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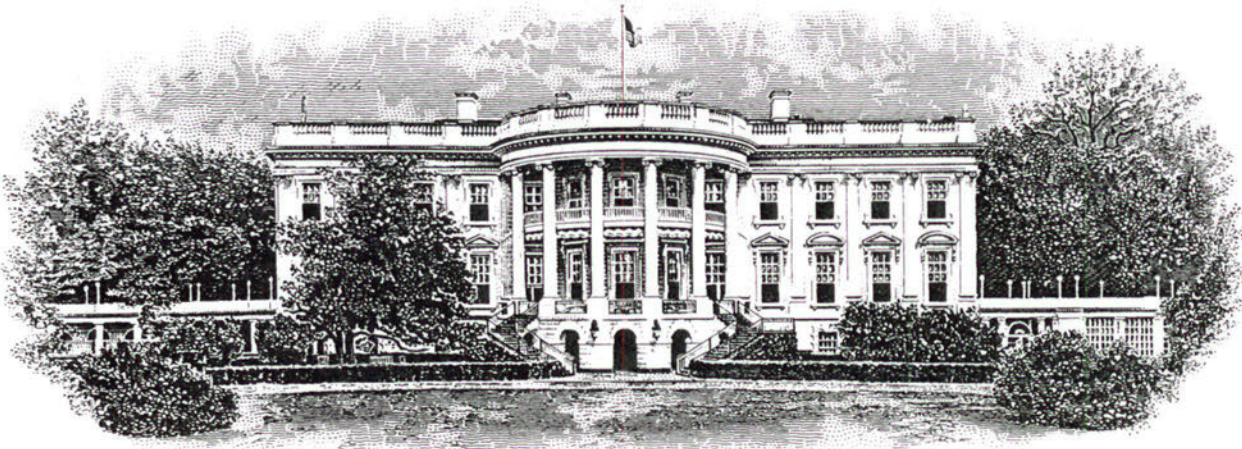
National Service Presentation



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The White House



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Briefing
Reauthorization of the National and Community Service Act

Room 450 OEOB
3:00-4:00 p.m.

Doris Matsui
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director of Public Liaison

Harris Wofford
The Corporation for National Service
Chief Executive Officer

Nick Bollman
The Irvine Foundation

Stephen B. Silverman
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director of Cabinet Affairs

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and enactment the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998." This legislative proposal extends and amends national service laws, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. It builds upon the long, bipartisan tradition of service in our country, which was renewed in 1993 when I signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating the Corporation for National Service.

Service to one's community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. Citizen service is at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives and to help those in need. The Presidents' Summit for America's Future held in Philadelphia last April reinforced the role of programs supported by the Corporation for National Service as key vehicles to provide young people with the resources to maximize their potential and give back to their communities.

My Administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, the national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve their country. By tying opportunity to responsibility, we have given them the chance to serve and, in return, receive money for post-secondary education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proven that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs. For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped 2nd graders jump three grade levels in reading. In Boys and Girls Clubs all across the country, AmeriCorps members will soon be serving as mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to bring in more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild homes and restore hope. AmeriCorps members are helping to mobilize thousands of college students from more than 900 college campuses in our America Reads program. In all of these efforts, AmeriCorps brings together people of every background to work toward common goals.

Independent evaluators have reviewed AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service Corps programs, and Learn and Service America programs and have concluded that national service yields a positive return on investment. The legislation that I am transmitting builds on our experiences with national service to date and improves the national service program in four ways: (1) codifying agreements with Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service; (2) strengthening partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations; (3) increasing States' flexibility to administer national service programs; and (4) expanding opportunities for Americans to serve.

Since the enactment of the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993, and particularly since 1995, my Administration has worked with constructive critics of national service to address their concerns and improve the program. This legislation continues that process by reducing the Corporation's average budgeted cost per AmeriCorps member, repealing authority for redundant or obsolete national service programs, and making other improvements in the efficiency of national service programs.

National service has never been a substitute for the contributions made by the millions of Americans who volunteer their time to worthy causes every year. Rather, as leaders of volunteer organizations have told me many times, national service has proven that the presence of full-time, trained service participants enhances tremendously the effectiveness of volunteers. This legislation strengthens the partnership between the national service programs and traditional volunteer organizations; codifies the National Service Scholarship program honoring exemplary service by high school students; and

expands the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships, through which national service participants can gain education awards. The legislation also authorizes appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 explicitly conceived of service as a Federal-State partnership. Significant authority was vested in bipartisan State Commissions appointed by the Governors. Consistent with our goal of turning power back to the people, I promised that we would accelerate the process of devolution as the newly-created State Commissions expanded their capacities. This legislation fulfills that promise in a variety of ways, including authority to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a State.

The changes proposed in this legislation provide expanded opportunities for Americans to serve. By reducing the cost per AmeriCorps member, this legislation allows each dollar invested in the program to go further. This legislation broadens the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities. It simplifies the administration of Learn and Serve America, so States and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

Two months ago, I had the opportunity to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by engaging in service on the holiday commemorating his birth. I joined sixty-five AmeriCorps members and more than 300 community volunteers in repairing and re-painting Cardozo High School in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, DC. Thirty-one years ago, Dr. King came to that very neighborhood and urged the people there to engage in citizen service to rebuild their lives, their community, and their future. That is what those national service participants, and the thousands more who were participating in similar projects across the country, were doing -- honoring the legacy of Dr. King and answering the highest calling of citizenship in this country.

