February xx, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

As your constituent, I write to ask you to protect funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that administers national service programs such as AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. CNCS provides vital, cost-effective services to communities statewide/nationwide by harnessing the power of our state’s/nation’s most valuable resource - its people.

I am concerned regarding recent reports that there has been some initial consideration of eliminating CNCS and its vital programs in the FY 2018 budget proposal.

AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps participants are tutoring and mentoring struggling students, providing job training and other opportunities to returning veterans and military families, and coordinating relief and recovery efforts in areas affected by natural disasters. Unlike many federal grant programs, the federal investment in national service generates matching support from private, philanthropic and local sources. Every dollar invested in national service results in returns to society; higher earnings, increased outputs, and other community benefits.

Eliminating CNCS and its programs would deprive our state’s students, veterans, military families and victims of natural disasters from receiving much-needed services.

As Congress works on the FY 2017 and FY 2018 appropriations bills, I request that you fully fund and protect CNCS in the Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

At a time when states and communities face many challenges, the modest federal investment in CNCS provides a strong return for individuals, communities, and our nation. We need to fully fund this force for good in our state and country. I respectfully request that you fully support this proven, low-cost, high return investment.

Sincerely,