

# Americans Want To Serve. Private Sector Leaders Call on the President and Congress: Don't Close AmeriCorps Programs

To President Bush and Members of Congress:

We are writing to urge you to pass an immediate federal appropriation of \$200 million to restore funding for hundreds of AmeriCorps programs across our nation.

When Congress created AmeriCorps, it required that private dollars be used to match federal funds. The private sector rose to this challenge – generating nearly \$1 billion, helping to build more than 900 effective AmeriCorps programs, and inspiring untold volunteer hours.

This great public-private achievement is in grave jeopardy.

Last week, because of a series of bureaucratic missteps, hundreds of highly effective AmeriCorps programs were eliminated or drastically reduced.

AmeriCorps programs are closing. Young people who want to serve their country are being turned away. Communities, schools, and children are losing their AmeriCorps mentors, tutors, teachers, and builders.

Mr. President, we are inspired by your call for all Americans to be "citizens, not spectators." We urge you to request this vital emergency funding for AmeriCorps and to reiterate your call for an increase to 75,000 AmeriCorps members. And we urge Congress to support your request.

Please save these essential AmeriCorps programs that have done so much good for our communities.

We call on our fellow American citizens to let our nation's leaders know that they, too, support an expanded AmeriCorps – instead of one that will be greatly diminished.

Sincerely,

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