

## NATIONAL CALL TO SERVICE RESOLUTION

Expressing the joint sense of Congress for a National Call to Service to support COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery.

Whereas the Global COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated the inequalities across the United States;

Whereas National Public Service and volunteerism demonstrates indispensable dedication and expertise on the frontlines of the pandemic;

Whereas National Public Service directly contributes to the progress the United States has achieved through times of war and peace, recession and prosperity, and global instability and uncertainty;

Whereas, since their inception, volunteerism through the AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors national service programs have proven to be a highly effective way—

(1) to answer the “Call to Service”

(2) to engage the people of the United States in meeting a wide range of local and national needs; and

(2) to promote the ethics of service and national volunteerism;

Whereas, each year, nearly 270,000 individuals serve in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors at 40,000 locations across the United States to give back in an intensive way to communities, States, Tribal nations, and the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors funds have been invested in nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based groups, and those funds leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in outside funding and in-kind donations each year;

Whereas AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have provided millions of hours of service nationwide, helping—

(1) to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people of the United States;

(2) to protect the environment;

(3) to contribute to public safety;

(4) to respond to disasters;

(5) to strengthen the educational system of the United States; and

(6) to expand economic opportunity;

Whereas AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers recruit and supervise millions of community volunteers, demonstrating the value of AmeriCorps as a powerful force for encouraging people to become involved in volunteering and community service;

Whereas, for more than 5 decades, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs have played an important role in strengthening communities by sharing their experience, knowledge, and accomplishments with the individuals they serve;

Whereas, since 1994, more than 1,200,000 individuals have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to “get things done for America” by becoming AmeriCorps members through the AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for the service of those members, have earned more than \$4,000,000,000 to use to further their own educational advancement at colleges and universities across the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps is a proven pathway to employment, providing members with valuable career skills, experience, and contacts to prepare them for the 21st century workforce and to help close the skills gap in the United States;

Whereas, in 2009, Congress passed the bipartisan Serve America Act ([Public Law 111–13](#); 123 Stat. 1460), which authorized the expansion of national service, expanded opportunities to serve, increased efficiency and accountability, and strengthened the capacity of organizations and communities to solve problems;

Whereas the bipartisan Serve America Act established a National “Call to Service” campaign, directing the corporation to encourage all people of the United states, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic states, to engage in full- or part-time national service, long or short-term public service in the nonprofit sector or government, or volunteering.

Whereas the “Call to Service” established by the bipartisan Serve America Act empowered the corporation to collaborate with other Federal agencies and entities, State Commissions, Governors, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, businesses, institutions of higher education, elementary schools and secondary schools.

Where as national service programs have engaged millions of people in the United States in results-driven service in the most vulnerable communities of the United States, providing hope and help to individuals with economic and social needs; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the joint sense of Congress that—

- (1) A National “Call to Service” encourages volunteerism as the United States looks to recover from the Global COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (2) A National “Call to Service” demonstrates the best of the spirit of the United States, with people turning toward problems and working together to find community solutions; and
- (3) A National “Call to Service” provides an opportunity to advance volunteerism and help the United States build back better.