



July 19, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



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

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



Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

As leaders of 168 civilian and post-9/11 veteran service organizations, we write to urge you to support the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic through Service (CORPS) Act to expand AmeriCorps and Senior Corps in the next COVID-19 relief package.



Our organizations represent members who have decades of military and civilian national service. We believe that our nation's real strength is in our people, both the brave men and women who volunteer to defend and risk their lives for our country in uniform, and the dedicated Americans who are willing to commit to service at home.



As our country contemplates the future, we know that the challenges to recovery from COVID-19 and all that ails us – for our grieving families, shuttered K-12 public schools and churches, and halted economy – are manifold. And as you know, the road to normalcy will require more than economic stimulus, even historic levels of it. We should call on Americans across the country to step up and contribute through service.



Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members across the country have acted quickly and creatively to address gaps in services and persistent inequities that have only been exacerbated by COVID-19. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members have delivered millions of meals, conducted hundreds of thousands of wellness checks, expanded access to health screenings, set up temporary isolation sites, organized blood drives and provided virtual teaching, tutoring and mentoring to K-12 public school students.

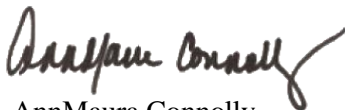


But the federal funding currently available is not enough to help address the core weaknesses in education, the economy and public health exposed by this pandemic. An important part of moving our country forward can be the bipartisan CORPS Act, which was introduced by Senators Chris Coons and Roger Wicker, has 16 Senate co-sponsors balanced evenly by party, and is supported by a bipartisan group of military veterans in the House.

The CORPS Act invests in the strong and capable national service infrastructure that can respond to specific local needs. In addition to expanding AmeriCorps and strengthening Senior Corps to help communities with food distribution, supporting students, ensuring that medically vulnerable people continue to receive their medications and supporting public health needs, it will give young people experience, skills, a living stipend and post-service education scholarship at a time when employment opportunities are scarce and the needs of our communities are great. It also prioritizes expanding programs in rural and high poverty communities.

On behalf of those we serve – and those who have served – we urge you to support the CORPS Act and expand AmeriCorps and Senior Corps so we can tap the talent and energy of national service members in our communities at this critical time.

Sincerely,



AnnMaura Connolly  
President  
Voices for National Service



Rye Barcott  
Co-Founder & CEO  
With Honor Action, Inc.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
The Mission Continues  
Team Rubicon  
Travis Manion Foundation  
Student Veterans of America  
America's Service Commissions  
Catholic Volunteer Network  
City Year  
Cities of Service  
FoodCorps  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Habitat for Humanity International  
National Health Corps  
Notre Dame Mission Volunteers  
Points of Light  
Public Allies  
Service Year Alliance  
Teach for America  
The Corps Network  
YouthBuild USA

Note: A full list of CORPS Act endorsers is [here](#).