

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Bill Clinton to Martin Sheen [partial] (1 page)	09/28/2000	b(6)
001b. letter	Martin Sheen to William J. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	09/05/2000	b(6)

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**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 Domestic Policy Council  
 Ann O'Leary  
 OA/Box Number: 19576

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**FOLDER TITLE:**

AmeriCorps Event 10/2000 [1]

2013-0436-S

rc1233

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### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Ann O'Leary's Files  
Office of Policy Development, Domestic Policy Council, First Lady's issues

BOX 2 of 23

- Americorp's event
- CNS budget 01 issues
- Americorps appropriations
- Americorps 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Bankruptcy
- Bankruptcy appropriations April / May 2000
- Bankruptcy international background
- Bankruptcy re-affirmations / HRC column
- Misc. budget
- CEA budget chapter
- FY 01 budget issues
- Budget surplus
- Bush education
- CEA American families chapter
- Childcare legislative proposals
- Quality childcare
- FY 2000 CCDBG
- Childcare and TANF \$
- Dodd Legislation
- Afterschool
- Childcare funding
- Childcare bonus award
- Childcare / children policy
- Childcare legislation
- HRC remarks- childcare
- Power of play
- Children's day
- Fiedelholtz childcare
- Childcare research
- Childcare research studies

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS 19576

NARA # 16780

file: Americans

**FROM:**

**Melody M. Scales**

Assistant to Chief of Staff  
1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20525  
(202) 606-5000, ext. 191  
(202) 565-2784 fax  
mscales@cns.gov

CORPORATION

FOR NATIONAL

★ SERVICE

To: Ann O'Leary

Fax Number: 456-5581

Pages: 3 (including cover)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is what I've got right now. Hope it helps. If I get additional stuff - I'll send it immediately.*

*Mel. by*



# O H I O HUNGER Task Force

*Working to eliminate hunger from the state of Ohio*

March 1, 2000

**William J. Dolan**  
Executive Director

**Dianne A. Radigan**  
Associate Director

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**Julie Mann Brightwell, RN, JD**  
OHHC Insurance Co.

**R. Gregory Browning, PhD**  
Capital Partners

**Jamie S. Dewolf**  
Victoria's Secret Catalogue

**Thomas W. Dietrich**  
Nationwide Insurance Companies

**Susan Finn, PhD, RD, FADA**  
Ranc Products Division  
Abbott Laboratories

**Thomas P. Flynn**  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

**Bruce Fowler**  
The Great Harvest Bread Company

**Lisa Griffin**  
Griffin Communications

**James W. Mason**  
Judge, Court of Common Pleas

**Lloyd J. Moberg, PhD**  
Rendon Foods Corporation

**Thomas E. Murphy**  
J.B. Hilliard, W.C. Lyons, Inc.

**William J. Napier, PhD.**  
The Ohio State University  
Office of the President

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Prime-Care Corporation

**Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**  
Judge, Appellate Division  
Franklin County Municipal Court

**Glover L. Shearson, Sr.**  
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Ohio Department of Health

**C. William Swank**  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (retired)

**Charleta B. Tavares**  
Columbus City Council

**Olivia W. Thomas, MD**  
Children's Hospital  
Columbus City Health Center

**Terry P. Weingarten**  
Total LifeCare Bank

**Paul Schrader, State Director**  
Corporation for National Service  
51 N. High Street, Suite 451  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Paul:

Our 2000 AmeriCorps\*VISTA Reapplication is enclosed. We are requesting 8 members for one-year assignments and a VISTA Leader to work on the following projects:

- (1) Child Nutrition Program Promotion
- (2) Development/Grant Assistant
- (3) Family Child Care – Physical Fitness for Child Care Homes
- (4) Family Child Care - Promotion and Support
- (5) Public Policy – Research & Publications
- (6) Public Policy – Communication Plan
- (7) Youth Development – 4-H Expansion
- (8) Food Folks AmeriCorps - New Program Start Up

These new projects build upon the strong foundation laid by past and current VISTA members. The most significant accomplishments of our VISTA projects in 1999 are:

- Developed a comprehensive nutrition education curriculum for children in after school sites that teach the importance of eating fruits and vegetables.
- Developed a teen nutrition curriculum for after school programs that shows teens that it's easy to eat healthy foods and stresses how nutrition affects their skin, hair, nails, and behavior.
- Developed an environmental education program for children in after school sites that won the White Glove Award for outstanding curriculum for Keep Franklin County Beautiful.
- Implemented 4-H clubs in 5 urban after school programs where club members have hatched chicks, started aquariums, baked bread, gone on field trips, made rockets and paper airplanes.
- Developed a direct mail fund raising campaign, assisted with the annual Menu of Hope fundraiser with guest speaker Danny Glover, and prepared a power point presentation and workshop on fundraising, marketing, and grant writing.

**CENTRAL OFFICE:**  
181 East Livingston Avenue  
Columbus OH 43215-5744  
614/341-7700 • 800/227-6446

**Cleveland Branch Office:**  
Shore Bank Building  
540 East 105th Street, 3rd Floor  
Cleveland OH 44102-1207



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Working to eliminate hunger from the state of Ohio

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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The Great Harvest Blend Company

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Griffin Communications

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**Lloyd J. Moberg, PhD**  
Borden Foods Corporation

**Thomas E. Murphy**  
J.B. Hillard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.

**William J. Napier, PhD**  
The Ohio State University  
Office of the President

**Dale D. Peters**  
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**Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**  
Judge, Environmental Division  
Franklin County Municipal Court

**Glover L. Shearson, Sr.**  
Workforce Directors, Inc.

**Ruth Shrock**  
Ohio Department of Health

**C. William Swank**  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (retired)

**Charlita B. Tavares**  
Columbus City Council

**Olivia W. Thomas, MD**  
Children's Hospital  
Community Health Center

**Terry P. Weisenstein**  
Tipton Wildlife Foods

## Memorandum

Date: 10/13/00

To: Melody Scales

Corporation for National Service

From: Denise Gastesi, Program Manager  
AmeriCorps & AmeriCorps\*VISTA Programs  
Ohio Hunger Task Force

The work of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at Ohio Hunger Task Force has contributed to Ohio being recognized as one of the top 8 states in the nation for expansion of USDA summer meals for children.

Our AmeriCorps program has reached over 2,837 children with over 832 presentations at 107 classrooms, after-school programs, and USDA Summer Food Service Program sites with our hands-on nutrition and literacy education curriculum. In 1999-2000 we had 12 AmeriCorps members and 2 AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at 6 host sites in 5 counties which implemented the Food Folks AmeriCorps Program. This year we have 13 AmeriCorps members at 7 host sites in 6 counties.

Last year (99-00) we had 6 VISTA and 12 AmeriCorps members which as well as implementing our nutrition education curriculum, also assisted in expansion of USDA nutrition programs, education and advocacy on childhood hunger issues and offered environmental and 4-H programming.

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**Cleveland Branch Office:**  
Shore Bank Building  
540 East 105<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Cleveland OH 44108-1307

- Recruited members, trained, and implemented the Food Folks AmeriCorps Program in Montgomery County, Ohio (Dayton) which teaches fund, hands-on nutrition education and literacy activities to school age children.
- Revised and updated the 2000 Ohio Directory of Community Resources, developed a publication on county-by-county hunger profiles, planned legislative briefings, and facilitated hunger issue coalitions, and gave presentations.
- Wrote The State of the State of Hunger in Ohio.
- Developed a tracking system for volunteer events.
- Conducted outreach and promotion campaigns to strengthen and expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Family Child Care Program in western Ohio.

Each of these accomplishments is designed for sustainability. Examples are:

- Newly recruited child nutrition program sponsors and sites will continue to operate to serve meals to children.
- Grant research, database, and fundraising efforts will benefit OHTF and the children we serve for years to come
- Curriculums developed for after school programs and in family child care homes will be sustained by training child care providers, volunteers, and AmeriCorps members to teach the lessons.
- Publications developed will be distributed throughout the year and updated periodically with current data.
- 4-H clubs will be sustained through support from county extension staff.
- The hunger network and library will continue beyond the service of the VISTA members.
- The Food Folks AmeriCorps Program will become a component of local county extension offices in Greene/Clark Counties.

The projects we are proposing for 2000 will impact Ohio's low-income communities by:

- Establishing new child nutrition programs for low-income children in Cuyahoga (Cleveland) and Lorain Counties to increase the number of meals served to children before and after school, during the summer, and at lunchtime.
- Identify new grant funding sources to continue our direct service, education, and advocacy work as Ohio's statewide hunger agency.
- Improve the physical fitness and nutritional intake of young children in family child care homes through "teachable moments" that encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Increase the participation in the Family Child Care program through outreach, newsletters, training, and technical support for family child care providers.
- Developing materials from current data on hunger issues and what should be done to increase nutrition services to Ohio's low-income community. This information will be shared with legislators, policy makers, state agencies, advocates, and the general public.

- Bring together groups and individuals throughout the state to work together to find new long-term solutions to hunger.
- Providing resources to others in Ohio to learn more about hunger and poverty through an expanded hunger library.
- Implementing 4-H youth development clubs at urban after school sites in Columbus, Ohio that teach experiential lessons and provide a safe place after school each day with caring adults and educational enrichment opportunities.
- Teach low-income children about the benefits of healthy nutrition habits while strengthening their literacy skills through hands-on activities that are linked to state proficiency outcomes.

The Ohio Hunger Task Force is a statewide agency and our VISTA projects reflect our statewide presence. Our Members will impact child nutrition programs and hunger issues in all 88 counties in 2000. The value that our Members bring to the agency has increased our capacity to expand our efforts for the past three years. We believe we have also positively impacted the lives of our Members through meaningful real-life experiences and projects and professional training that will help them in their future careers.

Thank you for your consideration of our renewal. If I can answer any questions regarding our proposal, please call.

Sincerely,



William J. Dolan  
Executive Director

## **ELIMINATING TAX ON FORGIVENESS OF DIRECT STUDENT LOANS SUBJECT TO INCOME CONTINGENT REPAYMENT**

### **Current Law**

Generally, when a lender forgives a borrower's loan, the borrower has income equal to the loan balance that is forgiven. In the case of student loans, an exception is provided when the lender is a governmental agency or tax-exempt charitable or educational organization, and the lender forgives all or part of the loan in return for the borrower's providing professional services for a certain period of time to certain employers for the benefit of the community.

Individuals who borrow money to pay for postsecondary education through the Federal government's Direct Loan program may elect income contingent repayment of their loans. If they elect income contingent repayment, the size of their repayment installments is adjusted in accordance with their income. If an individual who has elected income contingent repayment still has an outstanding loan balance after having been in income contingent repayment status for twenty-five years, the loan balance is forgiven.

### **Reasons for Change**

When taxpayers who have elected income contingent repayment qualify for loan forgiveness after having been in income contingent repayment status for twenty-five years, the taxpayers should be able to take advantage of the loan forgiveness without undertaking a substantial new obligation for income tax to the Federal government.

### **Proposal**

The proposal would allow a taxpayer to exclude from income any amount the taxpayer would otherwise include as a result of the forgiveness of a student loan made under the Direct Loan program.

The proposal would be effective for loan cancellations after December 31, 2000.

## **TAX TREATMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS UNDER CERTAIN FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **1. Eliminate Tax on Awards under National Health Corps Scholarship Program and F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program**

### **Current Law**

Section 117 provides tax-free treatment for certain scholarship and fellowship grants used to pay qualified tuition and related expenses, but not to the extent that any grant represents

compensation for services. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program and the F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program provide certain education awards to participants on condition that the participants provide certain services. These education awards generally involve the payment of higher education expenses (under the NHSC program, the awards may be also used for the repayment or cancellation of existing or future student loans). Because the recipients are required to perform services in exchange for the education awards, the awards used to pay higher education expenses are taxable income to the recipient.

### **Reasons for Change**

Imposing a tax liability on education awards under these Federal programs undercuts the objective of providing an incentive for health professionals to serve in medically underserved geographic areas, in the case of the NHSC Scholarship Program, or the Armed Forces, in the case of the Armed Forces Health Professions Program.

### **Proposal**

The proposal would provide that amounts received by an individual under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program or the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program are "qualified scholarships" excludable from income, without regard to any service obligation by the recipient.

The proposal would be effective for education awards received after December 31, 2000.

## **2. Eliminate Tax on Repayment or Cancellation of Student Loans under NHSC Scholarship Program, Americorps Education Award Program, and Armed Forces Health Professions Loan Repayment Program**

### **Current Law**

Section 108(f) provides tax-free treatment for certain discharges of student loans which result from the debtor's agreeing to work for a certain period of time in certain professions for any of a broad class of employers. The NHSC Scholarship Program, the Americorps Education Award Program, and the Armed Forces Health Professions Loan Repayment Program provide education awards to participants that may be used for the repayment or cancellation of existing or future student loans. However, the repayment or cancellation of student loans under these programs appears not to meet the requirements for exclusion under current-law section 108(f).

### **Reasons for Change**

The tax liability on student loan repayments or cancellations under these Federal programs reduces the incentive for individuals to participate in these programs, which provide important health, education, and other services to underserved areas, in the case of the NHSC and Americorps programs, and maintain quality health services for the Armed Forces, in the case of the Armed Forces Health Professions Program.

## **Provide Poverty Relief and Revitalize Communities**

### **EXPAND AND SIMPLIFY THE EITC**

#### **Current Law**

Low and moderate-income workers may be eligible for the refundable earned income tax credit (EITC). For every dollar a low-income worker earns up to a limit, between 7.65 and 40 cents are provided as a tax credit. The applicable credit rate depends on the presence and number of children in the worker's family. For example, taxpayers with two or more qualifying children will receive 40 cents in tax credits for each dollar of earnings up to \$9,720 in 2000. Thus, their maximum credit is \$3,888.

Above a given income threshold, the size of the tax credit is gradually phased-out at a rate between 7.65 and 21.06 percent. The applicable phase-out rate also depends on the presence and number of children in the worker's family. For a worker with two or more qualifying children, the credit is reduced by 21.06 percent for each dollar of modified adjusted gross income (or earned income, if greater) above \$12,690. The dollar thresholds are adjusted annually for inflation.

Generally, married couples are eligible for the EITC only if they file joint returns. The amount of the credit is based on a couple's combined income. Eligibility for the EITC and the amount of the credit otherwise do not depend on filing status.

For purposes of calculating the EITC, earned income includes wages, salaries, tips and other employee compensation, and net self-employment earnings. Employee compensation includes anything of value received by the taxpayer from the employer in return for services rendered, including nontaxable earned income. Examples of nontaxable earned income include 401(k) contributions, voluntary salary reductions, excludable dependent care benefits, military employee basic housing and subsistence, and parsonage allowances.

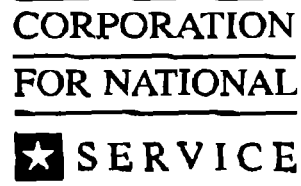
In order to claim the EITC, a social security number must be provided for the taxpayer and their spouse (if filing a joint return) and for each qualifying child. The social security number must be one that allows the taxpayer to work in the United States.

If one or more taxpayer may claim the EITC with respect to the same qualifying child, only the taxpayer with the highest modified adjusted gross income may claim the credit. This test is known as the AGI tiebreaker. The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 clarified that a child who meets the EITC age, relationship, and residency tests is a taxpayer's qualifying child even if the taxpayer does not claim the child as an EITC qualifying child on the tax return. If two or more taxpayers could claim the same qualifying child under these tests, the lower income taxpayer may not claim any EITC (including the small EITC for taxpayers without qualifying children), even if the higher-income taxpayer does not (or may not) claim the credit.

### **Proposal**

The proposal would provide that any repayment or cancellation of a student loan under the NHSC Scholarship Program, the Americorps Education Award Program, or the Armed Forces Health Professions Loan Repayment Program is excludable from income. The tax-free treatment would apply only to the extent that the student incurred qualified tuition and related expenses in excess of creditable expenses -- that is, those expenses taken into account in determining the amount of any education credit claimed during academic periods when the student loans were incurred. If the otherwise allowable credit was reduced due to the taxpayer's AGI, creditable expenses should be reduced by the same proportion.

The proposal would be effective for repayments or cancellations of student loans received after December 31, 2000.



1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20525  
202-606-5000

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

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**Please deliver to: Ann O'Leary**

**Organization: White House**

**Fax Number: 202.456.2878**

**Phone Number: 202.456.6275**

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**From: Monique Frazier**

**Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2000**

**We are transmitting a total of 8 pages, including this cover page.**

**Fax Number: (202) 565-2784**

**Phone Number: (202) 606-5000 x 273**

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**Message**

Attached is information regarding the *AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act, S. 1134* sponsored by Senator John Kerry. It includes the text of amendment, Dear Colleague, and press release. In addition, I have included information from the Corporation prepared for the budget hearing on this issue (Q & A form).

Thank you for your assistance in these efforts.

If there are any questions, please contact me at the number listed above.

JOHN KERRY  
MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

October 25, 1999

**AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act**

Dear Colleague,

I will soon introduce legislation to address an inequity in the tax code that adversely affects AmeriCorps volunteers. I hope you will join me as a cosponsor.

Since 1994, in 4,000 communities across the country, AmeriCorps participants have tutored and mentored more than 4 million children, developed after-school programs for over one million young people, and helped build more than 11,000 homes. Their dedication and commitment are a tribute to the American tradition of public service. Currently, at the conclusion of 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps members receive an education award of \$4,725. The award may be used by former volunteers to pay for tuition expenses or the repayment of student loans.

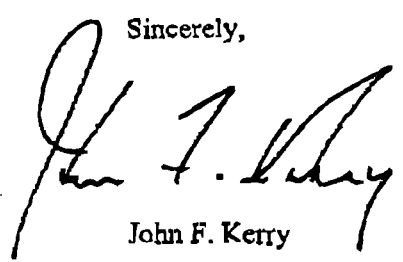
Under long-established tax law, scholarships and grants are excludable from income. However, because the AmeriCorps awards are considered to represent payment for services rendered, they must be included in taxable income at the end of the year. This tax treatment creates a significant hardship for former volunteers. Because AmeriCorps education awards are sent directly to the loan agency or educational institution, they do not represent income from which a portion may be reserved by the beneficiary for the payment of tax. After serving in AmeriCorps, many former volunteers work part-time to pay for college, and the education award pushes their income above the standard income tax deduction, creating tax liability for an individual with little means to pay for it.

Similar situations arise with other programs. Congress has recognized these inequities and acted to address them. For example, this summer's Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act would have specifically provided that scholarships received through the National Health Service Corps, the Armed Forces Health Professions program, and the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate program are tax exempt. Let's do the same for the thousands of volunteers who, through the AmeriCorps program, give up two years of their lives to make a difference in communities across our nation.

The AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act clarifies that AmeriCorps education awards should receive the same tax treatment as a traditional college scholarship. The Joint Tax Committee estimates the cost in lost revenue would be approximately \$3 million per year.

The government should cherish, not punish, volunteerism and public service. Please join me in cosponsoring and enacting this simple but meaningful legislation. If you would like any additional information, please contact Ryan McCormick of my staff at 224-2742.

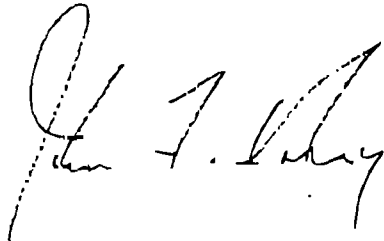
Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

O:\MAT\MAT99.565

S.L.C.



AMENDMENT NO. 2859

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—106th Cong., 1st Sess.

**S. 1134**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. KERRY

Viz:

1 On page 21, between lines 3 and 4, insert:

2 SEC. 204. EXCLUSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDU.  
3 CATIONAL AWARDS.

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 (relating to qualified  
5 scholarships) is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
6 ing:

7 "(e) QUALIFIED NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL  
8 AWARDS.—

21  
22  
23  
24

O:\MAT\MAT99.565

S.L.C.

2

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income for any tax-  
2           able year shall not include any qualified national  
3           service educational award.

4           “(2) QUALIFIED NATIONAL SERVICE EDU-  
5           CATIONAL AWARD.—For purposes of this sub-  
6           section—

7                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified  
8           national service educational award’ means any  
9           amount received by an individual in a taxable  
10          year as a national service educational award or  
11          other amount under section 148 of the National  
12          and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
13          12604) to the extent such amount does not ex-  
14          ceed the qualified tuition and related expenses  
15          (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) of the individ-  
16          ual for such taxable year.

17                   “(B) LIMITATION.—The total amount of  
18          the qualified tuition and related expenses (as so  
19          defined) which may be taken into account under  
20          subparagraph (A) with respect to an individual  
21          for the taxable year shall be reduced (after the  
22          application of the reduction provided in section  
23          25A(g)(2)) by the amount of such expenses  
24          which were taken into account in determining  
25          the credit allowed to the taxpayer or any other

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S.L.C.

3

1 person under section 25A with respect to such  
2 expenses.”

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
4 this section shall apply to amounts received in taxable  
5 years beginning after December 31, 1999.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 3, 2000**

**Senate Passes Kerry's AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act**  
**Americorps Volunteers Will No Longer Be Taxed for Public Service**

\*\*\*\*\*

Washington, D.C.—Senator John F. Kerry last night won passage of his AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act, as an amendment to the Education Saving's Account Bill. This legislation addresses an inequity in the tax code that adversely affects AmeriCorps volunteers, unfairly taxing their \$4,725 education award. The award may be used by former volunteers to pay for tuition expenses or the repayment of student loans.

Scholarships and grants are excludable from taxable income. However, because the AmeriCorps awards are considered to represent payment for services rendered, they were previously included in taxable income. This tax treatment creates a significant hardship for former volunteers. Senator Kerry explained that because AmeriCorps education awards are sent directly to the loan agency or educational institution, they do not represent income from which a portion may be reserved by the beneficiary for the payment of tax. After serving in AmeriCorps, many former volunteers work part-time to pay for college, and the education award pushes their income above the standard income tax deduction, creating tax liability for an individual with little means to pay for it.

"AmeriCorps volunteers have touched over 4,000 communities across the country, tutoring and mentoring more than 4 million children, developing after-school programs for over one million young people, and helping to build more than 11,000 homes," Kerry said. "Their dedication and commitment are a tribute to the American tradition of public service. We should cherish, not punish, volunteerism and public service."

Similar situations arise with other programs. Congress has recognized these inequities and acted to address them. For example, the Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act would have specifically provided that scholarships received through the National Health Service Corps, the Armed Forces Health Professions program, and the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate program are tax exempt. This legislation does the same for the thousands of volunteers who, through the AmeriCorps program, give up two years of their lives to make a difference in communities across our nation.

The AmeriCorps Scholarship Fairness Act clarifies that AmeriCorps education awards should receive the same tax treatment as a traditional college scholarship. The Joint Tax Committee estimates the cost in lost revenue would be approximately \$3 million per year.

Contact: David Wade at (202) 224-4159

###

## TAXABILITY OF THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD

**Question:** How do AmeriCorps members use the education award?

**Answer:** Students with current educational expenses can use the AmeriCorps education award for those current costs. Alternatively, anyone who has an existing student loan can use the AmeriCorps education award to repay the loan.

**Question:** What is the current tax status of the education award?

**Answer:** Under current law, the education award is considered taxable income, but the full impact of the tax burden depends upon how AmeriCorps members choose to use their awards. Members *who use their education awards to pay current educational expenses* are eligible for two Administration-sponsored tax credits: the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. However, members who use their education awards *to repay student loans* cannot take advantage of these tax credits because they only apply to current expenses.

**Question:** What percentage of education awards are used for loan repayment?

**Answer:** Approximately 42 percent have been used in whole or in part to repay existing student loans.

**Question:** If an AmeriCorps member uses the education award to repay a student loan, can't they deduct the interest?

**Answer:** AmeriCorps who repay loans can deduct the interest, but the amount of the deduction may be relatively small in most cases and will not be as large as the tax credits.

**Question:** What are the Hope Scholarship and the Lifetime Learning Credit?

**Answer:** The Hope Scholarship tax credit provides students in the first two years of college with a \$1,500 tax credit equal to 100 percent of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent on the second \$1,000. The Lifetime Learning Credit is aimed at students beyond their first two years of college. They receive a tax credit of up to \$1,000, a credit of 20 percent credit on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees. Both tax credits have made a college education affordable for millions of Americans.

**Question:** What would happen if the tax status of the education award was changed from taxable to nontaxable?

**Answer:** Changing the status of the education award from taxable to nontaxable would deny AmeriCorps members the opportunity to take advantage of the Hope Scholarship and the Lifetime Learning tax credits. You cannot get a credit against

tax-free income. A given dollar is either tax-free or it is taxable subject to a credit—it cannot be both. Changing the status of the education award could also mean a higher tax bill for members because they will still have to pay tax on any remaining income they have, but will not be able to claim a credit for any education expenses paid by the award.

**Question: Did the original national service legislation address the issue of taxability?**

**Answer:** The original bill proposed by the Administration stated that “the amount of any national service award ... shall not be considered income for the purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.” Congress subsequently dropped this provision in order to expedite consideration of the legislation.

**Question: What would be the effect of Senator Kerry’s legislation (S. 1820) on the taxability of the education award?**

**Answer:**



FAX

# U.S. SENATOR JOHN KERRY

To: Rep. O'Leary 456-2878

DATE: 10/18/00

FROM: **HEATHER HIGGINBOTTOM**  
**heather\_higginbottom@kerry.senate.gov**  
**(202) 224-2960 (202) 228-1411 FAX**

*Ans. On 3/2/00 senate amendment 2459 passed the senate by UC (it was accepted by majority (Kerry + Coverdell) and minority leaders (Mingos) to S 1134, the "Affordable Education Act of 2000." The bill passed the senate by a vote of 61-37 on 3/2/00.*

*Please call me if I can provide any additional information.*

*- Heather*

PAGES SENT (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 9

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*Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress*

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**S.AMDT.2859**

Amends: [S.1134](#)

Sponsor: [Sen Kerry, John F.](#) (submitted 2/29/2000) (proposed 3/2/2000)

AMENDMENT PURPOSE:

To exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income.

TEXT OF AMENDMENT AS SUBMITTED: CR [S955-956](#)

STATUS:

3/2/2000:

Amendment SA 2859 proposed by Senator Coverdell for Senator Kerry. (consideration: CR [S1082-1083](#))

3/2/2000:

Amendment SA 2859 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR [S1082-1083](#))

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**KERRY AMENDMENT NO. 2859 (Senate - February 29, 2000)**

[Page: S955] [GPO's PDF](#)

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1134, supra; as follows:

[Page: S956] [GPO's PDF](#)

On page 21, between lines 3 and 4, insert:

**SEC. 204. EXCLUSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

(a) **In General:** Section 117 (relating to qualified scholarships) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**(e) Qualified National Service Educational Awards:**

**(1) In general:** Gross income for any taxable year shall not include any qualified national service educational award.

**(2) Qualified national service educational award:** For purposes of this subsection--

**(A) In general:** The term 'qualified national service educational award' means any amount received by an individual in a taxable year as a national service educational award or other amount under section 148 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604) to the extent such amount does not exceed the qualified tuition and related expenses (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) of the individual for such taxable year.

**(B) Limitation:** The total amount of the qualified tuition and related expenses (as so defined) which may be taken into account under subparagraph (A) with respect to an individual for the taxable year shall be reduced (after the application of the reduction provided in section 25A(g)(2)) by the amount of such expenses which were taken into account in determining the credit allowed to the taxpayer or any other person under section 25A with respect to such expenses.'

**(b) Effective Date:** The amendment made by this section shall apply to amounts received in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999.

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**Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress**

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**S.1134** (Major Legislation)  
Sponsor: Sen Roth, William V., Jr. (introduced 5/26/1999)  
Latest Major Action: 3/2/2000 Passed Senate  
Title: An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

Jump to: Titles, Status, Committees, Related Bill Details, Amendments, Cosponsors, Summary

**TITLE(S):** (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

- **POPULAR TITLE(S):**  
Education Savings Account bill (identified by CRS)
- **SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:**  
Affordable Education Act of 1999
- **SHORT TITLE(S) AS PASSED SENATE:**  
Affordable Education Act of 2000  
*Transition to Teaching Act*  
*Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act*
- **OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:**  
An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

**STATUS:** (*color indicates Senate actions*) (Floor Actions/Congressional Record Page References)

- 5/19/1999:**  
Committee on Finance ordered to be reported an original measure.
- 5/26/1999:**  
Committee on Finance. Original measure reported to Senate by Senator Roth. With written report No. 106-54. Minority views filed.
- 5/26/1999:**  
Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 124.
- 2/23/2000:**  
Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S716-736)
- 2/24/2000:**  
Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S758, S774-775)
- 2/24/2000:**  
Cloture motion presented in Senate.
- 2/28/2000:**  
Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S847-862)
- 2/28/2000:**  
Cloture motion withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate.
- 2/28/2000:**  
S.AMDT.2854 Amendment SA 2854 proposed by Senator Collins. (consideration: CR S860-862; text: CR S860-861)  
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 2-percent floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions for qualified professional development expenses of elementary and secondary

school teachers and to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials.

2/29/2000:

Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S899-924)

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2854 Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S899, S919-922)

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2857 Amendment SA 2857 proposed by Senator Reid for Senator Dodd.  
To increase funding for part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2857 Point of order raised in Senate with respect to amendment SA 2857.

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2857 Motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to amendment SA 2857 rejected in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 44 - 54. Record Vote Number: 15.

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2857 Amendment SA 2857 ruled out of order by the chair.

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2854 Amendment SA 2854 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 98 - 0. Record Vote Number: 16.

2/29/2000:

S.AMDT.2861 Amendment SA 2861 proposed by Senator Robb. (consideration: CR S922-924)  
To eliminate the use of education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses and to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

3/1/2000:

Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S983-1003, S1005-1018)

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2861 Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S983-992)

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2861 Motion to table amendment SA 2861 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 57 - 42. Record Vote Number: 17.

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2825 Amendment SA 2825 proposed by Senator Abraham. (consideration: CR S992-996, S1005)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the deduction for computer donations to schools and to allow a tax credit for donated computers, and for other purposes.

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2863 Amendment SA 2863 proposed by Senator Bingaman. (consideration: CR S996-S1000, S1006)

To ensure accountability in programs for disadvantaged children and provide funds to turn around failing schools.

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2864 Amendment SA 2864 proposed by Senator Graham. (consideration: CR S1000-1003, S1006)

To provide funds to assist high-poverty school districts in meeting their teaching needs.

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2844 Amendment SA 2844 proposed by Senator Coverdell for Senator Graham. (consideration: CR S1005)

To make permanent the special coordination rule between qualified tuition programs and the Hope and Lifetime Learning credits.

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2844 Amendment SA 2844 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S1005)

3/1/2000:

S.AMDT.2825 Amendment SA 2825 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 96 - 2. Record Vote Number: 18. (text: CR S992-993)

3/1/2000:

- S.AMDT.2863 Motion to table amendment SA 2863 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 58 - 40. Record Vote Number: 19. (text: CR S996)
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2864 Amendment SA 2864 agreed to in Senate by Voice. (text: CR S1001-1002)
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2865 Amendment SA 2865 proposed by Senator Wellstone. (consideration: CR S1009-1013, S1017-1018)  
To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report to Congress on the extent and severity of child poverty.
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2860 Amendment SA 2860 proposed by Senator Hutchison. (consideration: CR S1013-1014, S1018)  
To establish the Careers to Classrooms Program.
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2821 Amendment SA 2821 proposed by Senator Murray. (consideration: CR S1014-1018)  
To provide for class size reduction programs.
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2865 Amendment SA 2865 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 89 - 9. Record Vote Number: 20. (text: CR S1009)
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2821 Amendment SA 2821 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 42 - 56. Record Vote Number: 21.
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2860 Amendment SA 2860 agreed to in Senate by Voice Vote.
- 3/1/2000:  
S.AMDT.2827 Amendment SA 2827 proposed by Senator Coverdell for Senator Mack. (consideration: CR S1018)  
To eliminate the marriage penalty in the reduction in permitted contributions to education individual retirement accounts.
- 3/2/2000:  
Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S1045-1111)
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2827 Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S1045-1049)
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2869 Amendment SA 2869 proposed by Senator Roth. (consideration: CR S1049-1054, S1068-1070, S1111)  
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2870 Amendment SA 2870 proposed by Senator Graham to Amendment SA 2869. (consideration: CR S1049-1054, S1068-1070)  
To reinstate certain revenue raisers.
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2827 Amendment SA 2827 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 54 - 43. Record Vote Number: 22.
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2871 Amendment SA 2871 proposed by Senator Dorgan. (consideration: CR S1054-1057, S1070)  
To provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school report cards.
- 3/2/2000:  
S.AMDT.2872 Amendment SA 2872 proposed by Senator Kennedy. (consideration: CR S1057-1062, S1070-1071)  
To establish programs to enable States and local educational agencies to place a qualified teacher in every classroom.
- 3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2873 Amendment SA 2873 proposed by Senator Boxer. (consideration: CR S1062-1068, S1071-1072, S1098-1099)

To express the sense of the Senate on improving the learning environment by ensuring safe schools.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2870 Amendment SA 2870 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 25 - 73. Record Vote Number: 23.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2869 Amendment SA 2869 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 59 - 40. Record Vote Number: 24.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2871 Amendment SA 2871 not agreed to in Senate by Voice Vote. (text: CR S1054-1055)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2872 Amendment SA 2872 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 39 - 60. Record Vote Number: 25.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2874 Amendment SA 2874 proposed by Senator Coverdell to Amendment SA 2873. (consideration: CR S1071-1072, S1097-1098; text: CR S1071)

To express the sense of the Senate on improving the learning environment by ensuring safe schools.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2874 Amendment SA 2874 as modified to reflect a first degree status proposed by Senator Coverdell.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2875 Amendment SA 2875 proposed by Senator Bingaman for Senator Kennedy. (consideration: CR S1072-1073, S1098-1100; text: CR S1072)

To increase funding for Federal Pell Grants.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2876 Amendment SA 2876 proposed by Senator Feinstein. (consideration: CR S1073-1082, S1100-1101)

To provide for achievement standards and assessment of student performance in meeting the standards.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2878 Amendment SA 2878 proposed by Senator Wellstone to Amendment SA 2876. (consideration: CR S1079-1082, S1100)

To provide a limitation regarding the policy of prohibiting social promotion.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2824 Amendment SA 2824 proposed by Senator Coverdell for Senator Hatch. (consideration: CR S1082-1083)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty in the phaseout of the education loan interest deduction.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2824 Amendment SA 2824 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S1083)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2859 Amendment SA 2859 proposed by Senator Coverdell for Senator Kerry. (consideration: CR S1082-1083)

To exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2859 Amendment SA 2859 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S1082-1083)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2879 Amendment SA 2879 proposed by Senator Durbin. (consideration: CR S1083-1085, S1101)

To reduce violence in schools.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2866 Amendment SA 2866 proposed by Senator Kerry. (consideration: CR S1085-1087, S1101; text: CR S1085-1086)

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide scholarships for future teachers and loan forgiveness and cancellation.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2880 Amendment SA 2880 proposed by Senator Boxer. (consideration: CR S1089-1090, S1095-1096; text: CR S1089)

To require schools that receive Federal funding to notify parents of certain pesticide applications on school grounds.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2867 Amendment SA 2867 proposed by Senator Landrieu. (consideration: CR S1090-1092, S1095)

To promote teacher and principal quality and professional development.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2868 Amendment SA 2868 proposed by Senator Schumer. (consideration: CR S1092-1093, S1101; text: CR S1092)

To put teachers first by providing grants for master teacher programs.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2867 Proposed amendment SA 2867 withdrawn in Senate.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2880 Amendment SA 2880 as modified agreed to in Senate by Voice Vote. (text as modified: CR S1095)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2881 Amendment SA 2881 proposed by Senator Coverdell. (consideration: CR S1096)

To provide for a Manager's amendment to the bill as amended by Senate Amendment No. 2869.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2881 Amendment SA 2881 agreed to in Senate by Voice Vote.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2874 Amendment SA 2874 as modified agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 96 - 1. Record Vote Number: 26. (text as modified: CR S1072)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2873 Amendment SA 2873 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 49 - 49. Record Vote Number: 27.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2873 Motion by Senator Lott to reconsider the vote by which amendment SA 2873 was rejected agreed to in Senate.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2873 Amendment SA 2873 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 49 - 49. Record Vote Number: 28. (text: CR S1062-1063)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2875 Point of order raised in Senate with respect to amendment SA 2875.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2875 Motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to amendment SA 2875 rejected in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 41 - 57. Record Vote Number: 29.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2875 Amendment SA 2875 ruled out of order by the chair.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2878 Amendment SA 2878 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 29 - 69. Record Vote Number: 30. (text: CR S1079-1080)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2876 Amendment SA 2876 not agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 30 - 68. Record Vote Number: 31. (text: CR S1073-1074)

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2866 Proposed amendment SA 2866 withdrawn in Senate.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2868 Proposed amendment SA 2868 withdrawn in Senate.

3/2/2000:

S.AMDT.2879 Amendment SA 2879 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 91 - 7. Record Vote Number: 32. (txt: CR S1083)

3/2/2000:

Passed Senate with amendments by Yea-Nay Vote. 61 - 37. Record Vote Number: 33. (txt: CR S1104-1111)

---

**COMMITTEE(S):**

<b>Committee/Subcommittee:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>
<u>Senate Finance</u>	Origin, Reporting

---

**RELATED BILL DETAILS:**

\*\*\*NONE\*\*\*

---

**AMENDMENT(S):**

1. S.AMDT.2821 to S.1134 To provide for class size reduction programs.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Murray, Patty - **Latest Major Action:** 3/1/2000 Senate amendment not agreed to
2. S.AMDT.2823 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for consideration. See Congressional Record for text.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Hatch, Orrin G. - **Latest Major Action:** 2/28/2000 Senate amendment submitted
3. S.AMDT.2824 to S.1134 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty in the phaseout of the education loan interest deduction.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Hatch, Orrin G. - **Latest Major Action:** 3/2/2000 Senate amendment agreed to
4. S.AMDT.2825 to S.1134 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the deduction for computer donations to schools and to allow a tax credit for donated computers, and for other purposes.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Abraham, Spencer - **Latest Major Action:** 3/1/2000 Senate amendment agreed to
5. S.AMDT.2826 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for consideration. See Congressional Record for text.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Torricelli, Robert G. - **Latest Major Action:** 2/28/2000 Senate amendment submitted
6. S.AMDT.2827 to S.1134 To eliminate the marriage penalty in the reduction in permitted contributions to education individual retirement accounts.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Mack, Connie - **Latest Major Action:** 3/2/2000 Senate amendment agreed to
7. S.AMDT.2828 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for consideration. See Congressional Record for text.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Gramm, Phil - **Latest Major Action:** 2/28/2000 Senate amendment submitted
8. S.AMDT.2829 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for consideration. See Congressional Record for text.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Robb, Charles S. - **Latest Major Action:** 2/28/2000 Senate amendment submitted
9. S.AMDT.2830 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for consideration. See Congressional Record for text.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Robb, Charles S. - **Latest Major Action:** 2/28/2000 Senate amendment submitted
10. S.AMDT.2831 to S.1134 Purpose will be available when the amendment is proposed for

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Bill Clinton to Martin Sheen [partial] (1 page)	09/28/2000	b(6)

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Clinton Presidential Records  
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Ann O'Leary  
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AmeriCorps Event 10/2000 [1]

2013-0436-S

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### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

File - Americas

September 28, 2000

Mr. Martin Sheen

(b)(6)

[001]

Dear Martin:

Thanks so much for your letter. I was touched by your warm words of support, and I'm pleased to enclose a copy of my speech for you.

I think your idea about establishing a "Judicorps" is interesting, and I was disappointed that we were unable to get together to discuss your proposal during your recent stay in Washington. I've asked my staff in the Scheduling Office to look into the possibility of arranging a meeting, and I also want you to know that I've shared your correspondence with members of my staff in the Domestic Policy Council. You can be assured that your proposal will be carefully considered.

Your support and friendship mean a lot to me, and I send my best.

Sincerely, **BILL CLINTON**

BC/CKS/JHO/DA/SH/DC/bws-ws-emu-bws-lynn  
(Corres. #7314092)  
(9.sheen.m)

cc: John Wertman, 97  
cc: Carrie Street, 184  
cc: w/inc Ann O'Deary, 2FL/WW

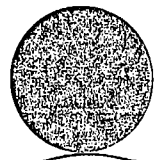
Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH through Lisel Loy

CLEAR THRU LISEL LOY

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

9-2001

Send to Delia Cohen?



Yes    
 No

'00 SEP 7 PM 3:37

September 5, 2000

William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC

(RED DOT)  
BC 816

By FAX and Hand Delivery

cc: NH scheduling

card

Dear Mr. President:

I had the distinct honor and pleasure of witnessing your address to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. The strength and courage with which you have served the American people these last seven and one half years has changed forever the landscape of our culture and has instilled in your fellow citizens an enthusiasm reminiscent of the New Deal and the New Frontier. We owe you a great deal, which, I am quite confident, will be repaid by history.

I found one portion of your address particularly important, namely your reference to the success of volunteer efforts during your Administration. The Corporation for National Service and its Americorps program have ignited a fire of energy in the young people of our country, bringing selfless service to this land just as the Peace Corps did a generation ago. As one who has steadfastly supported the role of volunteer service in our society, I applaud and commend these efforts.

Along these lines, I have been developing an idea, along with my dear friend and lawyer (and fellow "West Wing" actor), Joe Cosgrove, of Pennsylvania. While volunteer service has taken its place as a national virtue, the role of lawyers in that endeavor has unfortunately diminished. During the week of the Convention, for example, the *New York Times* ran a story discussing the significant decrease in *pro bono* services provided by lawyers at major firms, much of this trend attributed to the increasingly competitive need for lawyers in the high-tech sector. It is curious, and unfortunate, that this profession, which uniquely calls upon its members in its internal rules to provide free service, should now be seen as lessening its role in the field of volunteerism. To stem this trend and further promote the good work of such programs as the CNS, I foresee development of a program ancillary to Americorps, designed to seek and incorporate lawyers into the volunteer fabric your Administration has woven. Called, perhaps, "**Judicorps**", this program would not need any independent structure beyond Americorps to support itself, but could simply focus on the recruitment of lawyers (likely recent law school graduates) and place these new recruits in already established Americorps homes and the like. Placement of **Judicorps** volunteers would be quite easy: **Judicorps** lawyers could assist victims of natural and other disasters who often find themselves in a legal limbo on everything from mortgage liability to insurance concerns. Likewise, community service centers which provide assistance to the poor, including Legal Services offices throughout the country, could satisfy their constantly pressing need for additional staff with the addition of **Judicorps** members, who could serve the elderly and

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. letter	Martin Sheen to William J. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	09/05/2000	b(6)

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
Domestic Policy Council  
Ann O'Leary  
OA/Box Number: 19576

### FOLDER TITLE:

AmeriCorps Event 10/2000 [1]

2013-0436-S

rc1233

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

others who are most in need of legal assistance.

I believe it is important that lawyer volunteers, while acting under the Americorps/CNS umbrella, maintain a separate identity. In this way, young legal volunteers could more easily be identified and the concept of *pro bono publico* could be better fostered. The legal profession is a unique entity in our national structure; its volunteer counterpart should be identified likewise. Without a separate identity like **Judicorps**, lawyer volunteers would be (and obviously are) much more reluctant to provide a term of service comparable to that of Americorps members. Specifically aimed at their talents, and providing tuition benefits similar to those of Americorps, a program organized around lawyers could begin a trend of increasing the role of volunteers from the professional ranks in modern society. With your Executive power, you can make **Judicorps** just that program, and help enhance the traditionally honorable role of lawyers within our society.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this important idea with you and thank you for your time in considering it. You can count on my assistance to make this program a reality. I am currently scheduled to visit Washington, D.C., beginning September 17 for several days of filming. Understanding the constraints on your schedule, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this idea with you then if you so wished. Further, please feel free to contact Joe or me at any time if you have any questions or comments you wish to share. With every best wish, I remain yours in

Faith, hope and love,

Martin Sheen

(b)(6)

[002]

cc: Joe Cosgrove  
1460 Wyoming Avenue  
Forty Fort, PA 18704  
570-287-0921  
570-823-9078 (home)

*U.S. Abraham  
American*

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Hit List	Best Sections	<a href="#">Help</a>
	Doc Contents	

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**To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income. (Introduced in the House)**

HR 5215 IH

106th CONGRESS

2d Session

**H. R. 5215**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income.

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**September 19, 2000**

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

**A BILL**

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude national service educational awards from the recipient's gross income.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXCLUSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL- Section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to qualified scholarships) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(e) QUALIFIED NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS-

(1) IN GENERAL- Gross income for any taxable year shall not include any qualified national service educational award.

(2) QUALIFIED NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD- For purposes of this subsection--

'(A) IN GENERAL- The term 'qualified national service educational award' means any amount received by an individual in a taxable year as a national service educational award under section 148 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604) to the extent (except as provided in subparagraph (C)) such amount does not exceed the qualified tuition and related expenses (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) of the individual for such taxable year.

'(B) DETERMINATION OF EXPENSES- The total amount of the qualified tuition and related expenses (as so defined) which may be taken into account under subparagraph (A) with respect to an individual for the taxable year shall be reduced (after the application of the reduction provided in section 25A(g)(2)) by the amount of such expenses which were taken into account in determining the credit allowed to the taxpayer or any other person under section 25A with respect to such expenses.

'(C) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION- The limitation under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any portion of a national service educational award used by such individual to repay any student loan described in section 148(a)(1) of such Act or to pay any interest expense described in section 148(a)(4) of such Act.'

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE- The amendment made by this section shall apply to amounts received in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999.

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Shirley S. Sagawa  
09/05/2000 02:26:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jacob J. Lew/OMB/EOP@EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP, Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP@EOP,  
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP, James R. Kvaal/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: Taxability of AmeriCorps ed awards

I'm not sure if you remember this issue, but it's an important one to address for the long term good of AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps education awards are taxable, which leaves a large number of outgoing members in a difficult position -- owing taxes but unable to convert their award into cash to pay them.

The original AmeriCorps legislation would have made the awards nontaxable, but this provision was stripped to avoid sending the bill to the Finance/Ways and Means committees.

We tried a couple of years ago to get this changed, and had trouble with Treasury which wanted to score the provision as a revenue raiser (due to the interaction with the Lifetime Learning Credit). The compromise was to limit the change to loan repayment.

John Kerry did an amendment on this on one of the tax bills earlier this year and actually passed it in the Senate, but the bill died.

So -- if there is an end of the year tax deal, we would like to see if this tiny provision can be a part of it.

Thanks.



"Gomperts, John" <jgomperts@cns.gov>  
09/27/2000 04:53:57 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP, Shirley S. Sagawa/WHO/EOP  
cc:  
Subject: FW: AmeriCorps Taxability

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The latest update on taxability legislation.

We should watch this very carefully. If we are going to come up short on reauthorization, then maybe the administration should push hard on the taxability thing at the very end. But I don't accept that this is going to be the result on reauthorization, so let's wait on this question for another day.

Stay tuned. JG

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Frazier, Monique

> Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2000 1:49 PM

> To: Avery, Kevin; Zenker, Wendy; Kowalczyk, Gary; Jospin, Debbie;

> Gomperts, John; Scott, Sandy; Minor, Kris; Duncan, Thomasenia; Trinity,

> Frank

> Cc: Akinngabe, Gbenga; Vezina, John

> Subject: AmeriCorps Taxability

> Importance: High

>

> I spoke with Senator Kerry's staff and the amendment to exempt AmeriCorps

> members from being unfairly taxed which was to be included in the markup

> of HR 4943 doesn't look promising. Charmin Roth has been asked by the

> leadership to reduce the number of non germane amendments and exclude

> those that have the potential for controversy to make the bill as clean as

> possible. Since AmeriCorps has not been fully embraced by both sides of

> the aisle, it can be viewed as a controversial issue.

>

> Senator Kerry and Senator Jeffords are considering their options and will

> attempt to have the amendment included through another vehicle or an

> omnibus bill.



## DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

Date: 10/24

To:

John Comperis

Telephone:

Fax:

202-4214

From:

Eric Morse

Telephone: 456-0122

Fax: 456-2878

Subject:

Sheen letter & POTUS response

Pages:

4 (Including this cover sheet)

Comments:

SECOND FLOOR WEST WING ❖ WASHINGTON, DC 20502  
TELEPHONE (202) 456-6275 ❖ FACSIMILE 456-2878

Final 9/10/00 9:00 p.m.  
John Pollack

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON  
STATEMENT ON  
CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL SERVICE  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
October 11, 2000**

Thank-you, Ardelia Norwood-Ross. You represent the best of AmeriCorps. Let me also thank Pennsylvania's own Harris Wofford. From the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps, nobody has done more to champion public service or to help people, both here and abroad, reach for opportunity.

When Vice President Gore and I took office nearly eight years ago, AmeriCorps was just the spark of an idea. Now, thanks to all of you, it's the swing of a hundred hammers, helping a new family build their first home. It's the sight of a thousand saplings taking root on a charred mountainside. It's the sound of a million children reading their first book. AmeriCorps, you get things done, and we say thank-you.

It is especially fitting that we meet in Philadelphia to reaffirm our commitment to citizen service. It was here that our founders declared independence, calling for thousands of volunteers to leave field and family to fight for the dream of democracy. Here they conceived a new nation that honored both the individual *and* the idea that a free people could accomplish their greatest deeds only by working together.

More than two centuries later, you are living proof that every citizen can still make a difference, especially when we work together. In 1992, some people were pretty discouraged about the challenges we faced. But together, we made the tough choices. Together, we created 22 million new jobs, driving unemployment to a 30-year low. We turned record deficits into record surpluses. Crime has fallen for eight years running. Personal income is rising across the board. Home ownership is at an all-time high. Teen pregnancy is dropping, and more Americans than ever before are going on to college. At the beginning of a new century, America is stronger than ever.

This turnaround didn't happen by chance; it was a choice. In big cities and small towns, people took responsibility – not just for helping themselves – but also for helping their neighbors and communities. And nobody has set a better example of this than the members of AmeriCorps – and the dedicated volunteers in other programs of the Corporation for National Service.

All across the country, AmeriCorps members are serving as a catalyst for community action. Studies show that every AmeriCorps member generates, on average, a dozen extra volunteers. That adds up. Over the past six years, AmeriCorps members have recruited, trained or supervised more than 2.5 million volunteers for community projects.

All across the state of Pennsylvania, older volunteers with the National Senior Service Corps serve as foster grandparents to 9,000 children, and thousands of RSVP volunteers are passing on their wisdom to a younger generation, too.

Right here in Philadelphia, nearly a thousand AmeriCorps members have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with local organizations, running after-school programs, restoring parks, helping Habitat for Humanity build homes, bridging the digital divide, and engaging young people in community service.

We know from experience that young people, when they volunteer in their communities, are less likely to get into trouble, and more likely to succeed in school. That's why, of all the work that AmeriCorps does, none is more important than the effort to help our children succeed in the classroom. In 1996, I issued the America Reads Challenge. I called on AmeriCorps and college students across the country to join in a crusade for childhood literacy. And they answered my call. Thanks to AmeriCorps members like Ardelia, hundreds of thousands of children have been tutored, mentored or enrolled in after-school programs.

In one of the most inspiring and successful efforts, members of the National School and Community Corps, City Year, VISTA, and Americorps have helped the Philadelphia schools expand their pioneering program for student service. As part of this initiative, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders are trained to tutor 2<sup>nd</sup>-graders, one-on-one, in after-school reading programs. The students that do the tutoring learn just as much as the youngsters they teach. This is something we can do in every school system in America.

Today, I'm releasing an independent study that shows these efforts are paying off. Over the past school year, AmeriCorps members served in programs tutoring more than 100,000 students in grades 1-3. Sample tests given at the beginning and end of the school year showed that children's reading skills improved significantly – gains that exceeded expectations.

In one case, an AmeriCorps member down in Atlanta set out to recruit 8 college students willing to tutor struggling kids four hours a week. Today, that program has 250 volunteers serving in 30 schools. They are making an amazing difference. In fact, 70 percent of second and third-graders participating in the program have increased their test scores by at least two reading levels. Teachers love it, because the tutors help them give kids the extra attention they need.

We know what works. Now we need to do more of it. That's why I am urging Congress to reauthorize the Corporation for National Service, and provide the necessary funding to support a robust AmeriCorps. A few weeks ago, 49 governors – Democrats and Republicans alike – sent Congress a letter praising AmeriCorps and calling for its reauthorization. Governor Ridge called it a "vital resource," and he's right. AmeriCorps members get things done. I've talked with Congressional leaders about this, and I hope that they will act in the best bipartisan spirit to send me this legislation without delay.

Sometimes people are surprised that others are willing to work so hard for strangers, to invest their time and energy in people they've never met before. But here's an open secret that every volunteer knows: when you help someone else, you always get back more than you give.

You meet people from different walks of life. You learn things about yourself. You bring our country that much closer to fulfilling its promise as One America. And ultimately, when you help someone else, you often touch – if only for a brief moment – the true meaning of human existence.

A generation ago, Robert Kennedy spoke of the power of a single person to affect change. Today, you are that person – a “ripple of hope” spreading out to improve the world.

It is now my distinct honor to swear in our nation’s newest AmeriCorps class, by leading the AmeriCorps Pledge: *“I will get things done for America – to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.”*

Congratulations.

**IMPROVING AMERICA THROUGH NATIONAL SERVICE: PRESIDENT CLINTON  
URGES CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE AMERICORPS**  
October 11, 2000

Today, the President will address hundreds of AmeriCorps volunteers in Philadelphia and will urge Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and other vital national service programs before their session adjourns. In the past six years since the inauguration of AmeriCorps, nearly 200,000 AmeriCorps members have served our nation by building homes, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, and tutoring in schools. The President will release findings from a new independent study showing that AmeriCorps' reading tutors are making a tremendous difference in student reading achievement and affirms that we must do all we can to ensure AmeriCorps members continue to have the opportunity to serve their communities.

**AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE GETTING THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA.**

President Clinton's signature national service program, AmeriCorps, is part of a long bipartisan tradition of service. Today the Corporation for National Service supports the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Points of Light Foundation, General Powell's America's Promise, as well as AmeriCorps. Since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1994, AmeriCorps members have tutored and mentored millions of children; established or expanded thousands of neighborhood safety patrols; helped build or rehabilitate thousands of homes; and helped communities rebuild after dozens of natural disasters in more than 30 states, including the recent fires in Montana and Colorado. AmeriCorps also provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and the American Red Cross. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive educational awards that help pay for college, job training, or pay back student loans. To date, AmeriCorps members have qualified for more than \$400 million in education awards.

**AMERICORPS AND OTHER VITAL NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS MUST BE REAUTHORIZED.**

The reauthorization of AmeriCorps has wide-ranging support. Recently, 49 of the nation's 50 governors sent a letter urging Congress to renew AmeriCorps and other national service programs, stating, "As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country." The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 would reauthorize the Corporation for National and Community Service and its major service programs for five years, and strengthen our nation's commitment to national service by enabling these programs to build on the far-reaching benefits they have provided. In addition, the reauthorization would expand AmeriCorps to include an E-Corps of volunteers working to close the digital divide.

**AMERICORPS READING TUTORS HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO READ.**

In 1996, the President issued the America Reads Challenge to help every child learn to read well and independently by the end of the third grade, and called for an army of trained reading tutors to join forces with parents, teachers, and reading specialists to help achieve this goal.

AmeriCorps members, VISTA volunteers, and Foster Grandparents all heeded the President's call to action and have since taught, tutored, or mentored nearly one million children learning to

read. Today, the President will announce the preliminary results of a national study that shows that AmeriCorps members are making a difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills. This independent study, conducted by Abt Associates Inc., surveyed hundreds of AmeriCorps reading tutors and thousands of children learning to read, and concluded that in every instance these tutors are making a tremendous difference. In fact, the children involved in the study improved their reading abilities more than the gain expected for similarly situated children at their grade level. Many of these students started out in the tutoring programs well below grade level and by year-end, students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation. The President urged Congress to reauthorize funding to support programs like the AmeriCorps reading tutors in addition to his call to enact other critical education reforms to improve reading, including smaller class-size, teacher quality, and more after-school opportunities.

*in my heart at Penn.*

Good afternoon, Mr. President. On behalf of AmeriCorps, I'm honored to welcome you to Philadelphia.

I joined AmeriCorps after graduating from college because I wanted to help children learn. When I started out, working with first graders, I was scared—scared of the responsibility, because a child's whole future depends on this time. The teachers I served with helped me learn how to work with the children. We're not trying to replace teachers, but to help them by having an extra person around to give one-on-one attention to children who need it. One of the first kids I worked with was John, the son of a Cambodian family. He didn't know the alphabet. I worked with him for about 20 minutes every day in the classroom and twice a week after school. Within a month, he could write beautiful sentences. Now he's reading at grade level.

So many older people see my generation as not being concerned about anything other than ourselves. They think we're lazy and self-centered. I think they're misinformed. It may be more exciting to talk about things that aren't going right, but nearly 200,000 AmeriCorps members have served since 1994, and I think that shows that we can get things done.

I'm always encouraging other people to join AmeriCorps, and now, one of my cousins is now applying to AmeriCorps. I think more people should have that chance to serve, to get things done. Every day when I wake up, I know that I am making a difference.

For that I thank you, Mr. President.

October 10, 2000

## AMERICORPS EVENT

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 11, 2000  
**TIME:** 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**FROM:** Thurgood Marshall, Jr.  
Barbara Chow

### I. PURPOSE

To highlight the accomplishments of the thousands of AmeriCorps members who have served their country over the past six years and to call on Congress to reauthorize and expand AmeriCorps and other citizen service programs. To announce the preliminary results of a national study showing that AmeriCorps members are making a difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills.

### II. BACKGROUND

During this event, **YOU** will call on Congress to pass the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000, reauthorizing and extending AmeriCorps and other national service and volunteer programs administered by the Corporation for National Service for five years. This reauthorization would reaffirm and strengthen our nation's commitment to national service by enabling the national service programs to build on the far-reaching benefits they have provided. In addition, the reauthorization would expand AmeriCorps to include an E-Corps of volunteers working to close the digital divide.

As you know, the reauthorization of AmeriCorps has wide-ranging bipartisan support as demonstrated recently by the letter sent by 49 of the nation's governors urging Congress to renew AmeriCorps and other national service programs.

In this event, you will **not** highlight your FY 2001 budget request for AmeriCorps. In VA-HUD, the House zero funded AmeriCorps and the Senate cut it by \$26 million which would have denied funding for 3,000 current AmeriCorps and not provided the additional funding you requested for 12,000 new AmeriCorps members. In current negotiations, your representatives have been working with conferees to increase the funding level to bring AmeriCorps to last year's funding level. Given the delicate nature of the negotiations, your advisers did not recommend that you include a mention of your national service budget in this event today.

**YOU** will announce the preliminary results of an extensive, national study showing that AmeriCorps members are making a difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills. This independent national survey conducted by Abt Associates Inc., a research firm located in Boston, Massachusetts, involved hundreds of AmeriCorps members working as reading tutors and thousand of children learning to read. The study concluded that in every instance these tutors are making a tremendous difference. In fact, the children involved in the study improved their reading abilities more than the gain expected for similarly situated children at their grade level. Many of these students started out in the tutoring programs well below grade level and by year-end, students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation. The study does not say that the reading tutors alone improved reading scores but the study did show that AmeriCorps reading tutors made a tremendous difference in helping the children with whom they worked learn to read.

### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

#### **YOU**

Harris Wofford  
Ardelia Norwood-Ross, AmeriCorps Member

### **IV. PRESS PLAN**

Open Press

### **V. REMARKS**

To be provided by speechwriting.

### **VI. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- Off-stage announcement of **YOU**, accompanied Harris Wofford and AmeriCorps Member Ardelia Norwood-Ross.  
Note: There will be approximately 20 AmeriCorps members on stage.
- Harris Wofford makes brief remarks and introduces Ardelia Norwood-Ross.
- Ardelia Norwood-Ross makes brief remarks and introduces **YOU**.
- **YOU** make remarks and administer the AmeriCorps pledge to all of the AmeriCorps members present.
- **YOU** work a ropeline and depart.

### **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

- Biography of Ardelia Norwood-Ross, AmeriCorps Member
- AmeriCorps Tutoring and Student Reading Achievements Preliminary Findings

**DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\* DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\*DRAFT\*\*DRAFT**

**IMPROVING AMERICA THROUGH NATIONAL SERVICE:  
PRESIDENT CLINTON URGES CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE AMERICORPS  
*October 11, 2000***

Today, the President will address hundreds of AmeriCorps volunteers in Philadelphia where he will urge Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and other vital national service programs before the end of the session. In the past six years since the inauguration of AmeriCorps, more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members have served our communities building homes, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, and tutoring in schools. The President will release findings from a new independent study showing that AmeriCorps' reading tutors are making a tremendous difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills. This study confirms that AmeriCorps is working and affirms that we must do all we can to continue to provide AmeriCorps members with the opportunity to serve their communities.

**AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING TO GET THINGS DONE FOR**

**AMERICA.** President Clinton's signature national service program, AmeriCorps, is part of a long bipartisan tradition of service extending from President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps to President Bush's Points of Light Foundation. Today, the Corporation for National Service supports the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Points of Light Foundation, General Powell's America's Promise, as well as AmeriCorps. Since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1994, AmeriCorps members have tutored and mentored more than 4 million children; established or expanded more than 40,000 neighborhood safety patrols; helped build or rehabilitate more than 25,000 homes; and helped communities rebuild after dozens of natural disasters in more than 30 states, including the recent fires in Montana and Colorado. AmeriCorps also provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and the American Red Cross accomplish more and make more effective use of volunteers. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive ~~earn~~ educational awards ~~opportunity — a scholarship~~ that help pay for college, job ~~or~~ training, or pay back student loans. To date, AmeriCorps members have qualified for more than \$400 million in education awards.

**AMERICORPS AND OTHER VITAL NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS MUST BE REAUTHORIZED.**

The reauthorization of AmeriCorps has wide-ranging support. Recently, 49 of the nation's governors sent a letter urging Congress to renew AmeriCorps and other national service programs. The governors individually signed the letter stating, "As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country." The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 would reauthorize for five years the Corporation for National and Community Service and its major service programs. This reauthorization would reaffirm and strengthen our nation's commitment to national service by enabling the national service programs to build on the far-reaching benefits they have provided. In addition, the reauthorization would expand AmeriCorps to include an E-Corps of volunteers working to close the digital divide.

Draft 9/10/00 3:15 p.m.  
John Pollack

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON  
STATEMENT ON  
CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL SERVICE  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
October 11, 2000**

Thank-you, Ardelia Norwood-Ross. Mayor John Street, thank-you for your warm welcome today, and for your commitment to this proud city. And where would we be today without Eli Segal, and Pennsylvania's own Harris Wofford? From the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps, nobody has done more to champion public service, or to help people in this country around the world reach for opportunity. We thank you for your leadership.

When Vice President Gore and I took office nearly eight years ago, AmeriCorps was just the spark of an idea. Now, thanks to all of you, it's the swing of a hundred hammers, helping a new family build their first home. It's the sight of a thousand saplings taking root on a charred mountainside. It's the sound of a million children reading their first book. AmeriCorps, you get things done, and we say thank-you.

It is especially fitting that we meet in Philadelphia to reaffirm our commitment to national service. It was here that our founders declared independence, calling for thousands of volunteers to leave field and family to fight for the dream of democracy. Here they conceived a new nation that honored both the individual *and* the idea that a free people could accomplish their greatest deeds only by working together.

More than two centuries later, you are living proof that every citizen can still make a difference, especially when we work together. In 1992, some people were pretty discouraged about the challenges we faced. But together, we made the tough choices. Together, we created 22 million new jobs, driving unemployment to a 30-year low. We turned record deficits into record surpluses. Crime has dropped for eight years running. Personal income is rising across the board. Home ownership is at an all-time high. Teen pregnancy is falling, and more Americans than ever before are going on to college. At the beginning of a new century, America is stronger than ever.

This turnaround didn't happen by chance; it was a choice. In big cities and small towns, people took responsibility – not just for helping themselves – but also for their neighbors and communities. And nobody has set a better example of this renewed spirit than the dedicated members of AmeriCorps, the senior service volunteers and so many others who make up the Corporation for National Service.

All across the country, AmeriCorps members are serving as a catalyst for community action. Studies show that every AmeriCorps member generates, on average, a dozen extra volunteers for every project they work on. That adds up. Over the past six years, AmeriCorps

members have recruited, trained or supervised more than 2.5 million volunteers for community projects.

All across the state of Pennsylvania, volunteers with the National Senior Service Corporation serve as foster grandparents to 9,000 children – passing on wisdom and the lessons of a lifetime. Right here in Philadelphia, more than a thousand AmeriCorps members have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with local organizations, running after-school programs, helping neighbors restore parks, bridging the digital divide and engaging other young people in community service.

We know that young people, when they volunteer in their communities, are less likely to get into trouble, and more likely to succeed in school. That's why, of all the work that AmeriCorps does, none is more important than the effort to help our children succeed in the classroom. Thanks to AmeriCorps members like Ardelia, more than 4 million kids have been tutored, mentored or enrolled in after-school programs since 1994.

Today, I'm releasing an independent study that shows these efforts are paying off. Over the past school year, AmeriCorps members tutored more than 100,000 students in grades 1-3. Sample tests given at the beginning and end of the school year showed that children's reading skills improved dramatically – gains that exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

In one case, an AmeriCorps member down in Atlanta set out to recruit 8 college students willing to tutor struggling kids four hours a week. Today, that program has 250 volunteers serving in 30 schools. They are making an amazing difference. In fact, 70 percent of second and third-graders participating in the program have increased their test scores by at least two reading levels. Teachers love it, because the tutors help them give kids the extra attention they need.

We know what works. Now we need to do more of it. That's why I am urging Congress to reauthorize the Corporation for National Service, and bring AmeriCorps membership up to 100,000 every year. A few weeks ago, I received a letter from 49 governors – Democrats and Republicans alike – praising the fine work that AmeriCorps does. They know that AmeriCorps members get things done, and I hope Congress will act in the best bipartisan spirit to send me this legislation without delay.

Sometimes people are surprised that others are willing to work so hard for strangers, to invest their time and energy in people they've never met before. But here's an open secret that every volunteer knows: when you help someone else, you always get back more than you give. You meet people from different walks of life. You learn things about yourself. You bring our country that much closer to fulfilling its promise as One America. And ultimately, when you help someone else, you often touch – if only for a brief moment – the true meaning of human existence.

So today, as we welcome a new class of AmeriCorps members, let all of us recommit ourselves to a lifetime of service, one built on the enduring American values of opportunity, responsibility and community. And let's always remember that when we work together, nothing is beyond our grasp.

I want to say one last thing before I close: of all our accomplishments together these past eight years, there is nothing I am more proud of than AmeriCorps. Thank you for that. You get things done, and you make America proud.

It is now my distinct honor to swear in our nation's newest AmeriCorps class, by leading the AmeriCorps Pledge. *"I will get things done for America – to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done."*

Congratulations.

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**IMPROVING AMERICA THROUGH NATIONAL SERVICE:  
PRESIDENT CLINTON URGES CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE AMERICORPS**

*October 11, 2000*

Today, the President will address hundreds of AmeriCorps volunteers in Philadelphia and will urge Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and other vital national service programs before their session adjourns. In the past six years since the inauguration of AmeriCorps, nearly 200,000 AmeriCorps members have served our nation by building homes, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, and tutoring in schools. The President will release findings from a new independent study showing that AmeriCorps' reading tutors are making a tremendous difference in student reading achievements and affirms that we must do all we can to ensure AmeriCorps members continue to have the opportunity to serve their communities.

**AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE GETTING THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA.**

President Clinton's signature national service program, AmeriCorps, is part of a long bipartisan tradition of service, and today the Corporation for National Service supports the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Points of Light Foundation, General Powell's America's Promise, as well as AmeriCorps. Since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1994, AmeriCorps members have tutored and <sup>not</sup> millions of children; established or expanded thousands of neighborhood safety patrols; helped build or rehabilitate thousands of homes; and helped communities rebuild after dozens of natural disasters in more than 30 states, including the recent fires in Montana and Colorado. AmeriCorps also provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and the American Red Cross accomplish more and make more effective use of volunteers. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive educational awards that help pay for college, job training, or pay back student loans. To date, AmeriCorps members have qualified for more than \$400 million in education awards.

**AMERICORPS AND OTHER VITAL NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS MUST BE REAUTHORIZED.** The reauthorization of AmeriCorps has wide-ranging support. Recently, 49 of the nation's 50 governors sent a letter urging Congress to renew AmeriCorps and other national service programs, stating, "As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country." The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 would reauthorize the Corporation for National and Community Service and its major service programs for five years, and strengthen our nation's commitment to national service by enabling these programs to build on the far-reaching benefits they have provided. In addition, the reauthorization would expand AmeriCorps to include an E-Corps of volunteers working to close the digital divide.

**AMERICORPS READING TUTORS HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO READ.** In 1996, the President issued the America Reads Challenge to help every child learn to read well and independently by the end of the third grade, and called for an army of trained reading tutors to join forces with parents, teachers, and reading specialists to help achieve this goal.

AmeriCorps members, VISTA volunteers, and Foster Grandparents all heeded the President's call to action and have since taught, tutored, or mentored more than two million children learning to read.

Today, the President will announce the preliminary results of a national study that shows that AmeriCorps members are making a difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills. This independent study, conducted by Abt Associates Inc., surveyed hundreds of AmeriCorps reading tutors and thousands of children learning to read, and concluded that in every instance these tutors are making a tremendous difference. In fact, ~~all~~ children involved in the study improved their reading abilities more than the gain expected for other children at their grade level. Many of these students started out in the tutoring programs well below grade level and by year-end, students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation. The President urged Congress to reauthorize funding to support programs like the AmeriCorps reading tutors in addition to his call to enact other critical education reforms, including smaller class-size, teacher quality, and more after-school opportunities, ~~so that our children can receive the first-class education they deserve.~~

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**AMERICORPS READING TUTORS HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO READ.** In 1996, the President issued the America Reads Challenge to urge the American people to work together in communities throughout the country to help every child learn to read well and independently by the end of the third grade. At the time, the President called for an army of trained reading tutors to join forces with parents, teachers, and reading specialists to help give children the extra practice and extra time they need to learn to read. AmeriCorps members, VISTA volunteers, and Foster Grandparents all heeded the President's call to action and have since taught, tutored, or mentored more than two million children learning to read.

Today, the President will announce the preliminary results of an extensive, national study showing that AmeriCorps members are making a difference in helping the students they work with improve their reading skills. This independent national survey conducted by Abt Associates Inc., a research firm located in Boston, Massachusetts, involved hundreds of AmeriCorps members working as reading tutors and thousands of children learning to read. The study concluded that in every instance these tutors are making a tremendous difference. In fact, all children involved in the study improved their reading abilities more than the gain expected for other children at their grade level. Many of these students started out in the tutoring programs well below grade level and by year-end, students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation. The study does not say that the reading tutors alone improved reading scores – we know we need a whole package of education reforms from smaller class-sizes to teacher quality to more after-school programs – but, the study did show that AmeriCorps reading tutors made a tremendous difference in helping the children with whom they worked learn to read.

# Getting Things Done for America: The Case for Reauthorization

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reasons to Reauthorize the Corporation for National Service and AmeriCorps

49 Governors Urge Congress to Extend AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Accomplishments

Evaluations

What People Are Saying about AmeriCorps

What Newspapers Are Saying about AmeriCorps

What Governors Are Saying about National Service

Public-Private Collaborations

Financial Management Improvements

Grants Management

Cost Per Member

Conferences

Articles

General Colin Powell

Kasich Changes Tune About AmeriCorps

Dan Coats: Why I Changed My Mind About AmeriCorps

Senator McCain, New Yorker

Habitat, AmeriCorps Good Partners

Two Presidents: A Shared Legacy

## REASONS TO REAUTHORIZE THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AND AMERICORPS

- By reauthorizing the Corporation for National Service, Congress will recognize the contributions of more than a million Americans engaged in service to their country through the programs created by Congress and administered by the Corporation for National Service.
- For three decades the **senior service** programs – Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – have been broadly supported in Congress and around the country.
- Since the 1990 National Service Act signed by President Bush, the **service-learning** programs of elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and community organizations have won wide praise. These programs challenge young people to improve their studies, develop problem-solving skills, and learn the habits of good citizenship while improving their communities.
- In the last five years, **AmeriCorps** (now including the 35-year old VISTA program) has been proving itself. More than 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served their nation patriotically on the home front since the program was created. At this time of special concern about the future of our youth, it's essential that as many as possible be called upon to do something more challenging and rewarding than many of them have yet known – dedicated and sustained service to their fellow citizens.
- Building Strong Partnerships: AmeriCorps is administered in a nonpartisan spirit and works closely with the Points of Light Foundation, established by President Bush, and with America's Promise – the campaign for children and youth, launched at the 1997 Philadelphia Summit of all the Presidents and led by General Colin Powell. Recently, Powell told the National Governors' Association:

“I have now had two years of experience with AmeriCorps, and they are doing a great job... They are given a stipend for their work, but what they do in terms of leveraging other individuals to volunteer is really incredible. So it is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future, and I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps. I think they have demonstrated their worth, they have paid their dues, and they are worthy of the support I hope they will get from the Congress.”

- Employing a Devolved Structure: Most people don't know how AmeriCorps operates or how it's administered. They assume that a top-down Washington bureaucracy runs the program and deploys AmeriCorps members around the country. The opposite is true. AmeriCorps is one of the most successful experiments in state and local control the government has ever supported. In fact, the bulk of AmeriCorps funding is in the hands of our nation's governors, whose state commissions on National and Community Service make grants to local non-profits. Those non-profits recruit and select the participants and run the programs. AmeriCorps provides people power to help these organizations meet community needs in education, housing, health care, environmental protection and disaster relief.

- Producing Net Benefits: The largest independent study to date concludes that AmeriCorps creates \$1.66 in benefits for every dollar spent. The service of AmeriCorps members strengthens communities and builds job-readiness skills among participants, the study found.
- Supporting the Nation's Volunteer Tradition: Critics have asked why we should pay people to spur volunteering in this nation, which has a proud tradition of volunteer service. Millard Fuller, the founder and leader of Habitat for Humanity, provides one very practical answer. Initially concerned about involving Habitat with a federal program, Fuller now has secured more than 600 full-time AmeriCorps members and is requesting even more because the kind of dedicated full-time service that AmeriCorps members provide to recruit, organize and make maximum use of traditional unpaid part-time volunteers helps Habitat. AmeriCorps members thus multiply the number of houses that can be built for low-income families. Full-time volunteers, unless they are retired with assured income or are very rich, require at least the minimum living allowance provided AmeriCorps members. The full-time service of Peace Corps Volunteers overseas or of AmeriCorps members on the home front – let alone the service of the individuals in the volunteer armed forces – would not be possible without provision for living expenses.
- Generating Additional Volunteers: Reports and studies show that AmeriCorps members generate unstipended volunteers in large numbers – an estimated average of 12 additional volunteers per AmeriCorps member. That is part of the “value added” that AmeriCorps provides the civic sector.
- Working with Faith Communities: AmeriCorps has made a major commitment to faith-based institutions. Approximately 15 percent of AmeriCorps' 40,000 current members serve in faith-based institutions, and the number is growing.
- Keeping Costs Down: In keeping with a bipartisan agreement reached several years ago, AmeriCorps has successfully reduced its per-member costs by approximately \$1,000 each year for three years running, to less than \$15,000 per-member this year.
- Gaining New Supporters: Already, some former critics, such as Representative John Kasich and Senator John McCain, have announced that they have changed their minds about AmeriCorps. “I was wrong about AmeriCorps,” McCain says. “I was extremely skeptical at first...But I've got to say that, over all, the program's been a success. And it was a failure on my part not to recognize that earlier.”

Members of Congress now have an opportunity to separate policy from partisanship and to reach a bipartisan consensus on the renewal of the Corporation for National Service and its programs.

For more information, please contact the Corporation for National Service at (202) 606-5000, ext. 235



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Governor  
Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana

For Immediate Release  
September 20, 2000

Contact: Beverly Barnes 202-338-8700  
Anastasia Burton 406-444-5523

## 49 Governors Urge Congress To Extend AmeriCorps

(Helena, Mont.) - In an extraordinary show of bipartisan support, 49 of the nation's governors, including George W. Bush and Jeb Bush, today sent a letter urging Congress to renew AmeriCorps and other national service programs before this congressional session ends.

"The nation's governors have spoken and their message is clear: continue national service," said Governor Marc Racicot (R-MT), who led the bipartisan effort. "It is rare for governors to unite so completely around a single issue, and I hope Congress will listen to the nation's governors and act quickly to extend this successful investment in our country's future."

The letter urges passage of the National and Community Service Amendments Act, introduced in the Senate (S. 2764) by Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and James Jeffords (R-VT), and passed by the Senate HELP Committee on July 21. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT) introduced a companion bill in the House (H.R. 4740), which now has 100 co-sponsors. The bill, which is a White House priority, would reauthorize the Corporation for National Service and extend AmeriCorps and other national service programs administered by the Corporation for the next five years.

Governors from 49 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands each individually signed the letter of support, saying: "We have seen the progress of young people inspired by older students, the importance of trained hands helping after a disaster, and the pride of a senior sharing his or her time with a child in need of mentoring.... As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country."

Since AmeriCorps' inception in 1994, bipartisan support for the program has grown considerably. Many former critics of AmeriCorps are now supporters—including Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. John Kasich (R-OH). Colin Powell recently expressed his hope for reauthorization, saying, "I'm confident that it will be reauthorized. I have been speaking very strongly in favor of it. I've become a great, great fan of the Corporation for National Service."

In addition to AmeriCorps, the Corporation for National Service oversees the National Senior Service Corps, which engages 500,000 older Americans in service, and Learn and Serve America, which supports service-learning efforts that teach citizenship and academic skills to more than one million students.

##

September 19, 2000

The Honorable Trent Lott  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Lott, Senator Daschle, Speaker Hastert, and Rep. Gephardt:

As Governors, we have long been involved in and concerned with volunteer efforts in our respective states. We have seen the progress of young people inspired by older students, the importance of trained hands helping after a disaster, and the pride of a senior sharing his or her time with a child in need of mentoring.

For these reasons and many more we write in support of reauthorizing and extending AmeriCorps and other national service and volunteer programs administered by the Corporation for National Service.

Governors have built an outstanding state-federal partnership in operating national service programs. Governor-appointed state commissions that direct financial resources and membership within states are successfully administering AmeriCorps.


As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states. We have seen national service at work in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country.

We fully support the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 and strongly urge Congress to pass this legislation.

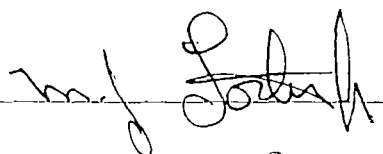
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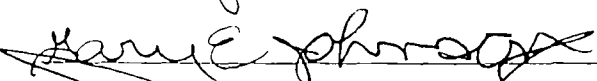
  
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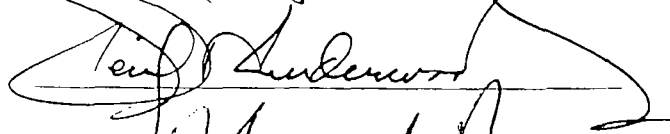
  
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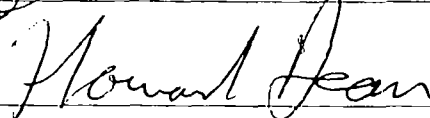
  
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Paul E. Patton

Patricia M. Mendenhall

Gray Davis

Adario Rosello

Frank O'Hannon

Joseph Kopyan

Dirk Koppert

Don Ingham

Clayton T. Witt

Leah Caldwell

Tom Beigel

Edwin M. D

Guy E. Patani

Jane de la Cruz

Benjamin J. Cayetano

Tommy Quinn

Chris

John G. Rowland

Jo Hodges

Tomie M. Jones

James Ferguson

Quinn T. Smith

Michael G.

Thomas R. Kaye

William F. Walker

Angelo Paul Allen

Bob Felt

Mike Hunkelbeck

John Engle

Jesse Ventura

Robert Barnes

Jet Burr

Jeanne Shaker

Angus S. King, Jr.

George H. Ryan

Tony Locke

John A. Ruffolo

Mel Carnahan

Jonny Knodes

James S. Gibson

Alan Dreyfman

Bill Gunn

Bob Bush

George W. ...

***NATIONAL SERVICE LEGISLATION HAS SUPPORTED MILLIONS OF AMERICANS IN PROVIDING SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND BENEFITED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR NATION'S NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS***

***Millions of Americans have had the opportunity to serve their communities under the national service legislation.***

- More than 200,000 individuals have enrolled and served in AmeriCorps, including this year's class. With the budget being approved by the Congress, more than 250,000 individuals will have served since the program's inception in 1994.
- This year alone there are 50,000 opportunities available for individuals who want to serve in AmeriCorps.
- More than 100,000 AmeriCorps members earned more than \$445 million to attend college or pay off education loans.
- In the Nation's elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities, more than 1.2 million students are supported through service-learning programs supported by the Learn and Serve America program.
- More than 470,000 Retired and Senior Volunteers, 28,000 Foster Grandparents, and 15,000 Senior Companions provide service to their communities under the National Senior Service Corps.

***Tens of thousands of our Nation's nonprofit organizations have benefited from the services provided by members and participants in national service programs.***

- Retired and Senior Volunteers serve in 67,000 separate organizations – including schools, hospitals, libraries, and day care centers.
- Foster Grandparents serve in about 10,000 different organizations, including hospitals, Head Start programs, and schools.
- Federal service-learning funds support programs in thousands of elementary and secondary schools and hundreds of colleges and universities each year.
- In just one program year, AmeriCorps members helped generate over 300,000 community volunteers to provide services through nonprofit organizations.

# AmeriCorps Accomplishments

*Since AmeriCorps was launched in 1994, nearly 200,000 Americans have served on the front lines in hard-pressed neighborhoods – tutoring in schools, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, building homes and more. AmeriCorps members serve in urban neighborhoods, rural towns, Indian reservations and national parks, and in every state in America. They come from all walks of life, but they have one thing in common – a mission to get things done and a track record of hard-hitting results. The following accomplishments are a small sample of how AmeriCorps is improving communities.*

## **Improving Childhood Literacy**

More than half of all AmeriCorps members are improving the lives of children and youth by teaching, tutoring, mentoring, running after-school programs, and helping children get safely to school. Ever since 1996, when the President and Congress raised concerns that 40 percent of America's fourth-graders were below grade level in reading, AmeriCorps members has been at the forefront helping children learn to read. Nationwide, AmeriCorps members and the volunteers they recruit provide tutoring to more than 100,000 children in first through third grades.

- In the Washington Reading Corps, more than 300 AmeriCorps members are helping boost the reading scores of struggling elementary students in low-performing schools. In addition to their direct tutoring, AmeriCorps members recruited more than 7,000 volunteers who have tutored 20,000 students in 153 schools. The results? Reading levels are up and discipline problems are down. After the first year, the average proportion of fourth-graders that met the state standard rose 11 percent in Reading Corps schools compared with 6 percent in schools statewide. In many schools, reading scores went up by 100 percent or more.
- In one year, AmeriCorps members at the Reading One-to-One AmeriCorps in Dallas provided 50,000 hours of tutoring to more than 1,100 elementary students. First-graders who received tutoring saw their reading skills increase an average of a six-month grade level over the level of non-tutored students.
- In Alabama, 12 AmeriCorps members recruited and placed more than 1,300 volunteer tutors in schools across the state. These volunteers worked with kindergarten through third-graders to ensure that they had a solid foundation of reading. Seventy percent of the students tutored showed significant improvement in their basic understanding and comprehension of reading.
- In Oregon's Project SMART (Start Making A Reader Today), 73 AmeriCorps\*VISTA members recruited more than 8,500 community volunteers last year. With AmeriCorps' help, SMART currently serves 167 schools in 14 counties, reaching 8,535 children.

## **Preventing School Dropouts**

- In Cleveland's West Side, AmeriCorps members serving with the West Side Ecumenical Ministry teach and mentor middle school students in after-school programs, many located in churches. Although the Cleveland Public Schools' annual dropout rate is over 30 percent, not one of the 390 students who participated in ministry's tutoring and/or homework clubs dropped out of school.
- In Bridgeport Conn., AmeriCorps members with ASPIRA tutor and mentor students at Harding High School. Their service contributed significantly to the Harding's dropout decreasing from 16 percent to 6 percent --with the Latino dropout rate falling from 21.8 percent to 7.3 percent.

## **Helping Communities Rebuild After Disasters**

- From tornadoes and forest fires to floods and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have responded to natural disasters in more than 30 states in the past five years. With special training in disaster relief, AmeriCorps members fight fires, run emergency shelters, help law enforcement, provide food and shelter, assess and repair damage, and help families and communities rebuild. "It is a big help to disaster victims to work with motivated, self-sufficient young AmeriCorps members," said Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt, who was so impressed with AmeriCorps that he set up a program providing for national service to be on call to respond to disaster whenever it strikes.
- After Hurricane Georges left trail of destruction across the Puerto Rico and the southern United States, nearly 700 AmeriCorps members were right on the scene, working with the Red Cross to run emergency shelters, remove downed trees, and help families repair and rebuild. At the same time, 100 more AmeriCorps members were in central Texas, helping helped families recover homes damaged by flooding.
- From November 1998 to March 1999, two AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps teams helped the residents of Grand Forks, North Dakota continue in the long-term recovery from the devastating April 1997 flood and fire. The 26 members helped restore 10 homes by rebuilding basements, hanging drywall, and painting woodwork. The AmeriCorps\*NCCC has provided nearly two years of continuous support for the residents of Grand Forks.
- After an ice storm destroyed the Manna Food Kitchen in Bangor, Maine, AmeriCorps members rebuilt it from the ground up, allowing the kitchen to reopen quickly and provide 80,000 meals to families across central Maine last year.

## **Building Homes and Meeting Other Human Needs**

- More than 600 AmeriCorps members serve with local chapters of Habitat for Humanity, where they build homes and recruit, train and supervise volunteers. More than 1,372 Habitat homes have been built as the direct result just of the AmeriCorps national direct program, and more than 177,000 Habitat volunteers have been supervised by AmeriCorps members.
- Fifteen AmeriCorps members provided outreach service to over 3,500 homeless veterans in Houston. Over half of those veterans were referred into programs for services.
- Members of Carelink AmeriCorps provide home-based health care services to 200 elderly, disabled adults in rural west Georgia. Ninety-five percent of the clients experienced improvement in their quality of life during the year. Days of hospitalization and emergency room visits decreased in half, generating savings of \$370,000 based on average hospitalization and emergency room costs.

## **Making Streets Safer**

- In Buffalo, 10 AmeriCorps Rangers escorted 1,300 workers and visitors in high crime public areas, responded to first aid calls, reported suspicious activity incidents. According to Buffalo Police statistics, while the AmeriCorps Rangers are on duty, crime has decreased by 48 percent in the areas they patrol.
- In the Substance Abuse Initiative of Greater Cleveland, AmeriCorps members trained public housing residents in crime prevention, resulting in over 130 drug dealers reported to the police with many arrests and drug house closings.
- In New Hampshire, AmeriCorps members serve as court advocates or prosecutor advocates for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Members assist victims as they move through the court system and link them to additional services as needed. During the first three years of this program, a total of 18,000 clients were served by AmeriCorps members. Many clients credit the support of AmeriCorps members with helping them through the complexities of the legal system. Crisis centers throughout the state report that without AmeriCorps members, they would not be able to meet the demand for advocate services.
- AmeriCorps members have trained more than 3,200 Indianapolis fourth-graders in non-violent conflict resolution, a priority of the Indianapolis Public Schools.

## **Bridging the Digital Divide**

- In partnership with IBM and United Way, AmeriCorps\*VISTA members are helping nonprofits in nine cities use computer technology to improve services to low-income communities. In Detroit, 40 Detroit nonprofits received technical training and new computers from IBM, and VISTAs generated \$200,000 worth of recycled computer equipment for one nonprofit.

- In Atlanta, 12 Project FIRST AmeriCorps members provided 1,300 hours of computer training to 200 Atlanta Public School teachers, provided another 600 hours of computer training 2,500 students, set-up computer labs at 12 schools, and refurbished IBM computers donated by IBM to 27 parents who successfully completed the training.

## **Protecting the Environment**

- In Baltimore, nine AmeriCorps members reduced lead poisoning risks in 60 homes by stabilizing deteriorating paint, fixing building components, and removing lead dust. Through their efforts, 75 children now live in homes with reduced lead-poisoning risks. In addition, the members reached more than 2,200 individuals and 125 community-based organizations through an education campaign targeting Baltimore neighborhoods at highest risk for lead poisoning
- Last year, AmeriCorps members with the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship completed 12,300 groundwater assessments and created groundwater stewardship teams in 38 counties. They identified local needs, coordinated water protection efforts, and involved local residents. In total, they reached out to more than 900 farmers, 7,500 homeowners, and 12,500 students, and distributed resource directories to 20,000 families.
- Members of Montana Conservation Corps serve on crews throughout the state meeting critical needs in preserving Montana's natural resources. Over 350 projects were completed last year, including the improvement of 260 miles of trail and 36 parks, and the restoration of more than 70 miles of rivers and streams.

## **Mobilizing Volunteers**

- AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at Hands on Atlanta have expanded volunteer opportunities throughout the state, organizing 2,200 service projects and recruiting more than 15,000 volunteers. Their leadership in the corporate volunteerism program led to 7,050 volunteers completing well over 300 service projects and donating 36,800 hours of service. Members also enabled the Volunteer Services Department to increase the number of service projects completed last year by over 103 percent, the number of volunteer hours donated by 101 percent, and the number of volunteers participating by 126 percent.
- Last year, 44 Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members recruited 3,100 volunteers who provided 70,000 hours of service in projects ranging from environmental restoration, mentoring, GED instruction, assisting victims of domestic violence, and providing safe spaces for adolescent programs.

