

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 16, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human  
Services and Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human  
Services and Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Shelby,

Thank you for your strong support of national service in the long-term continuing resolution for FY11. House Republicans proposed the virtual elimination of the Corporation for National and Community Service, so we are incredibly grateful that you maintained strong funding for national service activities. We are writing in support of FY2012 funding for CNCS and its vital programs, such as AmeriCorps, which has enabled nearly 500,000 people across the United States to provide vital community services since its creation in 1993. While we certainly recognize the threat posed by our deficit and the importance of a serious deficit reduction plan this year, we believe that the effective elimination of AmeriCorps, as called for in proposals such as H.R. 1, will do much more harm than good.

AmeriCorps remains one of the most successful programs Congress has created in the past twenty years. It was born of bipartisan cooperation and has been championed by leaders in both parties for enabling hundreds of thousands of young Americans to take a more active role in giving back to their communities. AmeriCorps has a multiplier effect, yielding much more in benefits than we put into it in dollars. It has expanded the work of charitable organizations and spurred innovative partnerships between the private and non-profit sectors. AmeriCorps has contributed participants to programs like Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity, Public Allies, City Year, and the American Red Cross. It also helps participants afford a college education through the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

We strongly believe that whatever cuts are made to the budget will need to be paired with strategic, long-term investments in economic growth and middle class job creation. AmeriCorps's contributions to public safety, education, and housing do much to advance this agenda. We urge you to support continued funding for AmeriCorps and join us in acknowledging its importance to our future.

Sincerely,



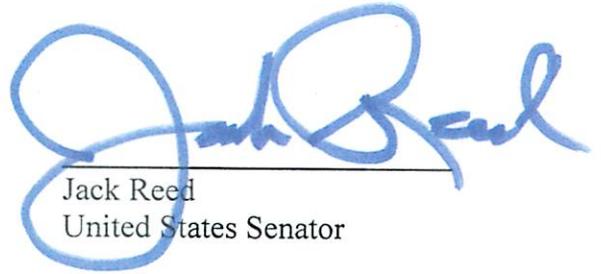
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



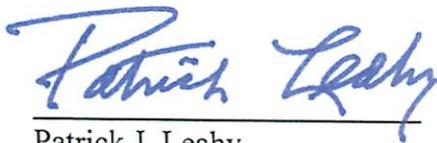
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator



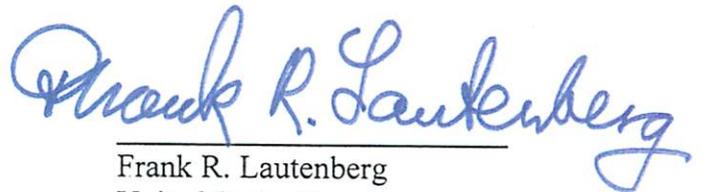
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



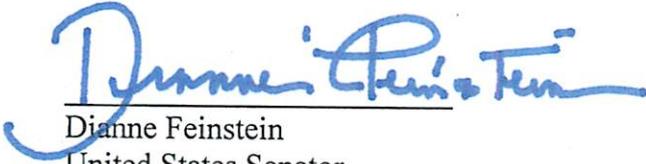
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



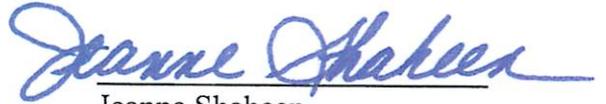
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator