of Congress



DAVID PRICE  
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI  
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PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress



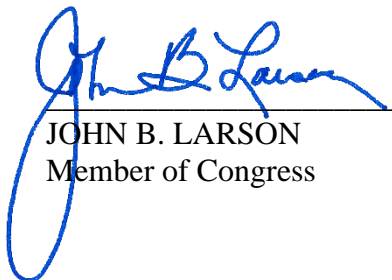
GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.  
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



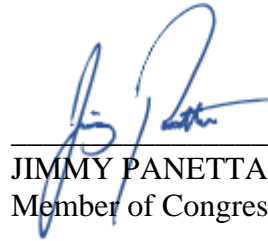
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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
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JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA  
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RO KHANNA  
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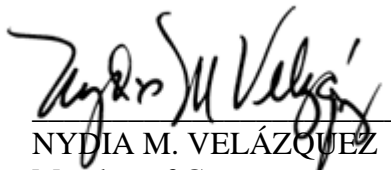
DARREN SOTO  
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PETER A. DeFAZIO  
Member of Congress



MIKE DOYLE  
Member of Congress



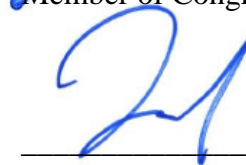
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EARL BLUMENAUER  
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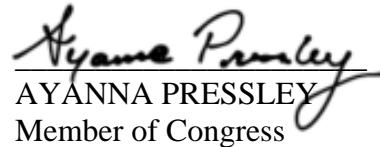
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DEB HAALAND  
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JOE NEGUSE  
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