

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We write to express concern about the level of funding for AmeriCorps and associated national service organizations in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. We ask that you continue the long tradition of support by setting funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service at a level that will protect the current number of AmeriCorps member positions. Any cut in member positions will lead to significant reductions in services in communities across the country. We are grateful for your leadership and support of national service and look forward to working with you to avoid this outcome.

National service remains one of the great unifiers in our country, bringing people together across partisan lines regardless of background. Like military service, community service helps to bridge the divisions that exist our nation, and preforms a vital role in every state. Not only do these opportunities provide an important avenue for Americans to come together at a time when we seemingly couldn't be more divided, but AmeriCorps funding offers an excellent return on investment for our communities. One recent study demonstrated that for every \$1 Congress invests in AmeriCorps and in AmeriCorps Seniors, our country benefits more than \$17.

Unfortunately, the current funding proposal would jeopardize roughly a third of our nation's AmeriCorps positions. The levels of funding proposed in the House's FY24 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill would eliminate service opportunities for approximately 60,000 Americans. This reduction would cut the AmeriCorps Senior Companions program by nearly 60%, eliminating 4,500 service positions. As a result, more than nearly 12,000 clients and 2,000 family caregivers will lose the respite care and additional assistance that allows older adults and the disabled to live independently longer. It would eliminate 8,500 or half of the positions in the AmeriCorps Foster Grandparents program, meaning more than over 36,000 children will lose a caring and experienced tutor or mentor. It would completely eliminate support for the AmeriCorps VISTA program, meaning a crucial anti-poverty program originally founded in 1965 would cease to exist after decades of helping some of the nation's poorest communities work to escape poverty. Perhaps most significantly, it would cut at least 40,000 positions from AmeriCorps's State and National program, which operates in every state in the country responding to immediate and critical needs from wildfire prevention to helping veterans transition back into civilian life. Finally, the House proposal cuts all funding for AmeriCorps education awards, threatening the fundamental commitment that if you serve your country through AmeriCorps, you will earn money to pay for college or to pay back student loans. Furthermore, because of the rescission of American Rescue Plan, continued funding at FY23 levels would result in a cut of 26,000 positions across the country. Even this number of cuts would be devastating.

National service is a public-private partnership which recognizes that America is at its best when citizens work together in common purpose. The resources provided by AmeriCorps, matched by significant support from the private sector, are helping organizations across the country work in creative ways to tackle our most persistent and costly challenges. We urge you to take every opportunity to close the funding gap AmeriCorps faces.

This year marks AmeriCorps' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are excited to collaborate with you to provide AmeriCorps the funding it needs ensure this milestone does not coincide with a dramatic cut to the program and service member positions.

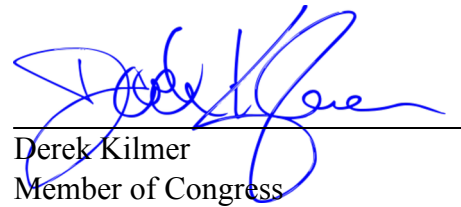
Sincerely,



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



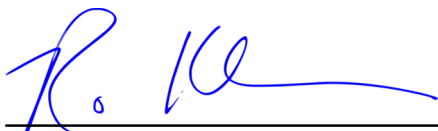
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress




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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



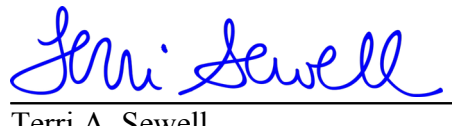
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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



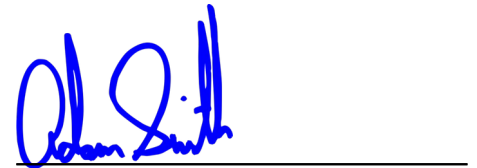
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress




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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress




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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress




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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



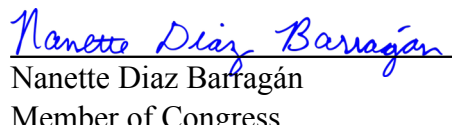
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress




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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



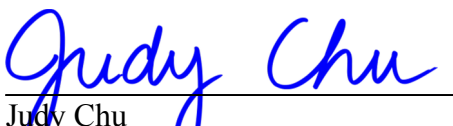
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress