

October 24, 2007

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member,
Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators/Representatives,

As Governors, we witness firsthand the positive effects that national service and volunteerism have in communities throughout our respective states. Through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America, dedicated volunteers have tutored and mentored disadvantaged youth, helped their neighbors in times of disaster and protected our states' natural habitats.

In the thirteen years since the National and Community Service Trust Act became law, more than 500,000 Americans have served in AmeriCorps, 500,000 have volunteered through Senior Corps and 15 million schoolchildren have benefited from service-learning.

It is because of these dedicated members and volunteers that we write today and urge you to reauthorize and expand AmeriCorps and the other national service and volunteer programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Governors have a unique opportunity to support service and volunteering in our states through these Corporation programs. Governor-appointed commissions oversee and administer AmeriCorps, promote national service and volunteering and develop innovative volunteer opportunities to meet the needs of our communities and our states.

National service ensures that every American has an opportunity to give back to his or her community. Those communities, along with our states and our entire nation, will benefit from the continued service that these volunteers provide. We therefore respectfully request your support for the reauthorization and expansion of these vital national service programs, and we stand ready to be of any assistance possible as deliberations move forward.

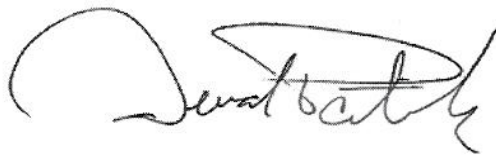
Sincerely,



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California



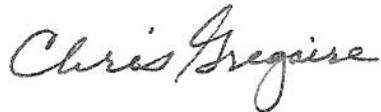
Governor Eliot Spitzer
New York



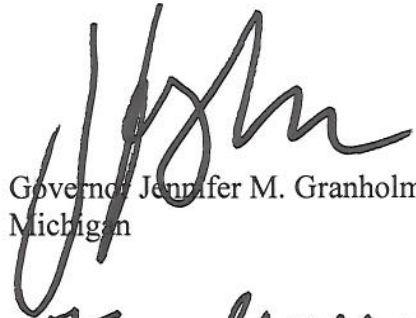
Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Washington



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan



Governor Ted Strickland
Ohio