## NATIONAL SERVICE WORKS: INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS HAVE PROVEN IT

*In 1999, an independent evaluation examining AmeriCorps since its beginning in 1994 documented that it strengthened local organizations and communities, and had a major positive impact on the lives of AmeriCorps members.*

- The study was done by Aguirre International.
- With respect to the impact of AmeriCorps on building communities, the study showed:
  - AmeriCorps serves in the neediest communities in the country.
  - Over 9 million people benefited from AmeriCorps services.
  - Some 1.9 million students were tutored, mentored, enrolled in after-school programs or received other services while 75,000 young children received care, instruction, or immunization. In addition, 75,000 families were helped and 25,000 parents trained.
- Benefits extend to the AmeriCorps members themselves – the young people who have committed a year to serving others.
  - Service in AmeriCorps instilled in them a lifelong commitment to the ethic of service.
  - All members, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, gained in skills necessary to succeed in the world of work.
  - And to date members have earned more than \$445 million to further their education or to pay off student loans.
- I would like a copy of this study inserted into the record.

*That is only one of many studies. A study conducted by University of Chicago-trained economists, and validated by the General Accounting Office, found that AmeriCorps programs returned between \$1.60-\$2.60 for every dollar spent. Still another independent study found that AmeriCorps programs produced, on average, a return of \$1.66 for every dollar invested.*

*And this year we have even more evidence that AmeriCorps works -- the program is proving effective in helping children learn to read.*

- Nationwide, more than 100,000 children in grades 1-3 are receiving tutoring services from AmeriCorps State and National programs.
- Preliminary findings from a nationwide Abt Associates Inc. study, to be finalized and released this fall, show that tutored students at grade levels one through three improved their reading performance from pretest to posttest more than the gain expected for the typical child at their grade level. Reading comprehension and reading skills started out below grade-level; by year-end, students closed the gap and were reading at or near the grade-level expectation.

***And the evaluations show that not only AmeriCorps is having positive impact. Programs supported by this legislation in our nation's schools and colleges, known as service-learning, are having similar results.***

- A summary of this research, prepared by a leading education expert and that appeared in Phi Delta Kappan this past May, documents that:
  - Service-learning has a positive effect on the personal development of public school youths.
  - Students who participate in service-learning are less likely to engage in "risk" behaviors.
  - Service-learning helps develop students' sense of civic and social responsibility and their citizenship skills.
  - Service-learning helps students acquire academic skills and knowledge.
  - Students who participate in service-learning are more engaged in their studies and more motivated to learn.
- I'd like a copy of this article inserted into the record as well.

***There is also very positive evaluation data about the service being performed by our nation's seniors under this legislation.***

- In a 1999 study of the Corporation for National Service's Seniors for Schools pilot program, principals and teachers indicated the following: 90% reported an increased positive attitude in students toward reading; 85% reported improved self-esteem among students; 84% reported increased self-confidence in reading; 82% reported increased reading skills; and 79% reported general academic improvement. Of the teachers reporting in that same study, 79% reported improved student attitudes, 60% reported improved overall student performance levels; and 58% reported an increased number of students keeping up with the class.
- An impact study of the Foster Grandparent Program on Head Start concluded from intensive observations in six classrooms that "the majority of Foster

Grandparents engage in a wide variety of activities and interactions that are associated with positive developmental outcomes for children in four areas: (1) emotional well-being, (2) social and behavior skills development; (3) language development; and (4) cognitive development.”

- And a 1999 University of Michigan study was among the first to establish that people live longer because they volunteer, rather than that people volunteer because they're healthier and hence more likely to live longer.

*These evaluation data could fill several bookshelves. They are proof that national service works. And they justify our reauthorizing national service legislation this year.*

## *What People Are Saying About AmeriCorps*

**Forty-nine of the nation's governors**, joined by three territorial governors, on September 19, 2000 urged the congressional leadership to reauthorize AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service. *"We have seen the progress of young people inspired by older students, the importance of trained hands helping after a disaster, and the pride of a senior sharing his or her time with a child in need of mentoring. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states, and country.... As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states."*

**Colin Powell**, at the National Governors Association meeting August 9, 1999, said *"I have now had two years of experience with AmeriCorps and they are doing a great job... it is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future, and I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps. I think they have demonstrated their worth, they have paid their dues and they are worthy of the support I hope they will get from Congress."*

**Senator John McCain (R-AZ)**, told New Yorker reporter Joe Klein that: *"I was wrong about AmeriCorps. I was extremely skeptical at first, mostly because I didn't trust the authors. But I've got to say that, overall, the program's been a success. And it was a failure on my part not to recognize that earlier."*

**Senator Dan Coats (R-IN)** explaining in a June 21, 2000 opinion piece in *The Hill* why he has changed his mind about AmeriCorps after having voted against it in the Senate: *"Instead of distorting the mission of the civic sector, AmeriCorps has proved to be a source of new power and energy for nonprofit organizations across the country.... AmeriCorps members, through their idealism, enthusiasm and can-do spirit, have multiplied the impact of organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat [for Humanity], and hundreds of other organizations large and small."*

**Senator Kit Bond (R-MO)**, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee that funds AmeriCorps, said this on the Senate floor while fighting an amendment to cut AmeriCorps, *"The battle over whether we ought to have an AmeriCorps program or not is over. It has been decided...It is funded. It is in place in communities in my state and across the nation. There are people who are providing valuable services. There is strong support."* The AmeriCorps cut failed by 61-38, with 16 Republicans voting to preserve funding.

**Rep. John Kasich (R-OH)**. A February 21, 1999, Columbus Dispatch article headlined "Kasich changes tune about AmeriCorps" reports that: *"During a campaign stop for his presidential bid, Kasich revealed that he has changed his mind about the federal program. The House Budget Committee Chairman said he has been transformed in recent months from a foe to a fan. 'I have seen them (AmeriCorps members) do some amazing things in Harlem...I would like to spend some time trying to refocus pieces of it and trying to make it more of a public/private situation, but I don't think I would cast a vote anymore that would eliminate it...they've done some really great work, and I'm impressed with them.'"*

**Governor Marc Racicot (R-MT)** wrote in a September 8, 2000 column in the *Missoulian*: *"As a conservative governor from a western state, I had some doubts when AmeriCorps was launched in 1994.... Six years and 200,000 volunteers later, these questions have been answered. AmeriCorps works. It is cost-effective, and achieves results all Americans want - safer streets, better schools, and*

*healthier children. At the same time, by teaching young people to serve their country, AmeriCorps is rekindling a sense of patriotism and civic duty that our country sorely needs."*

**Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR)** expressed his support for AmeriCorps at the dedication of the Oregon Gardens wetland on November 13, 1999. The *Appeal Tribune* in Silverton, Oregon reports that "Sen. Gordon Smith told a crowd that he stands with President Clinton in support of funding with the AmeriCorps program."

**George W. Bush (R-TX)** when asked directly whether he would support AmeriCorps said: "*Here's the question: Does it work? If it's helped to change people's lives, then I support it.*" Governor Bush has been very supportive of local AmeriCorps programs in Texas. On September 19, 2000, Governor Bush joined 48 of the nation's governors asking Congress to reauthorize AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.

**Elizabeth Dole** has supported AmeriCorps since she saw members working side by side on disaster relief efforts with volunteers of the American Red Cross. As President of the Red Cross she wrote to Congress in support of AmeriCorps.

# What Newspapers Are Saying About AmeriCorps

## THANKS, AMERICORPS

### Successful Volunteer program is big in the Valley

“One of the quiet successes of the Clinton administration—and one with perhaps the biggest change in fortunes—has got to be AmeriCorps....The program has enjoyed success and approval all over the country, helping tens of thousands of volunteers earn college tuition and loan forgiveness while inculcating the virtues of public service.... National service—whether it comes in the military, Peace Corps or along other avenues—is a vital component of citizenship. Successful programs such as AmeriCorps should be expanded and emulated.”

-- *Sacramento Bee, August 15, 2000*

## AMERICORPS AS HOSTAGE

“With a slew of corporate backers, including Compaq Computers, the outfitter Timberland, Yahoo! and Cisco Systems, City Year epitomizes what a public-private partnership can be. It is inspiring a new generation of social entrepreneurs trained to think creatively about community problems. It embodies Republican presidential candidate George Bush’s compassionate conservatism. A coalition of senators is proposing to authorize AmeriCorps for five years, a move that would free it from a yearly hostage-taking. The measure deserves support from both houses of Congress. Both Bush and Vice President Al Gore could push that along by signaling that AmeriCorps and City Year will have a home in the next administration, whoever wins in November.”

-- *San Jose Mercury News, June 16, 2000*

## VOLUNTEERS

### Renew acts that keep AmeriCorps Working

“AmeriCorps provides double service: Giving communities the people power they need to improve, and giving productive jobs to young folks who may not yet know where their futures lie. In April, bipartisan legislation will be introduced to reauthorize the national service programs. Congressional leaders should put it high on the agenda, and both houses should be quick to pass it. You can’t get more common ground that putting young energy into grass-roots work that benefits the community....Programs like AmeriCorps give young people the chance to serve not only their country, but their local communities, touching people and neighborhoods they know. And this government effort stays out of the way of the good work that gets done.”

-- *Detroit Free Press, April 2, 2000*

## AMERICORPS LIVES

“AmeriCorps, President Clinton’s national service program, has survived the budget warfare in Washington. An appropriations measure already signed by Mr. Clinton earmarks \$438.5 million for the valuable five-year-old program—roughly the same amount as last year.... Disappointingly, however, Congress ignored a White House request for additional funding that would have allowed AmeriCorps to significantly expand its present complement of about 40,000 members....Congress undervalues the accomplishments of AmeriCorps’s mostly young volunteers and the hard-working agencies that sponsor them. Next year’s debate should focus on spreading the program’s spirit of service instead of trying to kill it.”

-- *New York Times, November 12, 1999*

### **AMERICORPS WORTH SAVING**

“Throughout our history, our nation has lauded the idea of service to others. We consider service to fellow citizens, to our institutions, or to our country itself to be an honor worth applauding. So how come the U.S. House of Representatives figured it should eliminate funding for AmeriCorps, the domestic version of the Peace Corps? National service is important as a principle and in practice. And it is exactly such service that AmeriCorps fosters. Elimination of this program’s funding was a mistake.”

-- *The Blade, Toledo, Ohio, October 28, 1999*

### **THANKS DESERVED**

“Imagine a want-ad that seeks workers to solve deep-seated social problems with their boundless energy and bold new ideas. The kicker: candidates must accomplish these miracles on a poverty wage. The amazing thing is that people are not only applying for this job, they are being turned away. That’s because serving as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA worker offers a hefty bonus: deep personal fulfillment. In the past 10 years VISTA workers have accomplished an enormous amount of good in the Burlington area and across the state....They have worked to reduce homelessness and illiteracy, and increase job skills and neighborhood safety. The program has also encouraged individuals to participate in that under-used forum, democracy.”

-- *Burlington Free Press, October 5, 1999*

### **AMERICORPS: PRESERVE A PROGRAM THAT WORKS**

“AmeriCorps has proved its worth over and over again in cities and towns across the United States....In St. Louis, AmeriCorps workers are helping make homes lead-safe through the city Health Department’s ClearCorps program. They are also rehabilitating homes and commercial storefronts in the historic Soulard neighborhood. A recent independent study of AmeriCorps concluded that it is a cost-effective investment that returns \$1.66 in services for every dollar spent. Not many programs can make such a claim....Funding for AmeriCorps is an investment in our present and our future. It would be shortsighted to pull the plug on a program that does so much for so many with so little.”

-- *St. Louis Post Dispatch, October 4, 1999*

### **AN ANTIDOTE TO DISCONNECTION**

“Disaffection with government has reached record levels, especially among younger Americans: 64 percent of those 18 to 34 years old said they felt completely ‘disconnected’ from the government. Such detachment threatens the whole idea of democracy. That’s why it’s ironic that many in Washington want to kill a program that has brought young Americans closer to their government. AmeriCorps, a sort of domestic Peace Corps, pays the minimum wage to participants who agree to spend a year working with nonprofit ventures, that, for example, help children learn to read....AmeriCorps has encouraged hundreds of thousands of young Americans to become doers and dreamers, not slackers or cynics. For all of these reasons, AmeriCorps should be valued.”

-- *Los Angeles Times, September 20, 1999*

### **CORPS CONSTITUENCY**

“AmeriCorps is like the GI Bill: It rewards public service with educational opportunity. Some 40,000 volunteers, including more than 400 in Kentucky, are giving a year’s service to nonprofit groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the American Red Cross and faith-based groups. They’re tutoring, mentoring, and building homes for the poor. AmeriCorps isn’t one of those top-down federal initiatives...it’s a real collaboration with the states....That explains why it is so popular with governors of both parties....If it can survive, AmeriCorps may well become another Head Start, which eventually won over its enemies—so much so that it’s hard to recall that it ever had enemies.”

— *The Journal Courier, Louisville, Kentucky, October 3, 1998*

### **NO MORE GAMES**

“If you seek evidence that Washington has changed for the better—and who doesn’t?—you might consider the Corporation for National Service. It is a success story that shows the effectiveness of setting a goal at the national level—encouraging volunteerism—but implementing it locally. Though AmeriCorps began as a Democratic initiative, its structure is all Republican: decentralized and competitive.”

— *Concord Monitor, Concord, New Hampshire, July 22, 1998*

### **RETURN ON THE DOLLAR**

“Imagine a program that puts thousands of young Americans in service projects every year. They tutor kids, rehab homes, clean up neighborhoods and recruit other volunteers. Hardly a government deal, it sounds like something Ronald Reagan might have dreamed up. Actually, the germ of the idea was George Bush’s, and Bill Clinton embellished it: AmeriCorps....Like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is one of the best investments around. Congress ought to ensure its future by passing a five-year authorization bill, and by giving it the money for 1999 to expand.”

— *Philadelphia Inquirer, June 19, 1998*

### **SUPPORT NATIONAL SERVICE**

“AmeriCorps has blurred partisan battle lines and now enjoys significant conservative support. And why not? It always has featured the conservative virtue of fiscal efficiency: With a little government stimulation and direction, thousands of volunteers are effectively mobilized to perform good and necessary work.”

— *Salt Lake Tribune, April 26, 1998*

### **THE FEW, THE PROUD**

“Our national security depends on the assurance of opportunity to compete fairly for American ideals and dreams. That must include access to education, health care, freedom from fear of random violence. AmeriCorps helps secure those ideals and bridge the gaps to those dreams for the economically disadvantaged. Congress should recognize the value of those needs and affirm the President’s reauthorization bill.”

— *The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, January 14, 1998*

## *What Governors Are Saying About National Service*

“We write in support of legislation to reauthorize and extend the AmeriCorps and other national service and volunteer programs administered by the Corporation for National Service. Over the past four years, the nation’s Governors have forged an outstanding state-federal partnership in operating national service programs. AmeriCorps has been successfully administered primarily by Governor-appointed state commissions that direct resources and membership within states. As Governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in addressing needs in our states. From tutoring students to responding to floods to assisting local police to cleaning streams and building parks, we have seen national service at work in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities.”

**From June 23, 1998 letter to Senate and House leadership signed by Governors Marc Racicot (MT), Roy Romer (CO), Tom Carper (DE), Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Lawton Chiles (FL), James B. Hunt, Jr. (NC), Philip Batt (ID), Angus S. King, Jr. (ME), Pedro Rosello (PR), Howard Dean (VT), Parris Glendening (MD), Gary Locke (WA) and Mel Carnahan (MO)**

“New England states have profited from the power and promise of citizen service and traditional volunteers through the efforts of 90,000 New Englanders who serve our states each day through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps programs of the Corporation for National Service. AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers have improved education achievement, enhances our environment, made our neighborhoods safer, and addressed other human needs. The students in Learn and Serve America have been afforded the opportunity to serve their communities and reflect on the meaning of service.”

**From February 28, 1998 resolution adopted by New England Governors’ Conference, approved by Governors Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), John G. Rowland (R-CT), Angus S. King Jr. (I-ME), Paul Celluci (R-MA), Lincoln Almond (R-RI), and Howard Dean (D-VT)**

### REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

**Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee:**

“We know well the good works of AmeriCorps in Arkansas. The majority of our programs are school-based; addressing needs for tutoring, mentoring, and truancy prevention. We are very grateful for the nine AmeriCorps Promise Fellows awarded to our state, and are eagerly anticipating their contribution to our overall effort. We only wish there could have been more!”

**Colorado Governor Bill Owens proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Florida Governor Jeb Bush:**

"As we enter the 21st century, we must awaken the powerful resources that lie within our communities. Solutions to the problems we face can be found when families, neighborhoods, and communities come together. A strong commitment to service can build a stronger community and a brighter tomorrow. Florida has a long and proud history of community service. Thousands of young lives are turned around each year by mentors and tutors. Volunteers care for our elderly, keep our environment clean and protect the frailest and weakest among us. This report shows the Florida Commission on Community Service is working to strengthen our communities through volunteerism and community service. Now is the time for Floridians of all ages to become actively involved in service to their community."

**Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Kansas Governor Bill Graves:**

"On behalf of the State of Kansas, it is a great honor to express my appreciation in the recognition of the AmeriCorps members who took the challenge for a season of service. Your many sacrifices and your service to our great nation will not be forgotten."

**Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci:**

“I congratulate all of you on your commitment to your state and to your communities. Each and every one of you is proof that the individual is more powerful than any government. You are making a difference in the lives of many citizens – young and old. I know it will be an experience that you will never, ever, forget.”

**Michigan Governor John Engler:**

"There is no finer calling than to serve our communities. As a vital part of a healthy community, community service not only helps meet the needs of our citizens today, it puts in place a solid foundation for the future. National Service leverages resources and empowers Michigan citizens to tackle critical social issues in their backyards and throughout the country.”

"AmeriCorps captures the promise found in all citizens, young and old, who see problems in their communities and work together to solve them. You have come together, as have others in communities across the country, in the true spirit of service. Today, we celebrate the beginning of AmeriCorps and reaffirm traditions that we hold so dearly in Michigan -- community, volunteerism, and service to others."

**Montana Governor Marc Racicot:**

"AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety, and environmental needs of our state -- and our country. Last year alone, our locally run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly 51,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population."

**Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**New Mexico Governor Gary E. Johnson proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**Ohio Governor Bob Taft:**

"More than 3,000 Ohioans have served with AmeriCorps since 1994... AmeriCorps members have served more than three million hours and have assisted 300,000 Ohio residents by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment and promoting citizenship."

"As Governor of the State of Ohio, my major educational priority is to help improve the reading skills of Ohio's youngest students... The utilization of AmeriCorps resources is an integral part of the statewide plan for the successful implementation of OhioReads and in helping us reach our goal of having all of Ohio's children reading at grade level in order to pass the fourth grade reading proficiency test."

**Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“For centuries, citizens have risen above their individual potential to create a better life for themselves and for those around them. AmeriCorps embodies this spirit of community striving to enhance opportunity, hope and the lessons of civic duty for individuals, families and communities throughout our nation. For the past five years, AmeriCorps has been a vital resource for young Americans who volunteer their time and efforts to improving communities throughout the nation.”

**Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond:**

"Growing out of federal legislation initiated in the Bush Administration, today's national service programs are a truly non-partisan effort that has had a demonstrable effect on the quality of life in Rhode Island. We are proud of our AmeriCorps programs--City Year, Children's Crusade and Community Partnership--and their committed members of all ages who are working every day in community service programs to assist their fellow citizens."

**South Dakota Governor William Janklow proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Utah Governor Michael Leavitt at AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary celebration:**

"For five years, AmeriCorps members have shown the power of service, particularly the power of service by young people. As they help solve some of the biggest challenges of that this nation has they will emerge and are emerging as the leaders of this nation."

**Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Wisconsin Governor Tommy G. Thompson:**

"The work you do is truly outstanding and is certainly deserving of celebration... Operation Fresh Start AmeriCorps provides young people with the opportunity to learn a skill and earn an education. It is an organization that explicitly demonstrates the Wisconsin ideals of hard work and self-sufficiency... Operation Fresh Start has so impressed me that I proposed to create a statewide program similar to the one here in Madison."

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS

**Alabama Governor Don Siegelman proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

“AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills.”

**Alaska Governor Tony Knowles:**

“On behalf of all Alaskans, I congratulate the Corporation for National Service on the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps. What an outstanding job they are doing! Alaska has been fortunate to be able to participate and share in reaping the wonderful benefits the three programs – AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps – have provided to thousands of Americans. We look forward to a continuing successful partnership with the Corporation for National Service.”

**California Governor Gray Davis:**

"Since the first day of my administration I have called upon Californians to find a way to give back to their community. AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps are shining examples of volunteerism at its finest. I thank the members of these organizations for their selfless contributions and urge all Californians to take the time to give back to their respective communities, whether through their church, synagogue, school or other community organization."

**Delaware Governor Thomas R. Carper:**

"Not only does AmeriCorps strengthen individuals, it sews neighborhoods and schools together with the common thread of service and social responsibility. Here in the First State, that translates into healthier babies, reduced crime, mentoring and tutoring efforts which are increasing student success, adult education and literacy programs to build self-sufficiency, and leadership development which will help future generations to convert the service ethic into local action."

**Georgia Governor Roy E. Barnes:**

"Georgia has over 900 young men and women participating in AmeriCorps programs across our state, instilling values of responsibility and a service ethic while preparing for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, interpersonal and problem-solving skills. Georgia's AmeriCorps members tutor in schools, respond to natural disasters, help make our streets safer, build homes, and immunize children."

**Indiana Governor Frank L. O'Bannon:**

"AmeriCorps gives people the opportunity to serve their communities. From tutoring students to teaching conflict resolution, from helping the homeless to aiding the homebound elderly, Hoosiers have the chance to improve themselves by serving others."

We are proud of our programs supported by the Corporation for National Service, particularly the AmeriCorps programs. We now have over 700 members in our community-based programs "getting things done" and building stronger communities. AmeriCorps members teach conflict resolution to every fourth grade student in the Indianapolis Public School system.

"AmeriCorps members have been a tremendous asset to the State of Indiana. They have worked tirelessly in such areas as victims' assistance, English-as-a-second-language programs, tutoring and mentoring, environmental clean-up, and assisting the homeless. Indiana would be a different place if not for AmeriCorps. My hat is off to every member that has served us well."

**Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack:**

"The spirit of volunteer service runs deep in Iowa. AmeriCorps is helping keep that spirit strong today. For five years, AmeriCorps has helped build stronger Iowa communities through service. And our Governor's AmeriCorps After-School program is one of the newest and best volunteer contributions to Iowa schools. This initiative will provide much needed learning opportunities for our at-risk children - including many who are not engaged in extra-curricular activities. AmeriCorps is an integral part of our efforts to ensure safe communities in our state, and make Iowa a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family."

**Kentucky Governor Paul Patton proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**Maryland Governor Parris Glendening proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen**

"After only three years of operation, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America have demonstrably improved the quality of life for the citizens of New Hampshire. The National Senior Service Corps continues to exemplify the strong spirit of volunteerism that is so much a part of New Hampshire."

**North Carolina Governor James Hunt**

"AmeriCorps members tackle all kinds of problems throughout our state. They serve as tutors and mentors to young people. They feed the hungry and build homes for those who need places to live. They help senior citizens, the disabled, and others with special needs. They protect our environment and keep our people safe from crime, drugs and violence. They make a real difference in our communities and I am grateful to them for their service."

"AmeriCorps programs are having a tremendous impact on communities across our state because they provide service at the local level, where real change can happen. Our AmeriCorps members are tutoring children, creating new after-school enrichment programs, teaching adults to read, caring for the elderly, constructing affordable housing and working in day care centers. They have brought volunteers who would not otherwise be involved to work in AmeriCorps programs. The success of AmeriCorps in North Carolina has relied on the input and commitment of citizens who have worked together at the local level to create programs that address our state's most pressing needs. Community organizations, schools, civic groups, volunteers, government agencies and business leaders are involved in developing solutions that really work. Citizens and elected officials across the political spectrum have shown support for national service as an ideal way to get things done in the state."

**Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber**

"VISTA Volunteers coordinate projects which provide invaluable services to our most needy residents. An example of their contribution is the Family Empowerment Project, in which VISTA coordinators recruit and train mentors to work with high-risk families, helping them overcome serious neglect issues. These dedicated individuals make a real difference in people's lives. VISTA embodies the true Oregon spirit of volunteerism."

**South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

**Vermont Governor Howard Dean:**

"In communities around Vermont AmeriCorps members are working to enhance the quality of life for Vermont citizens - they are helping to provide the basic needs for some. It is always a pleasure to see that distinctive AmeriCorps logo as I travel the state because it reminds me that people of all ages are committed to service in a quiet and effective way."

**Vermont Governor Howard Dean:**

"Service by AmeriCorps members has resulted in a range of positive changes. Our AmeriCorps members have shown over and over that their service can serve as a catalyst to bring other community members in. I believe it is this collaboration of AmeriCorps members with public and private sector citizens of the community that makes these programs special. In addition, Vermont's Learn and Serve programs, Senior Corps programs, and VISTA programs are also making a difference."

**Washington Governor Gary Locke proclamation on AmeriCorps Fifth Anniversary:**

"AmeriCorps members serve their communities by improving education, protecting public safety, building and restoring housing, improving health care, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief and promoting citizenship. AmeriCorps helps instill the values of responsibility and an ethic of service while effectively preparing young Americans for the future by improving their job-readiness, communication, and problem-solving skills."

## INDEPENDENTS

**Maine Governor Angus S. King:**

"Maine has a strong commitment to community service and is benefiting from the accomplishments of all the National Service programs. A VISTA is helping develop key aspects of the agenda of Maine's Children's Cabinet. The AmeriCorps\*Blaine House Service Corps, funded under a Governors' Innovative Grant for which my office applied, has been a strong example of how restorative justice efforts can engage juveniles in service. At the same time, these Members have contributed many hours to upgrading the capacities of homeless shelters, senior housing, and other key services in Bangor. I was present when students enrolled in Learn & Serve America finished a special project to mark and protect habitat for the black tern in Belgrade. And, most recently I was pleased to present certificates of recognition to the National Civilian Community Corps which completed a month of difficult trail building in our state."

## FORMER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

**Former Alabama Governor Fob James:**

"We in Alabama are proud of our partnership with the Corporation for National Service. Alabama's volunteers are among the most committed and dedicated you will find anywhere in the country. In fact, I have said before that I have not felt so good about anything since taking office as I have when reading about the work and accomplishments of Alabama's AmeriCorps service heroes."

**Former California Governor Pete Wilson:**

"AmeriCorps USA, California's new national service program, is another significant part of the state's service movement. In California alone there are over 2500 AmeriCorps members, engaged in service, who will be doing a wide range of work, from reducing juvenile crime, and providing service participants valuable skills and experience to encouraging adult and youth role models to mentor and tutor students at risk of dropping out of school or academic failure and encouraging preventive approaches to meeting unmet human needs."

**Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar:**

"The new national service effort -- AmeriCorps -- has only existed a short time, but we believe it can be a valued partner with communities and volunteers working to meet local needs in Chicago and across Illinois. It, along with another Corporation for National Service initiative -- Learn and Serve America -- is a needed and potentially valuable member of our community service network . . . Our Commission on Community Service will do all it can to make sure the Corporation for National Service programs are effective as they continue to work to enhance the structure of service throughout Illinois. We welcome your participation and leadership as all Americans are challenged to take an active role in strengthening their communities from the grass roots upward."

**Former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice:**

"As you know from your firsthand volunteerism, service-learning offers the opportunity for today's young people and tomorrow's leaders to learn, while addressing local needs. Your hands-on experiences reinforce what you are learning in the classroom, promoting civic responsibility and showing that citizens working together are a powerful force."

**Former Massachusetts Governor William Weld:**

"Now that we have a Republican Congress that is finally serious about getting America's house in order. I have only one word of caution, AmeriCorps. This is the baby that should not be thrown out with the bathwater. AmeriCorps Members will help us build a better tomorrow -- one of the most intelligent uses of taxpayers dollars ever."

**Former New Hampshire Governor Stephen Merrill:**

"The national service program has been a great success in the State of New Hampshire and I anticipate it will continue to be in the future. The growth and prosperity of the AmeriCorps program in New Hampshire is directly related to the outstanding commitment of our volunteers, as well as our State Commission on National Service. These motivated individuals make AmeriCorps work for New Hampshire and I am pleased to be a partner in this process."

**Former Ohio Governor George Voinovich:**

"Serving one's country, state, or community is a very precious act. The giving of one's time, energy, and talent to benefit others should not be underestimated or undervalued. Your commitment to participate in national service is no different, especially as your service will benefit thousands of Ohioans. Through your experience, not only will you help our communities to strengthen and grow--you will do the same. As you fight neighborhood crime, teach a child to read, or assist a senior citizen in need--indeed, together, we can make a difference."

**Former South Carolina Governor David M. Beasley:**

"I am pleased to express my appreciation for the wonderful accomplishments of AmeriCorps members in South Carolina. I understand that our state has one of the largest AmeriCorps programs in the nation. I am impressed with their efforts and the dedication which they demonstrate in community service."

## FORMER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS:

### **Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer:**

"The Corporation for National Service was conceived as a new way for the federal government to conduct business. AmeriCorps reflects this objective, providing every motivated individual an opportunity to serve his or her community.

### **Former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles:**

"Helping our neighbors build strong families and communities is essential for a healthy Florida. Service-oriented organizations like AmeriCorps and its volunteers are helping to strengthen the fabric of our society. I applaud AmeriCorps' tremendous efforts and its dedication to serving the needs of our citizens in the Sunshine State."

### **Former Washington Governor Mike Lowry:**

"I continue to be extremely pleased with the way our State Commission for National and Community Service has been able to support and expand AmeriCorps projects . . . . I also believe we are off to an excellent start in this new federal-state partnership where local decision making can have an impact. The President is to be commended for providing the vision for National Service which permits Governors through the State Commission the ability to design programs which address critical state needs."

## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE COLLABORATIONS**

The Corporation for National Service has developed countless collaborations with organizations from the private sector to support the work of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps. The following is a brief sample of how corporations support national service. Each one of these collaborations represents scores of similar partnerships that have been developed at the state and local level.

### **America Online, The Case Foundation, Sun Microsystems and Gateway Computers**

America Online, the Case Foundation, Sun Microsystems and Gateway Computers have joined with PowerUP, a national nonprofit organization, and AmeriCorps to help bridge the digital divide. In-kind product donations and cash funds have been contributed to support the development of PowerUP Centers run by AmeriCorps\*VISTA members to provide technology training to children and adults across the country. There are currently 30 sites operating in 23 states, with plans to expand to 250 sites within the next year.

### **3Com Corporation**

3Com, a leading network technology provider, is working with the Corporation for National Service to bridge the digital divide through its Urban Challenge Grants. 3Com, in collaboration with the US Conference of Mayors, is awarding a total of \$2 million to twenty cities to connect communities and provide access to educational, health care and other city resources. Urban Challenge cities will receive a team of three AmeriCorps\*VISTA members to support their technology programs.

### **Best Buy Company Inc.**

Best Buy, the largest volume specialty retailer of consumer electronics and appliances, has joined with the Corporation for National Service to expand the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Initiative. In 2000, Best Buy provided \$100,000, allowing the Corporation to provide 37 additional grants to local organizations providing service opportunities. Best Buy also engaged its stores to provide marketing support by displaying MLK Day of Service posters in all stores nationwide to encourage citizens to participate in the service day events. In addition, Best Buy placed a "call to service" in its Sunday advertisement circular prior to the Monday holiday.

### **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation**

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has teamed with the Corporation for National Service and the Department of Service-Learning to support the President's Student Service Challenge. During 2000, Coca-Cola is providing the private sector match for approximately 400 President's Student Service Scholarships.

### **Eli Lilly**

The Eli Lilly Center for Women's Health, a global research-based corporation has aligned with the National Senior Service Corps to support the 2000 Senior Service Corps Conference and provide program and training expertise to benefit women's health.

### **General Electric**

Since 1995, the General Electric Fund has invested close to \$1 million in more than 40 matching grants to community projects in a unique collaboration with the Corporation for National Service and United Way of America. Local GE and United Way leaders select programs for funding through which the concentrated service of AmeriCorps members and their community volunteer partners can generate results. Because of GE's investment, AmeriCorps members and other community volunteers have provided health care and meals for homeless families; renovated housing for low-income residents; taught substance abuse prevention classes to at-risk students; and built new bridges between community and law enforcement officials.

### **General Mills**

Sunrise Organic Cereal, a product of General Mills, is featuring three AmeriCorps members on the back of every Sunrise cereal box sold between June 2000 and June 2001. An estimated 5 million boxes of Sunrise will reach consumers with profiles of AmeriCorps members and information on how to join. Based on consumer response, General Mills will contribute up to \$100,000 to the Corporation for National Service for support of AmeriCorps members working in national parks and organic gardening.

### **The IBM Company**

Since 1994, IBM has had an innovative partnership with AmeriCorps to benefit schools and communities in areas where IBM has company operations. In Project FIRST, AmeriCorps members work with retired IBM employees to train teachers, integrate technology into classrooms, recycle equipment and develop technology plans. IBM provides \$150,000 in computer donations and more than \$100,000 in training and technical support each year. In addition, IBM launched Teaming for TECHNOLOGY in 1997 to help small, grassroots community organizations build technology capacity. With support from IBM and the United Way of America, 65 AmeriCorps\*VISTA members are helping nonprofits assess their technology needs - including hardware and software - to ensure quality service to disadvantaged communities and their residents.

### **Nantucket Nectars, Inc.**

Nantucket Nectars, a popular juice-beverage sold in 40 states, is working with the Corporation for National Service to help recruit members and promote the AmeriCorps program. Tom Scott, co-founder, has created a cross-country bicycle ride to raise awareness for national service and AmeriCorps. In addition, a portion of the money raised from this charity ride will be used to support programs with AmeriCorps members.

### **Yahoo!**

In April 2000, Yahoo! announced a \$1 million commitment to recruit AmeriCorps members through AmeriCorps web banner ads. Yahoo! is also providing a direct link to the AmeriCorps website on the Yahoo! Careers page. In addition, Yahoo! is providing Camp Yahoo! technology training tools to any Corporation for National Service program that requests the training.

## Corporate Investment in Local AmeriCorps Programs:

In addition to these national partnerships, local programs with AmeriCorps members are supported by hundreds of local and national corporate donations of cash and in-kind services. Here are just a few examples:

4anything.com	AT&T Foundation
A.H. Belo Corporation	ATX telecommunications
Acme Concrete	Austin Industries
Adobe Systems, Inc	Austin Installation
Advanta Corporation	Autostaff, Inc.
Advest New Century Capital	Avalos, Angelina & Vincent
Aetna	B.T. Alex Brown, Inc.
Affiliated Computer Services	Bain Capital
Aguirre, Inc	Ballard Spahr Andrew & Ingersoll
AgWeb.com	Bank Boston
Airborne Express	Bank of America
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP	Bank of America Texas
Albert Eistein Healthcare Network	Bank of Oklahoma
Albert Haller Foundation	Bank of Texas
Alco	Bank One Corporation
Aldred Living Trust	Bank United (Washington Mutual)
Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries	BankAmerica Foundation
Allied Resource Corporation	Baptist General Convention of Texas
Allied Signal	Barrett Foundation Fund
Allstate Foundation	Basis Funding Inc.
Allstate Insurance Company	Bayer Corp.
Alltel Corporation	Baylor Health Care System
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	Beal Bank
Alta Management, LLC	Beck Group
Altrusa Club North Dallas Foundation	Behnke Foundation
Amarillo ISD	Bell Helicopter
Amazon.Com	Bell South
AMD	Belmondo, Inc
American Express	Belonging
American Express Foundation	Bemel Industries Inc
American Mail Systems	Benjamin Booth Company
Amerimer Enterprises	Bennet & Judy Weinstock Interiors
Ameritech	Benson Hlavaty Paret
Ameritrust Texas N.A.	Best Buy Foundation
Amoco Foundation	BFI
AMR/American Airlines Foundation	Billingsley Company
Andersen Consulting, LLP	Bill's Fund
Andrews Independence Project	Biogen, Inc.
Anheuser-Busch	Bjornson Design
Aon Consulting	Blackstar Inc.
Apple Computer	Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley
Applied Materials	Blanks Color Imaging
Arc of Dallas	Bluestone Consulting Group
ARCO Foundation	Boeing
Arthur Anderson	Bonfield
Aspect Telecommunications	Boston Consulting
Associated General Contractors	Brady Center
Associates First Capital Corp.	Brandywine Realty Trust
Astro Advertising	Breakaway Solutions
AT&T	Bright & Bright LLP

Broadreach Consulting  
Brown Fund  
Bryan Adams High School  
BTrade.com  
Buchana Ingersoll Professional Corporation  
Business Control Systems  
California Community Foundation  
California Federal Bank  
Calvert K. Collins Family Foundation  
Cambridge Technology Partners  
Capital Cities, ABC  
Capital Management Group  
Capital One  
Capital One Services, Inc.  
Caprock Communication  
Casa de Amigos  
Case Foundation  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Social Service  
CDI Corp.  
Celebrity Sports Productions  
Cellular One  
Center for Independent Living  
Centex Corporation  
CEO Resources, Inc.  
Cephalon, Inc.  
CH2M Hill  
Chesebrough-Pond  
Chicago Bulls  
Children First  
Children's Center  
Chrysler  
Chubb Corporation  
Circuit City Foundation  
Cisco Systems  
CitiCorp Foundation  
Citigroup/Travelers  
Citizen's Bank  
City of Arkansas City  
City of Austin  
City of Dallas EHS  
City of Dallas Parks Dept  
City of Grand Prairie  
City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Fund  
Clarion Bathware  
Clarion Rotary Club  
CMS Corporation  
CMW Financial  
Cnetocor, Inc.  
Collier's International  
Columbia Paint & Coatings  
Columbus Realty Trust  
Comcast Spectacor  
Comerica Bank  
Comerica Bank - Texas  
Commerce Bank

Commodore Homes  
Communities Foundation  
Community Action Network  
Community Council  
Community Design Collaborative  
Community Development Housing Organization  
Community Foundation of New Haven  
Community Foundation of Southeastern CT  
Community Foundation Silicon Valley  
Compaq Computer Corporation  
Compass Bank  
CompuCom Systems  
Computer Tech  
Comstock Foundation  
Connolly Epstein Chicco Goxman Englemeyer & Ewing  
Conrail  
Continental Airlines  
Coretech Consulting Group  
Crowley County Community College  
Cozen & O'Conno  
Credit Suisse First Boston  
Crescent Real Estate  
Cross Atlantic Capital Partners  
Crowley Carter Foundation  
CSPH Domino's Pizza  
CT Business and Industry Association  
CT Light and Power  
CVS  
Dain Rauscher Foundation  
Daishowa America  
Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
Dallas Can Academy  
Dallas Cardiovascular Institute  
Dallas Foundation  
Dallas Independent School District  
Dallas Reads  
Dallas Semiconductor Corporation  
Dal-Mac Investments  
DataBase, Inc.  
Day & Zimmerman, Inc.  
Days Inn Central  
Dayton Foundation  
DCCCD  
Dechert Price & Rhoads  
Deloitte & Touche  
Delsys Pharmaceutical Corp.  
Department of the Treasury  
Destination Dynamics, Int'l.  
Devcon  
Devon Consulting  
Devon Hill Ventures, Inc.  
DeVry Institute  
Diccico Battista Communications  
Dilworth Paxson Kalish & Kauffman  
Dilworth Paxson, LLP

Diversified Search, Inc.  
Do Something Foundation  
Doctors Hospital  
Dodge City Community College  
Dodge City Unified School District  
Dollar General Corporation, Inc.  
Domus, Inc.  
Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up Co.  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
Drinker Biddle & Reath  
Duane Morris & Heckscher  
Duke Energy  
Dynamic Reprographics  
E.D. Storefront  
East Dallas Weed & Seed  
Eastern Technology Council  
Eastern Technology Fund  
Echoing Green Foundation  
EDS  
Elks Lodge  
Emcare, Inc.  
Employment News  
Enertech Capital Partners  
Englemeyer & Ewing  
Enterprise Foundation  
Epic Healthcare Group  
Eppler, Guerin & Turner  
ERM Group, Inc.  
Ernst & Young LLP  
ETC  
e-Vend.net Corp  
Ewing Marion Kaufmann Foundation  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Family Services of Philadelphia  
Fannie Mae  
Fannie Mae Foundation  
Federal Insurance Company  
Federal Reserve Bank  
Felten  
Fidelity Investments  
Fields-Stewart-Dolliver  
FINA Oil and Chemical Co  
Finney County Extension Office  
First Southwest Company  
First Texas Bank  
First Union Bank  
First Union Regional Foundation  
FirstBank  
Firsttrust Bank  
Fitch Fund  
Fleet Bank  
Foley's  
For All Kids Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Ford Motor Company  
Forest City Enterprise

Forest Properties  
Foret, Omer & Stella  
Fort Hays State University  
Fox Rothschild O'Brien & Frankel  
Fred & Ann Margolin Foundation  
Fujitsu Network Communications  
Fulbright & Jaworski  
Garden City Community College  
Garden City Fire Department  
Garden City Police Department  
Gardere & Wynne  
Garfield Group  
Gemstone  
General Electric  
General Fund  
General Mills  
General Reinsurance  
Genzyne Corporation  
GH Bass  
Girl Scout Troop (local in Kansas)  
GK Associates  
Gladwynne Partners, LLC  
Glastron, Inc.  
Glenn Heights Fire Dept.  
Global Financial Press  
Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.  
Goldsmith Foundation  
Goodwill Industries  
Gr. Houston Community Foundation  
Grand Rapids Foundation  
Graustein Foundation  
Green Crow Timber  
Greenhill School  
GSCapital/Pro Cap, Inc.  
GTE  
GTE Foundation  
Guaranty Federal Bank  
Hale and Dorr  
Hall Family Foundation  
Hallmark  
Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin  
Harcourt General  
Harold Simmons Foundation  
Harris Consulting Inc.  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
Harvest Book Company  
Hasbro  
Hays High School  
Hays Jaycees  
Hays Rotary  
Healthsource  
Healthy Habit Therapy  
HEB Grocery Company  
HEB Pantry Foods  
Heidrick & Struggles

Heinz Foundation  
Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum  
Herman Miller/Spectrum  
Hewlet-Packard  
HILCO Electric Coop  
Hill & Wilkinson  
Hillcrest Foundation  
Hitachi  
Hitachi Semiconductor  
HNTB Corporation  
Hoblitzelle Foundation  
Hoechst Celanese  
Hollywood Casino Corporation  
Holy Family  
Home Depot  
Home Interior & Gifts  
Honda of America, Mfg.  
HoopsTV.com  
Hotel Crescent Court  
Houston Chronicle  
Houston Endowment, Inc.  
Houston Independent School District  
Howard Fischer Associates International  
Howard, Lawson & Co.  
Hoyle Morris & Kerr  
HWG Capital, Inc.  
I Have A Dream Foundation  
Iberian Tile Imports  
IBM  
IDC  
IMCO  
iMedium  
Imprimis  
Industrial Properties Corporation  
iNet Venture Partners  
Innersource  
Innovation Factory  
Insignia/ESG, Inc.  
Intel  
Inter Digital Communications, Inc.  
International Business College  
Internet Capital Group  
Interstate Concrete  
Investor Broadcast Network  
Irving Youth Council  
IT Profiler  
J.P. Morgan  
Jack & Jill, Inc - Dallas Chapter  
Jackson Walker, LLP  
James Irvine Foundation  
JC Penney  
Jenkins & Gilchrist PC  
Jewish Federation  
JF Lipshy Family Fund  
JM & Company  
John L. Wortham & Son

Johnson & Johnson  
Jubilee Center  
Junior League of Dallas  
Just For Feet  
K&A Business Association  
K/P Foundation  
Kansas Arts Commission  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Kansas Communities that Care  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Kansas Unified School District 457  
Kansas Unified School District 489  
KATRON, Inc.  
Kauffman Family Foundation  
KBS Systems, LLC  
Kelly Services  
Kempner Foundation  
Kennedy McKee & Co., C.P.A.  
KERA  
Keybank  
Keys for Networking  
Kimball HS  
Knight Foundation  
Kohn Swift & Graf, PC  
KPMG, LLP  
Kroger Company  
Laday Company  
Lady B Productions  
League of Women for Community Action  
Leslie Mayer Associates  
Levy Fund  
Liberty Mutual  
Liberty Venture Partners  
Lightner Sams Foundation  
Linoleum and Carpet City  
Litvin, Blumberg Matusow & Young  
Locke Purnell Rain Harrell  
Lockheed Martin  
Lomas Financial Group  
Loral Vought Systems  
Lovers Lane United Methodist Church  
Lubert-Adler/LLR Management  
M.D. Anderson Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation  
Mahoney Construction, Co.  
Main Bank  
Main Line Life  
Manpower International  
MarketMembers.com, Inc.  
Maroon Nation Production  
Martinez Youth Club  
Mater Dei Institute  
Mayor's Adopt-A-Block  
MBNA  
McDermott Foundation  
McGowan Family

MCI WorldCom  
McNeil Family  
McNight Steel & Tube  
Meadows Foundation  
MEDCO Construction  
Media Networks, Inc.  
Medical Environment Dev Corp  
Medical Matrix  
Medina Foundation  
MEGA Systems, Inc.  
Mellon Bank  
Mellon Financial Corp  
Merrill Corporation  
Merrill Lynch  
MESA, Inc.  
MetLife  
Micro E.E.S., Inc.  
Microsoft Corporation  
Minyard Founders Found  
MIPS  
MLW Association  
Mobile  
Monitor Company  
Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP  
Morgan Lewis & Bockus  
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter  
Mountain View College  
Munchies Vending  
Munroe Creative Partners  
Murray Realtors  
Music Matters, Inc.  
mVest Technology Solutions  
MyT HVAC  
National City Bank  
National Endowment of the Arts  
National Tree Trust  
NationsBank Corporation  
Naviant Technology Solutions  
NCH Corporation  
Neiman Marcus  
Neose Technologies  
NetReach, Inc.  
Netscape  
Network Technologies Group  
Neuronyx  
Newman's Own  
Next Generation Network  
NICB  
Northern California Grantmakers  
Northrop Grumman  
NorWest  
NWJ Management  
Oak Cliff YMCA  
Oaks Bank & Trust  
Occidental Chemical  
Omicron Consulting

