

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2018

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write today to respectfully request that you reverse your budget recommendation to eliminate funding for the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) in FY 2020.

CNCS is our country's leading provider of grants that support national service and volunteerism. Through programs like AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, CNCS engages more than 300,000 national service participants at more than 50,000 locations across the country each year. CNCS participants also recruit and manage millions of additional volunteers. Working hand in hand with thousands of nonprofit organizations—including the American Red Cross, City Year, Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, United Way, Catholic Charities, and Teach For America—these patriotic Americans make our country a better place. They respond to natural disasters, fight the opioid epidemic, conserve our natural lands, help veterans transition to civilian life, help seniors live independently, build safe and affordable houses, and mentor vulnerable children.

Additionally, CNCS increases economic opportunity, and is a smart investment in our country's future. A study by economists at Columbia University found that for every dollar invested in national service, there is a \$3.95 return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased economic output, and other community benefits. A CNCS report found that unemployed individuals who volunteer are 27 percent more likely to secure employment than those who do not volunteer. And, since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1993, more than 1 million AmeriCorps members have used the program to develop skills that make them more employable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

Most importantly, at this time of partisan fury, national service is the way we will recover our sense of common citizenship in our democratic republic. We should be doing everything we can to encourage the important work CNCS does. While we recognize our country's difficult fiscal situation, eliminating CNCS is not a responsible way to reduce the national debt or deficit. We urge you to ensure that in FY 2020, CNCS receives sufficient funding to best serve the American people.

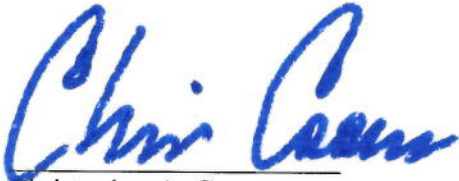
Sincerely,



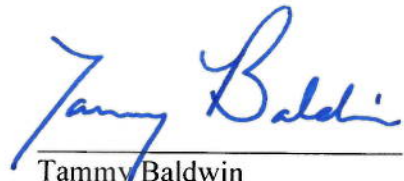
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy M.D.  
United States Senator



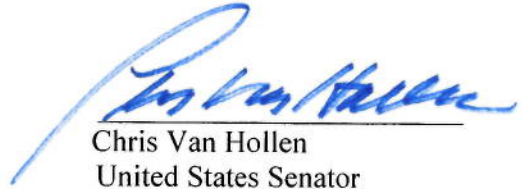
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



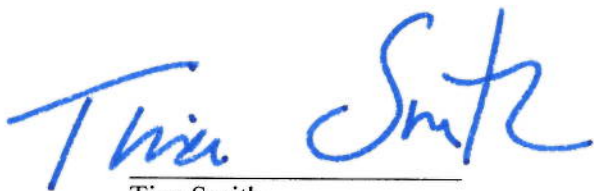
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



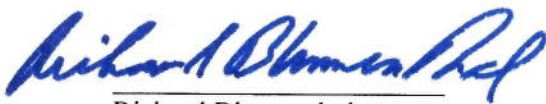
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator