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This should be incorporated
in our official papers.

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HR-10. COMMUNITY SERVICE

10.1 Preamble

Community service is an ideal that embodies one of our most valued American traditions: working together to help one another. The nation's Governors applaud the renewed interest in, and enthusiasm for, community service that is sweeping the country. We believe that opportunities for community service should be available to all of our citizens at every stage of life. Developing citizenship skills and social responsibility should be a major objective of our children's education, providing our young people with an ethic of civic service that can be carried into adulthood.

As Governors, we face enormous challenges in our communities. Programs that provide opportunities for citizens to perform service are unique because they benefit both the service provider and the service recipient. Volunteers are vital resources in solving some of our most difficult problems, and the service projects are needed and are of real value to the community. However, volunteer service cannot and should not replace existing jobs or government services.

All over the country, people are working together to meet many of our pressing social and environmental challenges. School and campus-based programs, full-time service and conservation corps, and part-time community programs are fulfilling basic needs such as rehabilitating housing for the poor, mentoring students in school, and providing in-home care to the elderly. It is the states, counties, schools, colleges, universities, and community-based organizations that are building the national network of community service. However, the time has come for national leadership to fortify this grassroots effort.

10.2 Principles

The nation's Governors support a national service program that encourages a variety of meaningful service opportunities, reflecting real needs of our communities, our states, and our country. The Governors stand ready to work toward a national program that is guided by the following principles.

- ✓ • Promote a strong partnership among federal, state, and local governments, as well as with the volunteer and business communities, to emphasize the importance of community-wide involvement.
- Recognize the multitude of existing federal, state, and local programs and seek to expand and enhance their capabilities.
- Encourage creativity and diversity among service programs so that citizens of all ages have the opportunity to serve through elementary and secondary school programs, part-time college campus programs, full-time compensated programs, and part-time community-based programs. Assistance to enable individuals and programs to achieve their goals should be provided.

Based on these principles, the Governors offer the following recommendations.

10.2.1 Promote Federal-State-Local-Private-Nonprofit Partnership

- Independent Entity. Establish a program of national stature with a nationally recognized independent entity similar to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or the Smithsonian Institution Trust that would receive federal as well as private funding. It should operate with maximum flexibility and minimum federal procedures or regulations.
- Central Focal Point. Make this independent entity the central focal point for state and local governments and for individuals and groups throughout the country actively engaged in service. As the major point of contact, the entity would collect and disseminate program information; promote service opportunities throughout the country in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; provide technical assistance; and publicize exemplary individuals, programs, and organizations.
- Evaluation, Research, and Protection. Develop appropriate mechanisms and capacity for evaluation, monitoring, oversight, and research and ensure the nondisplacement of paid workers and adequate protection for the volunteer from abuse or liability.

10.2.2 Recognize Key State Role

- **State Role.** Recognize the key role states are playing in promoting and providing service opportunities, and provide states the flexibility to act as the primary facilitator of service programs to ensure coordination, public-private cooperation, and sustained resources.
- **Statewide Strategy.** Provide gubernatorial leadership to involve interested persons and organizations, including nonprofit and community-based organizations, the private sector, and others, in developing a statewide strategy reflecting the state's priorities for community service based on state and local needs and existing resources and programs.
- **Competitive Process.** Make funds available for states, through a competitive process that encourages innovative workable proposals, to leverage state-private-nonprofit resources, including in-kind contributions. Provide appropriate oversight and auditing of state and locally operated programs using federal funds. Funds for community service should supplement existing federal programs.
- **Public-Private Support.** Encourage states to develop public and private support for community service and to utilize funds from existing programs with objectives that are compatible with the principles of community service.

10.2.3 Include Critical Program Components

- **Variety of Opportunities.** Provide for all types of service opportunities, including full-time service corps and part-time volunteer activities for adults of all ages and for elementary and secondary school students, and develop citizenship skills through school-based volunteer programs. Keep programs open to individuals of all ages and skill levels and encourage diversity of participants within peer work groups.
- **Encouragement.** Encourage and enable individuals to participate in service activities with support such as credentialing, school credit, modest stipends, and public recognition to underscore the high value our nation places on community service.
- **Training.** Ensure proper training for program participants and supervisors and adequately prepare the community agencies and organizations that the participants will serve using existing resources and programs, when available and appropriate.
- **Service Learning.** Include job skills and work habits development, service learning, and remedial education, when appropriate for the participant, in the service program. Provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on what has been learned as a result of their service activities.

The Governors believe strongly in the value of community service in that it benefits both the service provider and the recipient. We want to provide all of our citizens with a variety of service opportunities that will allow them to contribute to their community throughout their lives.

Time limited (effective August 1993-August 1995).
Adopted August 1989 (formerly Policy C-21).