Each of the more than 500,000 participants in the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and 750,000 participants in programs supported by Learn and Serve America, and every AmeriCorps member answers that highest calling of citizenship when they make and fulfill a commitment to service in their communities. This legislation builds on the successes of these programs and improves them for the future.

I urge the Congress to give this legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 19, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS ON CONGRESS TO EXTEND NATIONAL SERVICE

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Joins Hill Lawmakers to Announce Bipartisan Measure Providing Millions of Americans the Opportunity to Serve

Today, President Clinton sent to Congress a bill to extend national service into the 21st century, creating the opportunity for millions more Americans to serve their communities. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined a bipartisan group of legislators on Capitol Hill to announce the bill, which reauthorizes the Corporation for National Service and its three initiatives -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps - for five years.

The Corporation for National Service was created in 1993, with bipartisan support from the President and Congress. Working in partnership with community-based national service programs, national and local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and others, the Corporation involves more than one million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that meets vital community needs.

"In community after community, people are coming together in service to meet our most vital social needs," said President Clinton. "Those of us in Washington should be able to come together in that same spirit to support this legislation to create more opportunities for Americans to serve. Serving others is at the heart of what it means to be an American."

"Since 1993, millions of Americans have answered the call of service, and the results can be seen across the country in better schools, safer streets, healthier children and a cleaner environment," said Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the Corporation. "By creating opportunities for millions more to serve, this bill will take citizen problem-solving to the next level and help usher in a new century of service."

Thousands of communities across America have discovered that national service is an effective strategy for meeting vital needs in education, public safety, health, the environment and other human needs. The experience of these communities - and the conclusion of several independent evaluations - is that national service:

* Meets community needs. National service participants run after-school programs, respond to disasters, work with local police to make neighborhoods safer, restore watersheds, build and repair housing and care for the elderly.

* Improves the lives of children and youth, while providing opportunities to serve. From Foster Grandparents who mentor more than 80,000 children, to AmeriCorps members who taught, tutored or mentored more than 600,000 youth last year, to Learn and Serve America which provides opportunities for students to learn while giving back to their communities, national service is making a difference in the lives of children and youth.

* Strengthens existing community service and volunteer efforts. National service invests in successful community-based organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the American Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity, and hundreds of local groups, by providing trained, dedicated people who commit to sustained service and expand the organizations' impact. Last year, national service members recruited, trained, and supervised more than 300,000 volunteers - making the organizations they serve stronger and more efficient.

The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998 builds on this track record by extending for five years the three national service initiatives: AmeriCorps, which this year provides educational opportunities to more than 40,000 people in exchange for intensive service in non-profit and faith-based groups; Learn and Serve America, which engages a half million students of all ages in service-learning that improves academic learning and meets community needs; and the National Senior Service Corps, which taps the experience of more than half a million older Americans to help solve community problems who serve as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers. The legislation also reauthorizes appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation for five years.

The legislation makes a number of changes to allow more Americans to serve, gives states and communities more flexibility to administer service programs, strengthens partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations and increases efficiency of national service programs.

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AMERICORPS...

"AmeriCorps is doing a lot of good things around this country. They're leveraging up other volunteers who come in to work with AmeriCorps."

— General Colin Powell

"It is a big help to disaster victims to work with motivated, self-sufficient young AmeriCorps members who will be in the community long after the TV cameras have been turned off and interest has flagged."

— James Lee Witt, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

"These kids, they're bright, they're clean-cut, they are wonderful role models. It's really the best program I know of, and I would commend it to every community."

— Mayor Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina

"Well, four years after the President launched AmeriCorps, and two years after Congress moved in for the kill, it's alive and kicking. The value of full-time, low-pay service a la AmeriCorps and its precursors—Peace Corps and VISTA—is being celebrated at the Presidents' Summit. Now it's time to dramatically expand these programs."

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

"AmeriCorps has helped turn around one of the most troubled parts of our city. The neighborhood has come together, crime is down, and families can use the parks in safety. The partnership of national service and community policing is a winner for Kansas City."

— Steven C. Bishop, Police Chief
Kansas City, Missouri

"We have found AmeriCorps to be an enormously beneficial addition to the traditional voluntary sector... Rather than replacing volunteers or diminishing volunteerism, we are finding over and over again that national service participants are helping draw more volunteers into service in communities across the country."

— Leaders of twenty-four national nonprofit organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCA/YWCA, AARP, and the Girl Scouts

"During my twenty-five years of experience with Atlanta's public schools, I have observed a lot of 'new' programs, but the positive experience that AmeriCorps has had on this school far exceeds anything I have experienced."

— Don Doran, Principal,
Benteen Elementary School
Atlanta, Georgia

"I do want to suggest one Clinton agenda item that Christians ought to be proud of, and support—the AmeriCorps program. Instead of giving away grants, the AmeriCorps program enables young people to get the financial help they need for education by working for it in programs that are cutting back on urban crime, cleaning up the environment, and improving education in urban schools."

— Tony Campolo, Evangelist and Author

"Every taxpayers' dollar we spend on AmeriCorps comes back threefold, when we add up the value of your innovative ideas, your physical labor, and all of the skills you bring to the workforce when you finish your education.... It is one of the most intelligent uses of taxpayers' dollars ever."

— Governor William Weld, Massachusetts

"As AmeriCorps members gain in construction skill, our affiliates are able to expand the number of occasional volunteers through increased capacity to supervise and manage volunteers.... We at Habitat for Humanity feel privileged and honored to have the AmeriCorps people with us, and we want more of them as time goes on."

— Millard Fuller, Founder, Habitat for Humanity

The National Service Reauthorization Proposal

Key Principles

Expand opportunities for Americans to serve

- Reduces the cost per AmeriCorps member, allowing each dollar invested in the program to go further.
- Supports innovative national service programs like the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships and the high-school National Service Scholarships, promoting new opportunities for individuals to participate in national service.
- Broadens the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities.
- Simplifies the administration of Learn and Serve America, so states and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

Provide states additional flexibility to administer national service programs

- Creates authority to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a state. The authority will be used selectively and voluntarily, will be tailored to the circumstances of those states wishing to participate and will incorporate performance goals and indicators.
- Increases the minimum amount of AmeriCorps population formula grant per State Commission is from \$450,000 to \$500,000.
- Increases the minimum grant for State Commission administration from \$125,000 to \$200,000.
- Reduces matching requirements for State Commission administration.
- Provides for greater coordination between State Commissions and Learn and Serve programs in a state.
- Provides for greater coordination between Governors State Commissions and AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps projects in a state.

Strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations

- Makes recruiting, training, and supervising unpaid volunteers by AmeriCorps members an explicit priority. Currently, AmeriCorps members -- on average -- "generate" at least 12 community volunteers in this way.
- Codifies the National Service Scholarships program honoring exemplary service by high school students.
- Expands the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships through which national service participants, supported almost entirely by national non-profits, religious groups, or other organizations, can access education awards.
- Authorizes Congressional appropriations to the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.
- Highlights representatives of the volunteer sector as potential members of the Governor-appointed State Commissions on National Service.
- Encourages cost-sharing agreements for AmeriCorps*VISTA in which sponsors pay most of the costs associated with the participant.
- Adds to the purpose of the AmeriCorps*VISTA program ensuring the long-term sustainability of program activities after direct support to an organization ends.
- Allows some Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program participants to serve as leaders in recruiting, training, and supervising other unpaid volunteers; and provides these National Senior Service Corps programs with the flexibility to explore other service options and opportunities.

Codify agreements with Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service

- Repeals authority for five redundant or obsolete national service programs, including explicit authority for AmeriCorps grants to federal agencies.
- Shrinks the Corporation's average budgeted costs per AmeriCorps member to \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) beginning in 1999.
- Simplifies administration of Learn and Serve America.
- Expands the number of schools at which AmeriCorps members can use their education awards.
- Broadens the age and income eligibility for Senior Corps participants.

A Resolution of the New England Governors' Conference, Inc.

***Reauthorization of Programs
Administered by the
Corporation for National Service***

RESOLUTION NUMBER 140

- WHEREAS**, the citizens of New England have benefited in a variety of ways from the important contribution made by the service programs of the Corporation for National Service in partnership with the states of the region; and
- WHEREAS**, New England states have profited from the power and promise of citizen service and traditional volunteers through the efforts of 90,000 New Englanders who serve our states each day through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps programs of the Corporation for National Service; and
- WHEREAS**, New England states have been assisted by the Corporation for National Service programs that use service as a strategy to improve the quality of life in the region; and
- WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps members and National Senior Service Corps volunteers have improved education achievement, enhanced our environment, made our neighborhoods safer, and addressed other human needs; and
- WHEREAS**, the students in Learn and Serve America have been afforded the opportunity to serve their communities and reflect on the meaning of that service; and
- WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps and the other programs supported by the Corporation for National Service have provided critical resources to our states; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed reauthorization legislation, entitled the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998 will devolve more authority and greater flexibility to states in the implementation of programs funded by the Corporation for National Service; and
- WHEREAS**, the existing distribution of AmeriCorps grant funds, two-thirds for AmeriCorps State and one-third for AmeriCorps National, is retained in the proposed legislation; and
- WHEREAS**, New England has benefited substantially from the law's existing allocation of state funds which redistribute one-half through formula and one-half through national competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governors of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, through their New England Governors' Conference, Inc., urge their respective Congressional delegations and the Congress to support the National Community Service Amendments Act of 1998, reauthorizing the Corporation for National Service, to support the bill's devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states and state commissions, to support the bill's directives that AmeriCorps State funds provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection, and particularly to support the bill's continuation of the existing 50/50 state funds distribution between formula and nationally competitive AmeriCorps grant funds.

ADOPTION CERTIFIED BY THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, INC. on February 24, 1998.


Jeanne Shaheen
Governor of New Hampshire
Chairman

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Build on the Success of National Service

March 12, 1998

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us as an original co-sponsor of the *National and Community Service Amendment Act of 1998*.

This bill will reauthorize national service programs, including AmeriCorps, the Foster Grandparents program, AmeriCorps VISTA, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Learn and Serve, the Senior Companions Program, and the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC); as well as the Points of Light Foundation.

The National and Community Service Amendment Act will also make needed changes and improvements to the current programs by:

- Shrinking the Corporation's average budgeted cost per AmeriCorps member to \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) beginning in fiscal year 1999 (FY 99);
- Repealing five redundant or obsolete national service programs;
- Providing greater flexibility to States and local communities in implementing national service programs;
- Eliminating the alternative cash benefit for AmeriCorps NCCC members; and
- Encouraging cost sharing agreements for AmeriCorps VISTA program — where sponsors pay most of the cost of the participant.

In the last three years, approximately 70,000 AmeriCorps members have served their communities in every state and every district in this country. A recent evaluation by President Ford's Commissioner of Education examined the activities of AmeriCorps Members in the class of 1996 and found they had:

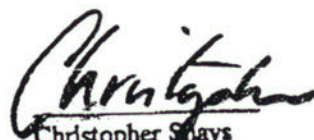
- Taught, tutored, or mentored over 600,000 students;
- Ran violence-prevention after-school programs for 85,000 youth;
- Collected, organized and distributed over 15 million pounds of food and clothing;
- Helped over 70,000 homeless people find shelter;
- Built or rehabilitated over 5,600 houses and housing units;
- Provided over 1 million people with health care information; and
- Planted more than 24 million trees.

By coordinating and recruiting other volunteers, National Service participants are able to implement lasting results in communities throughout the country.

Join us in cosponsoring this legislation to build on the successes of these programs. Deadline to be an original cosponsor is close of business Tuesday, March 17. Please call Audrey Williams (Andrews) at x5-6501 or Kristin Miller (Shays) at x5-5541.

Sincerely,


Robert Andrews
Member of Congress


Christopher Shays
Member of Congress


Tim Roemer
Member of Congress


James Walsh
Member of Congress

**SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS
NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998**

**TITLE I - AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT
OF 1990**

Sec. 101. Section 101 provides that references in Title I are to the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et. seq.) (NCSA).

SUBTITLE A - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE A (GENERAL PROVISIONS)

Sec. 111. Section 111 adds a reference to service-learning to the Act's statement of purposes.

Sec. 112. Section 112 amends or adds definitions of terms used in Title I of the Act.

**SUBTITLE B - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE B (SCHOOL-BASED AND
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS)**

Sec. 121. Section 121 identifies the State educational agency as the primary vehicle to receive school-based assistance but provides that States may apply through a State Commission instead. Section 121 also authorizes assistance to be used for training and technical assistance.

Sec. 122. Section 122 streamlines applications for school-based service-learning programs by removing authority for entities other than States (and U.S. Territories and Indian Tribes, which may apply separately under section 130) to apply for school-based assistance.

Sec. 123. Section 123 provides for school-based assistance to States, after allocation for Territories and Tribes, to be made 70 percent on a formula basis and 30 percent on a competitive basis and authorizes each State to receive at least \$100,000 per year in formula school-based assistance.

Sec. 124. Section 124 requires States to select school-based subgrantees on a competitive basis.

Sec. 125. Section 125 provides that school-based grantees may use up to 25 percent of assistance to support capacity-building.

Sec. 126. Section 126 identifies the State Commission as the primary vehicle to receive community-based assistance but provides that States may apply through a State educational agency instead. Section 126 also streamlines applications for community-based service-learning programs by removing authority for entities other than States (and U.S. Territories and Indian Tribes, which may apply separately under section 130) to apply for community-based assistance.

Sec. 127. Section 127 provides that Subtitle B funds may be used to support clearinghouse activities and authorizes the Corporation to provide this assistance through entities other than public or private nonprofit organizations.

Sec. 128. Section 128 reserves up to three percent of school-based and community-based funds for U.S. Territories and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 129. Section 129 provides authority to support multi-State, demonstration, and other activities to grantmaking entities, institutions of higher education, subdivisions of States, and other qualified organizations to improve or expand service-learning programs.

Sec. 130. Section 130 incorporates service-learning into the purposes of higher education assistance and provides that State Commissions and State agencies for higher education may apply along with institutions of higher education.

SUBTITLE C - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE C (NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST PROGRAM)

Sec. 141. Section 141 prohibits grants to Federal agencies. Section 141 also provides for limits on the Corporation's share of average budgeted costs per participant serving in an AmeriCorps national service position.

Sec. 142. Section 142 provides for training and technical assistance for all programs receiving assistance or an allotment of AmeriCorps positions under the national service laws.

Sec. 143. Section 143 provides that each State may receive a minimum of \$200,000 per year to support the operation of its State Commission, reduces matching fund requirements related to the costs of operating a State Commission, and removes authority to provide challenge grants.

Sec. 144. Section 144 authorizes States to receive a minimum formula allotment of \$500,000. Section 144 also provides that funds to increase the participation of persons with disabilities may be used in connection with any national service program. Section 144 also provides that training and technical assistance may be provided to any national service program. Section 144 also reserves up to \$15 million to provide limited operational assistance to education award programs and provides authority to waive requirements in connection with education award programs.

Sec. 145. Section 145 provides for the consideration of a grant applicant's ability to generate volunteers.

Sec. 146. Section 146 provides that participants selected and trained by the Corporation to serve in leadership capacities are to be considered Federal employees for purposes relating to compensation for service-related injuries and relating to tort claims liability and procedure.

Sec. 147. Section 147 clarifies the required process for a participant to receive a pro-rated educational award.

Sec. 148. Section 148 provides for adjustments to the living allowance provided to AmeriCorps participants in Subtitle C programs.

Sec. 149. Section 149 provides the Corporation with authority to waive specified matching fund requirements and restrictions on uses of funds.

SUBTITLE D – AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE D (NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST AND PROVISION OF NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS)

Sec. 151. Section 151 provides that funds in the National Service Trust may be used to support national service scholarships and to pay for the cost of administering the Trust.

Sec. 152. Section 152 provides the Corporation with authority to set a minimum age other than 17 for eligibility for the national service educational award, clarifies requirements for a participant to receive a pro-rated educational award, and provides that an individual may receive no more than the aggregate value of two educational awards.

Sec. 153. Section 153 provides that the educational award may be used to pay for attendance at educational institutions that meet the requirements of the GI Bill and to repay specified student loans. Section 153 also clarifies the relationship between the educational award and other student financial aid.

Sec. 154. Section 154 authorizes funds in the National Service Trust to be used to support a national service scholarship program.

SUBTITLE E - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE E (NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS)

Sec. 161. Section 161 provides for the inclusion of disaster relief in the statement of purpose.

Sec. 162. Section 162 provides authority to operate a non-residential NCCC summer program.

Sec. 163. Section 163 provides for an increase in the minimum age for Corps members from 16 to 18 years.

Sec. 164. Section 164 provides for the use of Corps members with prior supervisory experience as Team Leaders.

Sec. 165. Section 165 provides for consultation by the NCCC with State Commissions in the development of project proposals and emphasizes projects addressing the environment and disaster relief efforts.

Sec. 166. Section 166 provides that the educational award constitutes the only authorized form of post-service benefits to NCCC Corps Members.

Sec. 167. Section 167 provides for the Chief Executive Officer to appoint members of the NCCC's permanent cadre.

Sec. 168. Section 168 provides for the NCCC advisory board to include the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and a representative from the nonprofit community, and to report to both the Chief Executive Officer and the NCCC Director.

SUBTITLE F - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE F (ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS)

Sec. 171. Section 171 modifies the participant grievance procedure.

Sec. 172. Section 172 provides for a process to resolve displacement complaints.

Sec. 173. Section 173 provides for agreements with Governors to improve the delivery of national service programs in a State, with the Corporation given authority to waive specific requirements and to delegate to Governors specific functions.

SUBTITLE G - AMENDMENTS TO SUBTITLE G (CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE)

Sec. 181. Section 181 provides for members of the Corporation's Board of Directors to serve until a successor takes office.

Sec. 182. Section 182 provides for the use of peer reviewers in evaluating applications for assistance under Title I of the Act.

Sec. 183. Section 183 removes staffing specifications at the Assistant Director level.

SUBTITLE H - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE III (POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION)

Sec. 191. Section 191 authorizes the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer to serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the Points of Light Foundation.

**SUBTITLE I - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE V (AUTHORIZATION OF
APPROPRIATIONS)**

Sec. 196. Section 196 extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2002 for all NCSA programs and allocates funds for various purposes.

TITLE II - AMENDMENTS TO THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973

Sec. 201. Section 201 provides that references in Title I are to the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA) (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.).

SUBTITLE A - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE I (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS)

Sec. 211. Section 211 provides for the VISTA statement of purpose to include the long-term sustainability of assisted organizations.

Sec. 212. Section 212 removes a staffing specification at the Assistant Director level.

Sec. 213. Section 213 provides for flexibility in supporting the coordination of the Corporation's public awareness and recruitment activities under the national service laws.

Sec. 214. Section 214 provides for VISTA participants to receive information and support in making a post-service transition.

Sec. 215. Section 215 encourages the use of cost-sharing agreements.

Sec. 216. Section 216 limits VISTA participants to three years of service.

Sec. 217. Section 217 provides for a modified grievance procedure for participants.

Sec. 218. Section 218 increases the Corporation's authority to make grants and contracts on a competitive basis.

Sec. 219. Section 219 repeals authority for the VISTA Literacy Corps.

Sec. 220. Section 220 provides for selection of projects on the basis of merit and sustainability.

Sec. 221. Section 221 repeals authority for Special Volunteer Programs.

SUBTITLE B - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE II (NATIONAL SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS)

Sec. 231. Section 231 provides for programs supported under Title II to be called National Senior Service Corps."

Sec. 232. Section 232 adds an emphasis on community needs to the statement of purpose.

Sec. 233. Section 233 authorizes incentives to Retired and Senior Volunteer Program participants, who make a substantial commitment to serve in a leadership capacity, to help defray the costs of volunteering. Section 233 also eliminates review of Corporation funding decisions by State agencies on aging.

Sec. 234. Section 234 reduces the minimum age for Foster Grandparent participants from 60 to 55.

Sec. 235. Section 235 clarifies the role of Foster Grandparents in determining appropriate services for beneficiaries and provides for replacement of Foster Grandparents.

Sec. 236. Section 236 provides for an increase from 125 to 150 percent of the poverty line in determining whether individuals are considered "low-income" for purposes of the Foster Grandparent program.

Sec. 237. Section 237 provides for increased flexibility for persons who are not "low-income" to participate in the Foster Grandparent program.

Sec. 238. Section 238 provides for the participation of Foster Grandparents with leadership abilities to coordinate and otherwise support other Foster Grandparents.

Sec. 239. Section 239 reduces the minimum age for Senior Companion participants from 60 to 55.

Sec. 240. Section 240 provides for the participation of Senior Companions with leadership abilities to coordinate and otherwise support other Senior Companions.

Sec. 241. Section 241 provides additional flexibility for the Corporation to support the expansion of existing programs to address needs of national significance.

SUBTITLE C - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE IV (ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION)

Sec. 251. Section 251 provides family and medical leave benefits for VISTA participants.

Sec. 252. Section 252 provides additional flexibility for the Corporation to coordinate its evaluation activities under both national service laws.

SUBTITLE D - AMENDMENTS TO TITLE V (AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS)

Section 261. Section 261 extends the authorization of funding through fiscal year 2002 for VISTA programs and allocates funds for various purposes.

Section 262. Section 262 extends the authorization of funding through fiscal year 2002 for the Senior Corps programs.

Section 263. Section 263 provides the authorization of funding to support the Corporation's administration of the DVSA.

Section 264. Section 264 provides the authorization of funding to support the Corporation's evaluation of DVSA programs.

TITLE III - TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sections 301 - 315. Sections 301 through 315 provide for technical and conforming amendments to various provisions of the NCSA and DVSA.

TITLE IV - AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

Sections 401 - 405. Sections 401 through 405 provide for technical amendments to other laws.

TITLE V - EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 501. Section 501 provides that the amendments will be effective on the date of enactment.

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NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

PURPOSE

The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998 will extend and amend national service law, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, to further the Corporation's mission.

The legislation would reauthorize appropriations for the major national service programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2002. These programs include:

- AmeriCorps, including (1) AmeriCorps*State, which provides grants to State Commissions on National and Community Service appointed by Governors; AmeriCorps*National, which provides direct grants to national organizations; (2) AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); and (3) AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).
- Learn and Serve America, including Elementary and Secondary Education, Community-Based, and Higher Education programs.
- The National Senior Service Corps, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program.
- The Points of Light Foundation.
- Demonstration, training and technical assistance, evaluations, and other support services necessary to provide for the infrastructure and quality improvement necessary to enable national service programs to be of the highest possible quality.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE BILL

Consistent with the Federal-State partnership through which national service has operated since 1993 and the recommendations of the Vice President's National Performance Review, a new authority -- Service Collaboration Agreements -- will provide a means for devolving the planning and administration of the Corporation's national service programs in a State. The authority will be used selectively and voluntarily, and tailored to the circumstances of those States wishing to participate. Service agreements will be made with Governors and will incorporate performance goals and indicators.

Changes affecting AmeriCorps*State and National include:

- Explicit authority for making AmeriCorps grants to Federal agencies is removed.
- Recruiting, training, and supervising unpaid volunteers by AmeriCorps members is made an explicit priority.
- The Corporation's average budgeted costs per AmeriCorps member is reduced; the ceiling is \$16,000 for programs funded in fiscal year 1998 and \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) thereafter. Waivers of matching requirements are authorized.

- AmeriCorps Leaders are brought under Federal workers compensation and tort claims liability laws.
- Enhanced waiver authority is provided to allow the Corporation to test innovative approaches to national service.
- The minimum amount of AmeriCorps formula grant funds per State is increased from \$450,000 to \$500,000. The minimum grant for State Commission administration is increased from \$125,000 to \$200,000, and matching requirements are reduced.
- The “education-award-only” approach is expanded by authorizing the use of Subtitle C funds for this purpose.

Changes affecting the **AmeriCorps*NCCC** program include:

- Response to natural disasters is added as a purpose of NCCC.
- A non-residential summer program is authorized.
- The minimum age for AmeriCorps*NCCC membership is raised from 16 to 18 (except for summer programs).
- The alternative cash benefit for AmeriCorps*NCCC members is eliminated.

Changes affecting the **National Service Trust** include:

- Expanding the definitions of eligible institutions of higher education and qualified student loans.
- Clarifying the relationship between the education award and other student financial aid.
- Clarifying that no more than two full-time education awards or their equivalent in part-time education awards may be earned.
- Authorizing use of the National Service Trust for scholarships honoring exemplary service by high school students.
- Permitting the use of Trust funds for purposes related to administering AmeriCorps members’ accounts.

Changes affecting **AmeriCorps*VISTA** include:

- The purpose is clarified to emphasize promoting sustainable activities in communities.
- Members are eligible for family and medical leave benefits.
- Cost-sharing with sponsoring organizations is explicitly encouraged.
- Service by an individual is limited to three years, with an education award available for no more than two years of service.

Changes affecting **Learn and Serve America** include:

- Funds available for capacity building activities under Learn and Serve America School-Based programs are increased from 10-15 percent to a maximum of 25 percent of funds distributed by formula.
- Funds distribution for elementary and secondary education programs to States is established at 70 percent via formula and 30 percent on a competitive basis. The minimum grant amount per State is increased to \$100,000, and States are required to distribute funds competitively.
- State Commissions on National and Community Service and State Higher Education Boards, in partnership with institutions of higher education, are added as eligible applicants for Learn and Serve America Higher Education programs.
- Service-learning is designated a fundamental purpose of Higher Education programs.
- Authority for supporting multi-State programs, demonstrations, and activities to improve the quality of service-learning programs is added.
- States are given explicit authority to designate a single State entity to administer Learn and Serve America school-based and community-based programs in the State.

Changes affecting the **National Senior Service Corps** include:

- The impact of senior service within communities is emphasized.
- The minimum age for Senior Corps participants is made uniform across all three Senior Corps programs at 55 years.
- The ability to provide incentives for a Leaders program under the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is added; meeting community needs is added as a purpose; and a 45-day period for review of certain RSVP grants is eliminated.
- For the Foster Grandparent Program, authority for Leaders is included; eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of Federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs of national significance is simplified.
- The changes in the Senior Companion Program are comparable to those provided for the Foster Grandparent Program. Eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs of national significance is simplified.

Changes affecting **all streams of national service programs** include:

- Authorities for supplemental and outreach grants for individuals with disabilities is extended to all AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps programs.
- Training and technical assistance authorities are also extended to all programs supported by the Corporation.

Administrative and technical changes include:

- Clarifying the role of the Corporation's appointed representatives to State Commissions; revising participant hearing and grievance procedures; and permitting a Member of the Board of Directors to serve until a replacement is appointed.
- Repeal of various redundant or obsolete authorities, including the VISTA Literacy Corps; certain Special Volunteer Programs; and Challenge Grants for National Service Programs under the National and Community Service Trust Act.
- Removal of a requirement limiting the use of AmeriCorps*VISTA members to support Senior Corps programs, and removal of a redundant requirement mandating a minimum number of AmeriCorps*VISTA service years.

Appropriations earmarked for the **Points of Light Foundation** are reauthorized for five years. The Points of Light Foundation has worked closely with the Corporation on several joint initiatives, including co-sponsorship of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia.

Authority for appropriations is provided as follows:

- For fiscal years 1998-2002, such sums as are necessary.

March 18, 1998



Dear National Service Colleague,

Tomorrow, the President forwards legislation to the Congress reauthorizing AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps. As partners in these initiatives, I want to salute you for your outstanding efforts that have strengthened communities, rewarded responsibility, and expanded opportunities for millions of Americans. Your leadership has demonstrated that service is a strategy that can help to solve some of the nation's most intractable problems. But we have work still ahead of us to secure the future vitality of national service and community volunteering.

National service has flourished. Thanks to the work of our partners in the nonprofit, public and private sectors and, above all, to the participants who themselves serve, AmeriCorps has grown to its largest size and is recognized in more and more communities for the quality of service rendered. This includes the hundreds of state and national grant programs and both the Volunteers in Service to America (AmeriCorps★VISTA) and National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps★NCCC). Learn and Serve America is at the forefront of the expanding service-learning movement. Our senior service programs are winning greater recognition for their impact in solving community problems, which is part of the reason that the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), the Senior Companion Program (SCP), and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) have received significant increases in funding.

There have also been program and process innovations that strengthen the impact and broaden the reach of national service:

America Reads, the nationwide literacy initiative to ensure that every child can read by the end of the third grade is assisting national service and community volunteer efforts in local reading programs in every state.

The rapid growth of our education awards program to about 14,000 new low-cost AmeriCorps positions with nonprofit and faith-based groups is a model of how national service can grow in effectiveness in the private sector while drastically reducing federal per-member cost.

The National Service Scholarship Program which recognizes outstanding service by our nation's high school juniors and seniors has been funded by Congress and matched by a host of community foundations, local businesses, and religious and civic organizations to support scholarships in up to 10,000 high schools.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

And, the Presidents' Summit for America's Future held last April in Philadelphia focused attention on the need for a new level of concerted citizen action to turn the tide for millions of young people. In support of the post-Summit campaign for America's Promise led by General Colin Powell, national service is playing an active role in achieving the five goals set at the Summit, with a particular focus on the fifth ... an opportunity for all young people to give back through their own service.

Despite these and other successes, national service is too often misunderstood. Too many people persist in the belief that it is a top down, Washington-run program that is expensive and unable to reach its stated goals. By paying "volunteers", the detractors say, national service undermines the traditional volunteer sector. In fact,

National service is locally-driven --- operating through partnerships with states, nonprofits, foundations, and businesses in which local programs select their participants and run their programs to meet focused community needs.

National service also operates through alliances with large national nonprofits and religious organizations. For instance, the largest partners in the AmeriCorps Education Awards program are faith-based organizations which support the service of over 5,000 AmeriCorps members.

National service is an increasingly efficient and effective investment of public and private resources. Per-participant costs have been reduced. And foundations, corporations, nonprofit organizations, city councils and state legislatures are using their resources to match the federal investment to bring service to bear on their most pressing social problems.

National service supports, rather than supplants, community volunteers. The Senior Corps programs deploy over a half a million volunteers in thousands of communities and have been doing so for over thirty years. Learn and Serve America is teaching the ethic ... and habit ... of service through service-learning in academic and community organizations in every state in the union. The newest member of the family, AmeriCorps, estimates that each member recruits and/or organizes an average of twelve community volunteers. As George Romney liked to say, national service and community volunteering are twin engines that need to pull together to get important things done for our communities.

The best answer to the doubters comes in the daily service of national service participants. Whether tutoring children to read, running after-school programs, building homes, restoring natural resources, or assisting victims of disaster, national service participants and the people they serve depend on our success in telling their story. We need to help a broader public understand how national service works, what national service has accomplished and how national service has become an integral part of community strategies for solving problems. We need to work together with you so that Americans of all ages and backgrounds are challenged and inspired --- and have the opportunity --- to serve.

With warm regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harris Wofford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harris" and last name "Wofford" clearly distinguishable.

Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer

March 18, 1998



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Chief Executive Officer

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Strategic Plan

Corporation for National Service



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 19, 1998

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am pleased to transmit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998." This legislative proposal extends and amends national service law, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. It builds upon the long, bipartisan tradition of service in our country, which was renewed in 1993 when I signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating the Corporation for National Service.

Service to one's community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. The Presidents' Summit for America's Future held in Philadelphia last April reinforced the role of programs supported by the Corporation for National Service as key vehicles to provide young people with the resources to maximize their potential and give back to their communities. Citizen service is also at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives and to help those in need.

My Administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, the national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve their country. By tying opportunity to responsibility, we have given them the chance to serve and, in return, earn money for post-secondary education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proven that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs. For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped second graders jump three grade levels in reading. In Boys and Girls Clubs, AmeriCorps members are mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to recruit more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild lives and restore hope. AmeriCorps members are helping to mobilize thousands of college students from more than 800 college campuses in our America Reads program. In all of these efforts, AmeriCorps brings together people of every background to work toward common goals.

Independent evaluators have reviewed AmeriCorps, National Senior Service Corps programs, and Learn and Service America programs and have concluded that national service yields a positive return on investment. The proposed legislation that I am transmitting builds on our experiences with national service to date and improves national service programs in four ways: (1) by codifying agreements with the Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service; (2) strengthening partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations; (3) increasing States' flexibility to administer national service programs; and (4) expanding opportunities for Americans to serve.

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(OVER)

Since the enactment of the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993, and particularly since 1995, my Administration has worked with constructive critics of national service to address their concerns and improve the overall program. This proposed legislation continues that process by reducing the Corporation's average budgeted cost per AmeriCorps member, repealing authority for redundant or obsolete national service programs, and making other improvements in the efficiency of national service programs.

National service has never been a substitute for the contributions made by the millions of Americans who volunteer their time to worthy causes every year. Rather, as leaders of volunteer organizations have often expressed, national service has proven that the presence of full-time, trained service participants enhances tremendously the effectiveness of volunteers. This proposed legislation will strengthen the partnership between the national service programs and traditional volunteer organizations; codify the National Service Scholarship program honoring exemplary service by high school students; and expand the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships, through which national service participants can access education awards. It also will authorize appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 explicitly conceived of national service as a Federal-State partnership. The Act vested significant authority in bipartisan State Commissions appointed by the Governors. I promised that we would accelerate the process of devolution as the newly created State Commissions expanded their capacities. This proposed legislation fulfills that promise in a variety of ways, including providing authority for the Corporation for National Service to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a State.

This proposed legislation will also provide additional service opportunities. By reducing the cost per AmeriCorps member, it will enable more people to serve; it will broaden the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities; and it will simplify the administration of Learn and Serve America, so States and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

This past January, I had the opportunity to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by engaging in service on the holiday commemorating his birth. I joined 65 AmeriCorps members and more than 300 community volunteers in repairing and repainting Cardozo High School in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Thirty-one years ago, Dr. King came to that very neighborhood and urged the people there to engage in citizen service to rebuild their lives, their community, and their future. That is what those national service participants, and the thousands more who were participating in similar projects across the country, were doing -- honoring the legacy of Dr. King and answering the high calling of citizenship in this country.

Each of the more than 500,000 participants in the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and the 750,000 participants in programs supported by Learn and Serve America, and every AmeriCorps member answers that high calling of citizenship

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when they make and fulfill a commitment to service in their communities. This proposed legislation builds on the successes of these programs and improves them for the future.

I urge the Congress to give this proposed legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 19, 1998.

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