On Call Nursing Services  
On-Target Supplies & Logistics  
PacifiCare Foundation  
Packard Foundation  
Packard Press, Inc.  
PaineWebber, Inc.  
Park Cities Rotary Club  
Parkland Health & Hospital  
Parkvale Bank  
Paul Newman  
PECA Adelphia  
Pennsylvania Merchant Group  
Peoples Bank  
Pepper Hamilton & Scheetz  
Personal Data Systems, Inc.  
Pervasive Software  
Pew Charitable Trust  
Pfizer  
Philadelphia Bar Association  
Philadelphia Credit Union  
Philadelphia Foundation  
Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News  
Philadelphia United Way  
Phoenix Corps  
Phoenix House  
Phoenix Management Services  
Pierce Goodwin Alexander Linville  
Pillowtex Corporation  
Pinelaw Park  
Pioneer Natural Resources  
Piper Jaffary Foundation  
Pizza Hut of America, Inc.  
Planalytics, Inc.  
Please Touch Museum  
PMG, Inc.  
PNC Bank  
PNI Distribution  
Polaroid  
Port Angeles Rotary  
Port Richmond Business Association  
Port Richmond Industrial Development Enterprise  
Potter's House  
Prentiss Foundation  
Presbyterian Healthcare System  
Prestonwood Elementary PTA  
Price Waterhouse Coopers  
Priddy Foundation  
Prima Facie, Inc.  
Prime Pay Greater Philadelphia, Inc.  
Principal Financial  
Pro Line International  
Project Assistants, Inc.  
Project JAMZ  
Pro-Line Corporation  
ProMetrics Consulting, Inc.  
Prudential Foundation

Prudential Fox & Roach  
Prudential Insurance  
Public Strategies Inc.  
Public/Private Ventures  
Publicis/Bloom  
QED, Inc.  
Quaker Chemical Corporation  
Quantum  
QuestOne Decision Sciences  
Radian Guaranty  
RAF Industries  
Rainbow Days  
Reading One To One/UT Dallas  
RealTime Medica  
Red Cross  
Redman Foundation  
Reebok  
Regional Youth Service Corps Investment Fund  
Reliant Energy  
Renaissance Cultural Center  
Research & Dev Inst.  
RGL Capital  
Rhea Lumber Company  
Ricchetti Ceramic Inc  
Richmond Corridor Association  
Rix-n-Dix Plumbing  
RJK Medical Associates, LTD  
Robert W. Baird Company  
Robert Wood Foundation  
Rogers O'Brien Construction  
Ronald McDonald Charities  
Rosewood Foundation  
RPM  
Rudine Memorial Fund  
Rudman Partnership  
Safeco  
Safeguard International Fund LP  
Safeguard Scientifics, Inc.  
Saint Rita Church  
Saks Fifth Avenue  
Salvation Army  
Salveson Stetson Group  
San Antonio Federal Credit Union  
San José Mercury News  
Sanchez Computer Associates  
Sandra Crenshaw Campaign  
Santa Clara Office of Education  
Satterberg Foundation  
Saunders, Lubinski & White  
Savemore Building Supply  
SBC Foundation  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis  
SCP Private Equity Partners  
SCT  
Seaborne Challenge Corps  
Seal, Inc  
Sears  
Seattle Foundation  
Sebastian Society  
Seguin ISD  
Sentinel Security  
Sequanota Lutheran Conference Center  
SER Jobs for Progress  
Sewell Automotive Companies  
SGAP  
SGI  
SH Cowell Foundation  
Shared Medical Systems  
Sharp Foundation  
Shell Oil  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
Siemens  
Sigma Pi Phi  
Silicon Graphics  
Simeus Foundation  
Sintaks, Inc.  
Sirach Capital management  
Skillful Learning Center  
Smart & Associates, LLP  
Smoky Hill Foundation  
Snohomish County Rotary  
Sobrato Family Foundation  
Solender/Hall, Inc.  
Sony Corporation of America  
Southwest Securities, Inc  
Southwestern Bell  
Southwestern Bell Corp/ SNET  
Spirit of Texas  
Spokane Community Housing Association  
Sports Radio 610WIP  
Spring Branch Independent School District  
Spring Valley Association  
Sprint  
SSR & Associates, Inc  
St Edwards University  
St. Francis College  
St. Vincent College  
Starwood Hotels  
Staubach Foundation  
Stewart Electric  
Stover Fund  
Stradley Ronon Strategic Advisors International  
Strauss Foundation  
Strauss Foundation Trust  
Streetball Partners Int'l, Inc.  
Stuart Fund  
Summit Bank  
Sunoco  
Swain Travel  
Swain's Family Foundation  
Swiss Ave State Bank  
Sylvan Learning Systems

Synopsys  
T. Williams Consulting, Inc.  
TI Ventures  
TalentPoint  
TD Industries  
TDS  
Technitrol, Inc.  
Teleport Communications  
Temple Inland Foundation  
Texaco  
Texas Benefit Planning  
Texas Commerce Bank  
Texas Dept. of Housing & Comm. Affairs  
Texas Education Agency  
Texas Health Choice  
Texas Industries  
Texas Instruments  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
The Brodsky Foundation  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
The Children's Museum of Houston  
The Farb Fund  
The Fischer Foundation  
The Fondren Foundation  
The Gap  
The Gillette Company  
The Goodman Corporation  
The Graham Company  
The Greater Harrisburg Foundation  
The Henley Family Foundation  
The Hewlett Foundation  
The Holocaust Museum of Houston  
The Home Depot  
The Hunt Corporation  
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation  
The Lillian Kaiser Lewis Foundation  
The Main Line Trust Company  
The Nasdaq Stock Market  
The Packard Foundation  
The PennTower Hotel  
The Philadelphia Eagles  
The Powell Foundation  
The Prudential  
The Salners Family Foundation  
The Samuels Foundation  
The Standing Stone Group  
The STAR Group  
The Staubach Company  
The Tierney Group  
The Wharton School  
Thompson & Knight Foundation  
Timberland  
Time Warner  
Toews Corporation  
Tom Thumb  
Total Management/OLIN ITC

Traffic.com, Inc.  
Trammel Crow Company  
Trammell Crow Interests  
Travis County Texas  
Tressler Lutheran Services  
Tri County, Inc.  
Trull Foundation  
TSCPA/Ft Worth Chapter  
Tube City, Inc.  
Turner Construction Company  
Turner Corporation  
TXU Electric & Gas  
Tyco International  
U.S. Trust Company  
Ultrasonix  
United Aluminum  
United Illuminating  
United Messaging  
United Methodist Health Ministries  
United Parcel Service  
United Technologies Corp.  
United Way  
United Way of Dodge City  
United Way of Douglas County  
United Way of King County  
United Way of Snohomish County  
United Way of Yakima County  
University of North Texas  
Univision KUVN  
Uptown Car Wash  
US Airways  
US Interactive, Inc.  
UTA  
VA North Texas  
Vega Power Resources  
Vermeil Enterprises, Inc.  
VerticalNet, Inc.  
Verus Corporation  
Vislign  
Voice dba Pride  
Volunteer Center of Dallas  
Vought Aircraft Company  
VPI Glass  
W. K. Kellogg  
W. K. Kellogg Foundation  
Walmart  
Wawa, Inc.  
Weber Investment Corp.  
Webster Bank  
Weinstein Spira & Company, P.C.  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wesley Rankin Ctr.  
WGBH  
White Block  
Wichita Unified School District #259  
William M. Mercer, Inc.

William Penn Foundation  
Williams Communications Solutions  
Willis Corroon Corporation  
Wilmington Trust  
Winston School PTA  
Wizards of the Coast  
Wolf Block Schorr and Solis-Cohen  
Wolf's Camping Resort and Restaurant

Worksource  
Yakima Rotary Foundation  
YES Foundation  
YMCA of Gr. Houston Area  
Zale Foundation  
ZB Venture

\* information on local and national support provided from the Commissions on Service from the states of Connecticut, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington and from City Year in Boston, MA.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The Corporation has made financial management a top priority. This focus on operational improvements has yielded good results. The Corporation has put in place a top flight management team, invested in and implemented state-of-the-art systems, engaged the bipartisan Board of Directors in active oversight, and done the hard work to correct past mistakes. These actions have put the Corporation on solid footing to manage its program and grant portfolio efficiently and effectively.

Some of this progress is reflected in the fiscal 1999 financial statement audit. The Corporation received an unqualified opinion on its Statement of Financial Position and disclaimers on the two related statements. The number of material weaknesses was reduced from eight to five. However, the audit does not fully reflect the Corporation's progress to-date because it covers activities as of September 30, 1999 and does not include accomplishments for the year since then.

The Corporation has reached the point where it is on solid ground. Below are the highlights of the Corporation's management improvements.

- The Corporation's *management team is much stronger*. The Corporation has a non-political Chief Operating Officer (COO) with wide-ranging management experience, a highly-qualified Chief Financial Officer (CFO), a Deputy CFO who came from the Inspector General's office with extensive audit experience, and a Chief Information Officer. With these leadership positions filled, the Corporation has a sound financial management team in place.
- In 1999, the Corporation *implemented a new financial management system*. The system implementation required that data be converted from a non-standard to a standard accounting system, that Corporation staff get trained on the new system, and that the project be completed prior to year 2000. The new "Momentum" financial management system was implemented in the final quarter of fiscal 1999 (which accounts in part for the failure to achieve full auditability in fiscal 1999). The financial management system is now fully operational, and is being used to produce financial statements on a monthly basis. While the Corporation recognizes that the purchase and implementation of the new system should have occurred earlier, it is notable that the Corporation implemented this system in less time and at less expense than other agencies. (See attached JFMIP article)
- The *management of the National Service Trust has been greatly enhanced* by the new document imaging system and the Web-Based Reporting System (WBRS). The Trust, with 200,000 enrollments, is a vital part of the administration of AmeriCorps. Imaging over one million pages of historical Trust documents permits the Corporation to immediately access the members' forms and resolve what had been a material weakness. The WBRS system is a secure internet-based reporting system that permits subgrantees and program sites to directly enter AmeriCorps member enrollments and track service as it is performed. It provides management reports for

oversight and significantly increases the accuracy, completeness and accessibility of Trust data.

- The Corporation's *comprehensive Action Plan identifies the tasks that need to be accomplished* to improve management and correct financial weaknesses. Senior management carefully monitors and documents progress on these items. Pursuant to appropriations language, the Corporation submits monthly progress reports to Congress. The Plan is continually updated to incorporate new tasks, including tasks identified by the Inspector General. At present, the Corporation has completed over 90 percent of the tasks contained in this Plan.

The Corporation is proud of its accomplishments and also recognizes that more needs to be done to fully implement corrective actions related to audit weaknesses. The Corporation is well situated to complete those improvements and continue to show progress as reflected in the Action Plan and in the financial statement audits. Karyn L. Molnar, Partner, KPMG said in testimony before the VA-HUD appropriations subcommittee on April 12, 2000, "We believe the Corporation has made notable progress in achieving its goal of improved financial management. Although much is left to be done, with the concerted effort of the new financial management team, and the successful operation of the new financial accounting system for a full year in fiscal year 2000, we believe the Corporation should be well positioned to demonstrate continued progress in the future."

A fair assessment of the Corporation's progress will clearly show its commitment to continued financial management improvements and its accomplishments to date.

# JFMIP NEWS

Newsletter for Government Financial Managers

Winter 2000 Vol. 11, No. 4.

## INSIDE

- A Joint Perspective 2
- CFO Council Update 3
- Governmentwide Benefits System Requirements Project 3
- Certificates of Excellence in Accountability Reporting 4
- Financial Management Profile on Thomas McCoy 5
- Amendment to OMB Form and Content of Agency Financial Statements 9
- FACTS II Success 10
- JFMIP Conference Information 11-12
- ASAB Update 13
- FOC HR Committee Update 14
- Challenges of Computer and Information Security 15

## New Controller for the Federal Government

The Honorable Joshua Gotbaum was confirmed as the Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on November 10, 1999. As the Controller, he is responsible for overseeing the financial management activities in the Executive branch of the Federal government. Holding two hats, Mr. Gotbaum retains his position as the Executive Associate Director, where he serves as a member of the OMB's senior management team, working with the Director, Deputy Director, and Deputy Director for Management. At OMB, Mr. Gotbaum has assumed responsibility for a range of cross-cutting issues, including many regulatory matters, privatization and Federal policies to counter the threat of terrorism. He joined OMB in 1997. Mr. Gotbaum is a member of the JFMIP Steering Committee.



Joshua Gotbaum, OMB

Mr. Gotbaum has broad experience both in business and government. Immediately prior to joining OMB, he served as the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy. He advised Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin on economic effects of tax and budget proposals and a range of issues, including social security, economic development, financial institutions, and government regulations.

Before that, Mr. Gotbaum was the Assistant Secretary for Economic Security at the Department of Defense. In that position, he was both a liaison to business and Defense's primary adviser on matters pertaining to the defense industry, including industry consolidation, export controls, acquisition matters and privatization. He also directed the Department's efforts concerning infrastructure, coordinated the 1995's base closures, and was responsible for streamlining economic development and reuse at closing bases.

## Small Agency Scores Big Success with Systems Implementation

Last year, the Corporation for National Service, a small agency in terms of budget authority and employee count, adopted an aggressive schedule to replace its antiquated and outdated core financial management system. By necessity, the Corporation was forced to implement its replacement system midway through the fiscal year – a formidable challenge for anyone because of the need to convert current year data from an old format to a new one. However, the alternative was even more frightful. The Corporation was under scrutiny by Congress to get its financial system in order immediately and the old accounting system was not Year 2000 compliant. The pressure was on!

Earlier this winter, JFMIP visited with Wendy Zenker, Chief Operating Officer for the Corporation, and Betty Hepak, Director of Accounting and Financial Management Services, to discover the secret of this success story. The technology solution selected by the Corporation was the utilization of the application hosting services provided by the Department of Interior (DOI) through its National Business Center (NBC). The software package implemented was Momentum Financials 3.2, a client-server product from American Management Systems (AMS). The initial price tag for the implementation effort was \$1.8 million. Informal inquiries by JFMIP indicate that no other Federal agency has implemented the breadth of the functionality available through Momentum software to the extent that the Corporation has.

At present, there are about 150 system users at the Corporation that are located in offices at the Headquarters or one of five regional service centers spread across the country. All transactions processed in the regional centers are routed through Headquarters directly to NBC's computer facility in Reston. Edit checks and updates are performed in real time. Generally the implementation was on target with the planned schedule and cost. Future plans for the Corporation include an extension of the new system to all desktops and the acquisition of

Continued on page 10.

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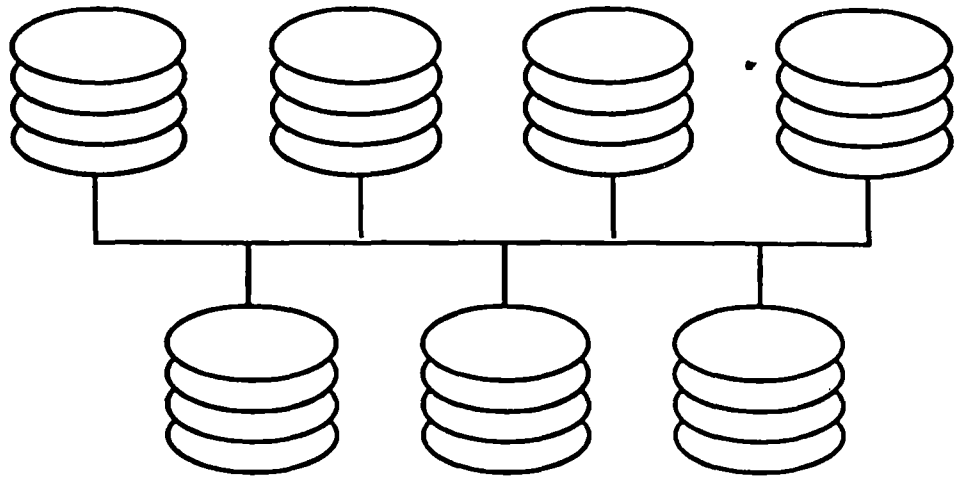
*Small Agency, continued from front page.*

Procurement Desktop to process procurement actions. Key points uncovered during the interview follow.

**Business Decision:** Prior to the implementation of Momentum Financials 3.2, the Corporation used Federal Success, a financial management software package developed by Keane Systems, a mainframe-based platform. DOI provided the hardware and software for the Corporation. Because Federal Success was not Y2K compliant, the Corporation had to replace its financial management system software. The Corporation initially looked for a business partner that was also in the business of making grants. When this effort did not work out, the Corporation turned to NBC. One of the most important factors in the selection decision was the strong belief held by the financial systems staff that running Momentum hosted at NBC would be a viable solution for processing accounting events by non-accounting staff located in the national office and in the field offices. Other factors included the look and feel of the user interface included in Momentum Financials 3.2, the reputation of the software developer, and a strong recommendation from a Federal agency that was also a customer of AMS' Momentum software.

**Architecture:** DOI provided the license for the software application and the use of the application server. The Corporation currently uses Momentum 3.2 to perform core accounting and financial functions for administrative and grant processing. NBC provides back up and disaster recovery services as well as technical support. A two-day stress test was performed by the Corporation in the summer and revealed the need for some minor hardware upgrades to the desktop clients. The Corporation purchased its own server, which is located at DOI, as well as a report writer application and obtained the communication link from Headquarters to NBC. The Corporation's Information Technology staff, headed by Tom Hanley, were able to quickly identify and resolve problems.

**Schedule:** On November 24, 1998, the Corporation began its transition from Federal Success to Momentum 3.2 with an initial target implementation date of June 30, 1999, subsequently revised to July 30, 1999. The primary reason for this schedule was the need to generate good data for FY 1999 financial statements. The mid-year implementation required the restatement or conversion of FY



1999 financial data from the old system to the new system. Preparations for the data conversion started in Spring 1999, and the old system was turned off in July 1999. The Corporation tried unsuccessfully to convert FY 1999 data at the detail level, and eventually it converted open 1999 documents (those that would have future activity). Other 1999 data was converted at the summary level. Also, to ensure the numbers were converted correctly, the ending trial balance in the old system was compared to the beginning trial balance in the new system. Financial transaction data from July through September were captured via direct entry. The detail supporting the summary trial balance for fiscal year 1999 would reside in two systems for the fiscal year. With the eventual demise of the existing system, Peter Rudman, the Project Manager, developed a "legacy" database into which the detailed accounting transactions from the old system were downloaded. This has allowed Corporation staff to access the detailed transactions on-line for research purposes and also provides the detail data for auditors performing the FY 1999 financial statement audit. Overall, the project took ten months, with the system accepting its first live transaction on September 13, 1999.

**Testing:** No parallel testing was done. Although this decision did involve some risk, the Corporation decided that the risk was acceptable given the alternative that the system might not be implemented in time. Acceptance testing, which was completed in June, was of a limited scope due to resource constraints. NBC provided a good deal of

help with the development of test scripts and with acceptance testing.

**Training:** A good training effort was executed. However, the new system was more sophisticated than its predecessor, and the prospective users tended to forget their newly acquired skills that were not reinforced with immediate use. The availability of a Help Desk was and continues to be a big plus. Most of the end users are located in program offices as well as five regional centers, and this dispersion made it difficult for financial offices to facilitate the knowledge transfer required to execute financial management activities. When the system was brought up, field office users were brought to Washington, DC to do real-time data entry on an "immersion basis." The accounting office led the training team with strong support from the budget office on execution and funds control features – features that were not included in the old system. The partnership for the training effort also included employees and other support from the Office of Information Technology.

**Procurement:** A procurement vehicle available through GSA was the focal point of the procurement strategy. The non-competitive method was an asset because the procurement lead-time and agency procurement efforts were reduced. As mentioned earlier, the Corporation did purchase a dedicated server, a report writing application, and one dedicated telecommunication line. The leasing of the

*Continued on page 7.*

Small Agency, continued from page 6.

Telephone line was the most difficult part of the procurement effort.

**People and Staffing.** Project staffing included existing employees and new hires. Few hires provided the mix of skills needed for a successful implementation, and the current employees provided the essential knowledge of the Corporation's business functions. The accounting, information technology, and budget offices worked together as one team to implement the system, and the small size of the organization made the involvement and commitment of management visible to all. NBC was invaluable to the implementation effort through the commitment of on-site staff to assist the Corporation with each phase of the project.

The success of the implementation project is directly attributable to the direct involvement of and motivation from the top leadership, the pride and dedication of the project staff, and the ability of management to make quick judgments. Management focused on solving problems rather than fixing blame for things that didn't turn out as expected. An open communication policy fostered open and constructive debate during problem-solving sessions. Management listened to and trusted the recommendations of the project staff so decisions were made quickly.

One of the most difficult hurdles to overcome is the natural resistance to the change that is imposed by the implementation of new automation. The Corporation was lucky in this respect. There was little resistance to change because everyone in the organization understood the compelling reason for change – instructions from Congress for the agency to produce accurate and timely financial information and Year 2000 fixes. The new system represented a great improvement over the old system. The closely monitored entry of live data for current year transactions was used to train and familiarize the users with the system. End users were very involved in the system implementation, and the project staff met with the users to identify and determine specific user access needs.

**Implementation Challenges:** Support from NBC was described as excellent throughout the process, although previously unknown software deficiencies caused some major difficulties. The implementation was a learning experience for both NBC, in its first

Momentum implementation, as well as the Corporation. Vendor support for software fixes was excellent during the first six weeks, and the Corporation believes that the on-site presence of a senior representative from the vendor will ensure a speedy resolution to any software deficiencies that may be lurking.

Another significant challenge that was met involved the configuration of the system to handle grants. The Corporation remained resolute in its goal to avoid costly modifications to off-the-shelf software in order to accommodate agency business practices. Instead, the solution was to fit the existing business practice to the software, and the grant transactions are processed as contract documents. The Corporation will be building a new grants system to interface with the financial management system this year.

Other significant challenges included a mid-year data conversion and teaching non-accounting personnel to use a financial and accounting system. Performance problems surfaced shortly after implementation. To solve the performance problems, a number of steps are underway to increase response time, and a duplicate database will probably be created where users can execute on-line queries and conduct research for analyses. NBC and AMS helped considerably with performance problems during system implementation with database tuning, and they continue to work closely with the Corporation to resolve performance issues.

Another unanticipated problem involved the use of the Crystal Reports software package. The Corporation did not realize that the new system would not directly generate mandatory reports and that the purchase of a reporting package would be required.

In response to direct questions from JFMIP, Wendy Zenker offered the following observations:

**A. Things To Do Differently Next Time:**

- Don't do a mid-year implementation if it is not absolutely necessary.
- Don't try to do a detailed data conversion; do a summary conversion.
- Do better acceptance testing to get a better feel for the system and the need for business process changes. Formal test tools and people skilled in testing would be very helpful.

**B. Helpful Hints for Others:**

- Senior leadership commitment is critical to success.
- Good skills are critical. Ensure that your project team has people experienced in system implementation efforts. Make sure that your team can "talk" in the language of financial staff, users, and programmers.
- Good business partners with good track records are vital to success. Cross servicing by an entity with a good performance record can be very beneficial for small agencies because expertise, which would otherwise be unavailable, can be obtained at a reasonable cost.

What valuable lessons can others glean from the Corporation's highly successful story? There are many and several are suggested here!

- Top management support is critical to success and needs to be visible to everyone.
- Good business partners with good track records are needed. Check past performance records for service providers and software vendors.
- Good people with good technical and communication skills are essential. Strive for a good skill mix that includes people with prior implementation experience.
- Effective acceptance testing is very important because it can surface unknown software deficiencies and prevent major problems down the road. A formal test script provides discipline. The JFMIP software qualification test script can provide a jump start and greatly reduce the cost of developing a formal test script.
- Understand what each system user will need to know to enter data into the system and to get data out of the system. Make sure the training and implementation plans address these learning needs.
- Establish a duplicate database for on-line queries to avoid poor performance and logjams during transaction processing. □

## Grants Management

Governor-appointed State Commissions on national service manage AmeriCorps grants, as do national non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity and City Year. Roughly two-thirds of AmeriCorps grant funds go to State commissions, roughly one-third to national non-profits. The State commissions are responsible for the selection, management, monitoring and oversight of subgrants to local non-profit organizations. State commissions also take a leadership role in service activities within their States, work collaboratively with government, businesses and the non-profit community, and reflect the needs and priorities of their States.

This devolved infrastructure envisioned in the National and Community Service Act places responsibility and accountability on the States to determine the appropriate management oversight. The Corporation provides regulatory guidelines based on the statute and some broad guidance on methods and best practices for grants management. But the States themselves, consistent with Federalism principles, are granted broad authority in this area.

As one Governor has stated, “AmeriCorps has been successful precisely because it is not a top-down Washington program. In fact, it is one of the most far-reaching experiments in local control government has ever supported.”

### Inspector General Audits

The Corporation’s Inspector General has criticized the Corporation’s and the commissions’ oversight of grants. These criticisms range from a failure of the Corporation and the commissions to adequately monitor grants and AmeriCorps members’ service to a lack of an integrated grants management system.

The Inspector General is now conducting pre-audit surveys of all State commissions. In a summary report on the first 18 surveys, the Inspector General paints an unnecessarily negative portrait of State commission performance. Others have interpreted her work as calling State commissions “troubled grantees” and “poor performers,” even going so far as to direct the Corporation to evaluate the use of a “receiver” for the State.

The Corporation has reviewed each of these reports and generally forms a completely different conclusion regarding State commission performance. For the most part, State commissions are performing their duties reasonably well, albeit as with all organizations and people who undergo an audit, with opportunities to improve. State commissions who have participated in these pre-audit surveys have generally agreed with many of the IG’s recommendations and have already put new procedures or forms in place.

Beyond these broad criticisms of the grants process, the Inspector General also reports on individual instances of fraud, waste and abuse. Indeed, there have been (and will be) instances where a grantee or subgrantee performs poorly. The Corporation and the States are fully committed to identifying and taking forceful action where fraud or

mismanagement is found. For example, this past year, the Indiana state auditors questioned a significant percentage of costs in connection with an AmeriCorps program operated by a state college. Both the State and the Corporation moved quickly to end activities under the subgrant, and following appropriate administrative reviews, the State returned over \$200,000 to the Corporation.

Specific IG criticisms are addressed on the following pages.

<b>Inspector General Comment</b>	<b>Management Response</b>
<p>The Corporation lacks a management information system that maintains comprehensive information on its grants, including those to State commissions and their subgrantees.</p>	<p>This statement is misleading. The Corporation does have information on its grants in two automated systems. There is a high-priority project underway to redesign these systems and to integrate grant information into one Corporation database. In addition, in 2000, the Corporation implemented a web-based reporting system on AmeriCorps member service that substantially increases the amount of information available on a real-time basis to program managers, State Commissions and Corporation management.</p>
<p>The Corporation, historically, has not carried out a comprehensive, risk-based program for grantee financial and programmatic oversight and monitoring.</p>	<p>Incorrect. The Corporation does have such a monitoring plan. Each year, the Corporation's three major programs offices each develop and implement a plan for monitoring grantees. The difficulty in addressing the IG's criticism is that no matter how much the Corporation does, the IG demands more. In an environment of limited resources, the Corporation makes cost-benefit decisions as to how it allocates its resources. As well, given the devolution of grantee oversight to State commissions as provided in the Act, the Corporation relies on States to carry out this responsibility for their AmeriCorps subgrantees.</p> <p>The Corporation has also developed, in consultation with the States, an Administrative Standards Assessment protocol. This provides a mechanism for evaluating the management and financial systems and for identifying any areas that require improvement. Six State reviews were conducted in 1999; 10 will done in 2000, and the remainder will be completed over the next two years.</p>
<p>The IG implicitly criticizes the Corporation and commissions because Corporation programs are not tested as "major programs" under the Single Audit Act.</p>	<p>This is correct and as it should be. The Congress enacted the Single Audit Act to relieve burden on the States and to recognize that State and federal interests were the same with respect to financial auditing. The Single Audit Act requires that major programs be subject to testing and that lesser programs not be subject to individual testing on an annual basis by the State. Indeed, the Corporation's programs are so small that they are usually not subject to testing under the Single Audit Act.</p>

The Inspector General is now conducting pre-audit surveys of all State commissions. In a summary report on the first 18 surveys, the Inspector General paints an unnecessarily negative portrait of State commission conduct. Others have interpreted her work calling State commissions "troubled grantees" and "poor performers," even going so far as to direct the Corporation to evaluate the use of a "receiver."

The Corporation has reviewed each of these reports and generally forms a completely different conclusion regarding State commission performance. For the most part, State commissions are performing their duties well, albeit with opportunities to improve. State commissions who have participated in these pre-audit surveys have generally agreed with many of the IG's recommendations and have already put new procedures or forms in place.

In looking closely at the IG's findings, the Corporation notes that a significant number are minor administrative issues, e.g., failure to maintain all conflict of interest forms, failure to date-stamp all reports, failure to record the names of members whose files were reviewed during site visits. These matters are easily corrected by States. Many have already done so.

Also, the auditors noted that a number of problems occurred in earlier years and have since been resolved.

## **GAO CONFIRMS AMERICORPS MEETING COST CUTTING GOALS**

The General Accounting Office released a report (February 2000) that found that AmeriCorps has successfully cut its average member cost, meeting the terms of a bipartisan agreement. The report also found that the National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps\*NCCC) program costs, on a budgeted basis, are about 25% less than the Job Corps. Like Job Corps, NCCC is a residential program, but has a different purpose.

### **Cutting Cost**

In 1996, the Corporation for National Service made a commitment to Senator Grassley and others in Congress to reduce the cost per AmeriCorps member to \$15,000 by the 1999 – 2000 program year. The GAO found that AmeriCorps reached this goal in the State and National Program, one year ahead of schedule.

The Corporation achieved this success by expanding the cost cutting “Education Award Only” model, under which the Corporation provides a voucher for college costs, and sponsoring non-profit organizations provide almost all of the other support for the AmeriCorps member. It also instituted a number of operational and administrative changes to reduce costs.

The report also found that AmeriCorps’ most expensive program, AmeriCorps\*NCCC, a 10-month residential service program, has lower costs per member than the military or Job Corps, the Federal Government’s other major residential programs.

## NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CONFERENCES

- For the nation's volunteer and community service sector, the National Community Service Conference is the preeminent opportunity to receive high quality training designed to improve the overall quality of national service programs.
- The Corporation is a cosponsor of the Conference with the Points of Light Foundation, the United Way of America, and America's Promise: the Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin Powell.
- **Corporation's Role:** Corporation staff, along with the Points of Light Foundation, help plan the Conference, conduct training programs and provide logistical support for the Conference. They also share best practices in developing effective non-profit management strategies and recruiting volunteers with Corporation grantees.

### Selection of Conference Locations

- The Points of Light Foundation is the primary organizer of the conference and selects the conference site each year. The Corporation did not play a role in the selection of the previous Conference locations in Las Vegas and Orlando. The 2001 National Community Service Conference will be held in Minneapolis.
- The Points of Light Foundation uses the following criteria for site selection:
  - availability of appropriate meeting space;
  - accessibility and reasonableness of airfare;
  - reasonableness of lodging and meal costs, and;
  - attractiveness as a convention location.

These criteria are consistent with those of other public and private organizations that sponsor national conferences.

## **CORPORATION OFFICE FACILITIES COSTS**

The Corporation for National Service maintains a headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as 46 state offices throughout the country. The state offices support the National Senior Service Corps (Foster Grandparents Program, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Senior Companion Program) and AmeriCorps\*VISTA (celebrating 35 years of service in 2000). In addition to these state offices, the Corporation maintains five service centers that handle financial matters relating to the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and some Learn and Serve America programs. In some states, the state office and the service centers share office space. The state offices and the service centers pre-date the establishment of the Corporation and the AmeriCorps program by a number of years. The General Services Administration selects and arranges the location and rental of space for Corporation offices.

The AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a residential service corps operating on five campuses nationwide. While the Corporation does pay the costs of the campuses, they are located on downsized military bases and other former government installations. AmeriCorps\*NCCC members are deployed from the campuses on "spikes" to assist in service activities and to respond to national disasters.

The National Service Leadership Institute (NSLI) is a Corporation-funded training program previously housed at the Presidio National Park in San Francisco. The NSLI is moving to a new office in Oakland in September 2000. NSLI training is available to national, state, or local organizations receiving funding from the Corporation. Most of the training is conducted away from the Presidio complex.

# General Powell Calls for Reauthorization of the Corporation for National Service



General Colin Powell  
Chairman, America's Promise

Colin Powell's response to Governor Marc Racicot (R-MT) at the National Governors' Association meeting July 9, 2000:

*"I'm confident that it will be reauthorized. I have been speaking very strongly in favor of it. I've become a great, great fan of the Corporation for National Service. They are a partner of America's Promise. They were one of our cosponsors at the time of the Summit and ever since they they have been helping us expand. The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows that Harris Wofford has trained, they go out and help governors and mayors bring down America's Promise into their communities. So I'm a great supporter of the Corporation for National Service and have been speaking to selected Members of Congress who have needed to be spoken to with respect to their support for the reauthorization of the Corporation."*

## Kasich changes tune about AmeriCorps

By Jonathan Fiskind  
*Dispatch Washington Bureau*

MUSCATINE, Iowa — When Rep. John R. Kasich visited an AmeriCorps office Friday during a campaign stop for his presidential bid, he revealed that he has changed his mind about the federal program.

The Westerville Republican and House Budget Committee chairman said he has been transformed in recent months from a foe to a fan.

Kasich in the past joined many other Republicans trying unsuccessfully to eliminate the Clinton administration program. AmeriCorps provides a stipend and educational scholarships to those who spend a year in public service jobs.

Critics have said AmeriCorps isn't a true volunteer effort because participants are paid. Some questioned whether the benefits are worth the cost.

But AmeriCorps has stopped calling its participants volunteers, and Kasich said he has witnessed AmeriCorps making valuable public-service contributions.

"I have seen them do some amazing things in Harlem ... I know that AmeriCorps workers were involved in a number of the homeless programs," he said. "I would like to spend some time trying to refocus pieces of it and trying to make it more of a public/private situation, but I don't think I would cast a vote anymore that would eliminate it."

Kasich said the program can be made more effective, "but they've done some really great work, and I'm impressed with them."

Tina Dunphy, a slightly surprised AmeriCorps project director who greeted Kasich when he entered her storefront office in this eastern Iowa town, said 20 "members" work here on such projects as tutoring and mentoring elementary-school students.

Clinton has requested \$585 million for AmeriCorps in his 2000 budget proposal, a \$113 million increase over current funding.

The increase would add 20,000 participants to the program, for a total of 70,000. Clinton has proposed funding 100,000 members in 2002.

# The Hill

LARGEST  
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PUBLICATION

Vol. 7, No. 25

The Capitol Newspaper

<http://www.hillnews.com>

Price \$2.50

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

## Why I changed my mind about AmeriCorps

By Dan Coats

When I was in the Senate, I did not support the legislation that created AmeriCorps because of my fundamental belief in private voluntary service and my skepticism about government-based solutions. I thought that government-supported volunteers would undermine the spirit of voluntary service and that new federal resources might subvert the mission and the independence of the civic sector.

My faith in the civic sector has not diminished one bit; in fact, it is stronger today than ever before. However, I have changed my mind about AmeriCorps. Instead of distorting the mission of the civic sector, AmeriCorps has proved to be a source of new power and energy for nonprofit organizations across the country.

My changed view about AmeriCorps is in no small measure because of the leadership that Harris Wofford, my Democratic former Senate colleague from Pennsylvania, has given to that program. Wofford and I did not vote on the same side very often in the Senate, and we still differ on many issues. But his leadership

of AmeriCorps has convinced me that I should have voted with him on this issue.

First, thanks to Wofford's steadfast commitment to place national service above partisanship, AmeriCorps has not become the political program that some of us initially feared. Second, he shares my belief that the solutions to some of our most intractable problems lie in the civic sector. Accordingly, he has set AmeriCorps to the work of supporting, not supplanting, the civic sector.

I have seen firsthand how AmeriCorps members have provided a jolt of new energy to the civic sector from my experience as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. As Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity and another former skeptic of government-supported volunteers, also discovered, the leadership provided by full-time AmeriCorps members is a key addition for nonprofit and faith-based organizations that are tackling the most difficult community and human problems.

AmeriCorps members, through their idealism, enthusiasm and can-do spirit, have multiplied the impact of organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat, and hundreds of other organiza-

tions large and small. The number of Republicans who have changed their mind about AmeriCorps continues to grow.

In the last year, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio) have spoken out about the positive role AmeriCorps plays in strengthening the civic sector. Together, we join a growing bipartisan list of present and former federal and state legislators, governors and civic leaders in support of AmeriCorps.

Their support is part of a quiet, yet remarkable, transformation in American politics that has occurred since the white-hot debate that took place a few years ago between those who believed that government should take the lead in solving community problems and those who thought government could accomplish little or nothing, and was even likely to be a negative force.

Now, as evidenced by both major party presidential candidates and by growing bipartisan support in Congress, a new middle ground has emerged, leading to a unique partnership between AmeriCorps, the nonprofit organizations and private and religious institutions that are critical to strengthening our communities. It is

these institutions that transmit values between generations that encourage cooperation between citizens, and make our communities stronger.

In a recent speech to the nation's governors, retired Gen. Colin Powell declared himself "a strong supporter of AmeriCorps." After spending two years working with the organization, Powell concluded, "[W]hat they do in terms of leveraging other individuals to volunteer is really incredible. So it is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future. ..."

Later this month, a bipartisan coalition in the Senate will introduce legislation to reauthorize AmeriCorps and its parent agency, the Corporation for National Service. I hope that Congress will move quickly to enact this legislation so that AmeriCorps can continue to work with the nonprofit and faith-based sectors to strengthen our communities and build a better future for us all.

*Former Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) is president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and a member of the Washington law firm of Verner, Lippfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand.*



## THE NEW YORKER

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JANUARY 17, 2000

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

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### FLAWED HERO

*John McCain creates the confessional candidacy.*

BY JOE KLEIN

JUST before Christmas, John McCain and I took a commercial flight from New York to Boston, and we talked about some of the domestic-policy questions that haven't been part of his political portfolio in the Senate. McCain travelled with a single aide, and carried his own luggage; we sat in a rear row of the plane. We began with his frequent lamentation that young people are cynical about and alienated from government. I asked if there were other ways—aside from his usual prescription: campaign-finance reform, the cleansing of the system—to inspire them. He raised the notion of voluntarism, “the sort of thing that Colin Powell is encouraging around the country.” But he soon drifted into a surprising confession. “I was wrong about AmeriCorps,” he said of the President’s signature service-for-scholarships program. “I was extremely skeptical at first, mostly because I didn’t trust the authors. But I’ve got to say that, over all, the program’s been a success. And it was a failure on my part not to recognize that earlier. So, if I’m elected President, I’ll call in people like Colin Powell, and Reverend Floyd Flake in New York, and Eddie Edwards in Detroit, and ask them what works and what doesn’t, and go with what does.”

# OPINION

Monday, March 8, 1999 6A

## Habitat, AmeriCorps good partners

I admit I was skeptical a few years back when a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps was proposed. How could a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization such as ours, with faith in God at our core, work in tandem with a federally sponsored bureaucratic program?

The whole notion struck me as a sure-fire recipe for inaction and red tape. Now, four years later, my concerns have vanished, replaced by the reality of a successful partnership between AmeriCorps and Habitat for Humanity affiliates across our nation.

Since 1994, more than 50 Habitat affiliates have worked with more than 2,000 AmeriCorps members and participants in other national service programs sponsored by AmeriCorps' parent, the Corporation for National Service. This year, more than 500 AmeriCorps members are wielding hammers and recruiting more volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

This spring, AmeriCorps members are playing an exciting role in Habitat's Collegiate Challenge: Spring Break '99. During Collegiate Challenge, more than 7,500 college students are dedicating their vacation time to building houses in partnership with God's people in need.

Hundreds of college students are expected to arrive in Albany ready to put their muscle behind the effort to house people in need. Projects are urban, as in Miami, and



Millard  
Fuller

rural, as in Belen, N.M. At sites like these, AmeriCorps members provide helping hands and supervisory skills needed to get the job done.

Helping people is what Habitat for Humanity is all about. Since 1976, Habitat — now at work in 61 countries — has been helping people in need of shelter build or renovate simple, decent, affordable houses.

Investing their "sweat equity" in the building process, then buying the houses through zero-interest loans, Habitat homeowners build not only homes, but also new lives for themselves and new hope for their communities.

To date, more than 350,000 people are living in Habitat houses. But this is just a start. Habitat for Humanity, by working in partnership with future homeowner families and with other organizations that share our vision, is working

toward a world free of poverty housing and homelessness.

AmeriCorps has proven to be a good, reliable partner in many areas of the United States.

By offering local nonprofit groups a network of full-time trained people available for one-or two-year stints, AmeriCorps helps maximize local resources. That's important to a volunteer organization like Habitat for Humanity. Our affiliates find hundreds of good people who want to help build houses in their off-hours, but few know much about construction.

That's where AmeriCorps has played such a vital role. AmeriCorps members help train local people in basic construction skills. They are there, day in and day out, supervising and directing the part-time efforts of others.

The continuity, leadership and knowledge that AmeriCorps members provide allow us to increase both the number of volunteers we are able to mobilize effectively and the overall productivity of our efforts.

Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps have much in common. We share a goal of community-building. We share a belief in self-help and service. I no longer think of AmeriCorps as a bureaucratic program. AmeriCorps is a partner in the movement to eliminate poverty housing.

*Millard Fuller of Americus is founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International.*

## Two Presidents: A Shared Legacy

HARRIS WOFFORD  
*CEO, Corporation for National Service*

BOB GOODWIN  
*President, Points of Light Foundation*

Most people would not think that Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton have that much in common. But, Presidents Bush and Clinton share an important legacy. By making citizen service a central idea of their presidencies, these two presidents have fundamentally changed the landscape of the civic sector by moving citizen service from the margins to the center of the public agenda.

It wasn't always this way. In 1988, President Bush called for a "thousand points of light" in his inaugural address and thereafter created the Points of Light Foundation. President Bush recently told us that he never imagined the Points of Light would be viewed as a Republican venture. Nonetheless, Democrats were dubious and sometimes belittled it as an inadequate substitute for government action.

Today, much of that skepticism has passed. With bipartisan support, the Points of Light Foundation was included as part of the National Service Act of 1993 and receives regular funding through the Corporation for National Service. The foundation's network of hundreds of volunteer centers, often part of the United Way, is thriving — helping to connect local residents with opportunities to serve.

joined with President Bush to resume the Daily Points of Light Award.

Similarly, President Clinton's special contribution to citizen service — AmeriCorps — faced stiff opposition from some Republican skeptics. After the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, there were recurring threats to eliminate AmeriCorps.

But President Clinton was steadfast, governors and mayors, Republicans and Democrats, and local and national nonprofits and faith-based organizations rallied in support, and the critics have been quieted.

By a large majority, including many Republicans, the Senate has voted for two years in a row to continue support for AmeriCorps. Republican Sen. Kit Bond stated, "The battle over whether we ought to have an AmeriCorps program or not is over. It has been decided." And Colin Powell has said, "It is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future, and I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps."

Today, the partisan bickering around service and volunteering has almost disappeared. The call for citizen service is a major theme of presidential candidates of both parties. Al Gore, George W. Bush, John McCain and Bill Bradley all have spoken powerfully on the need for citizen service and the role that nonprofits and faith-based organizations can play in solving community problems and uniting us as a nation.

been shifting, two great streams of civilian service — community volunteering and intensive national service — have become partners in communities across the country.

These collaborations work because the Points of Light and AmeriCorps are founded on the same fundamental belief: through service we can bring people together to solve the problems that still plague our country. Their operating principle is to provide resources — usually people power — to thousands of nonprofits, with government playing the role of junior partner, supporting the work of these organizations, not guiding it.

Three years ago the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service cemented and elevated their partnership when Presidents Bush and Clinton came together to convene the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. They enlisted Colin Powell to chair the Summit and to lead the continuing campaign for America's Promise.

Powell's mandate is to rally the forces of all the great institutions in this country, businesses, the nonprofit sector, governments at all levels, and committed individuals, traditional volunteers and those in full-time service, to make a concerted effort to assure the conditions for success for all young Americans.

In coming weeks this partnership between the Corporation for National

Service and the Points of Light Foundation will be demonstrated again as a bipartisan coalition in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate introduces legislation reauthorizing the Corporation and its three main programs — AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps, and student service learning. This legislation will extend the life of the Corporation and support for the Points of Light Foundation into the next Administration.

Presidents Bush and Clinton pressed — and are still pressing — an idea and an ideal. Together they have raised a standard to which, as George Washington said at the Constitutional Convention, "the wise and the honest may repair."

This is a legacy of which they can jointly and justly be proud.

By passing this legislation, Congress will honor and share in this important bipartisan and nonpartisan legacy.