

Gov. Frank Murkowski
Alaska
Gov. Janet Napolitano
Arizona
Gov. Mike Huckabee
Arkansas
Gov. Gray Davis
California
Gov. John Rowland
Connecticut
Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware
Gov. Jeb Bush
Florida
Gov. Sonny Perdue
Georgia
Gov. Dirk Kempthorne
Idaho
Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Illinois
Gov. Frank O'Bannon
Indiana
Gov. Thomas Vilsack
Iowa
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas
Gov. Paul Patton
Kentucky
Gov. Mike Foster
Louisiana
Gov. John Baldacci
Maine
Gov. Robert Ehrlich
Maryland
Gov. Mitt Romney
Massachusetts
Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Michigan
Gov. Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota
Gov. Ronnie Musgrove
Mississippi
Gov. Bob Holden
Missouri
Gov. Judy Martz
Montana
Gov. Mike Johanns
Nebraska
Gov. Kenny Guinn
Nevada
Gov. James McGreevey
New Jersey
Gov. Bill Richardson
New Mexico
Gov. George Pataki
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Gov. Mike Easley
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Gov. Brad Henry
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Gov. Ted Kulongoski
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Gov. Edward Rendell
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Gov. Don Carcieri
Rhode Island
Gov. Phil Bedesen
Tennessee
Gov. Michael Leavitt
Utah
Gov. James Douglas
Vermont
Gov. Mark Warner
Virginia
Gov. Gary Locke
Washington
Gov. Bob Wise
West Virginia
Gov. Jim Doyle
Wisconsin
Gov. Dave Freudenthal
Wyoming

July 21, 2003

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

As strong supporters of America's national service programs, we are writing to urge you to help solve the crisis confronting AmeriCorps. This crisis is felt most directly by states and localities facing the imminent closure of hundreds of AmeriCorps programs. We hope you will do everything possible to ensure that these programs are not closed or drastically cut, that needed services continue to be provided by AmeriCorps members, and that we can continue to tap the idealism and patriotism of so many of our citizens who want to serve.

Your leadership on national service has helped to boost our nation's civic spirit and we appreciate that, in your 2004 budget request, you proposed that the number of AmeriCorps volunteers increase from 50,000 to 75,000. Since your 2002 State of the Union Address, when you called upon Americans to dedicate two years – or 4,000 hours – of their lives to serving their country, tens of thousands of Americans have responded by seeking new opportunities to serve their communities and their nation. Through AmeriCorps, among many other initiatives, these citizens have worked to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and homeland security.

Unfortunately, on June 16th the Corporation for National and Community Service announced dramatic and unprecedented cuts of approximately 50 to 90 percent to our states' AmeriCorps programs and corps member slots. We are very pleased that, following this announcement and under the leadership of Senators Bond and Mikulski, Congress acted quickly to pass the Strengthen AmeriCorps Act, which will alleviate some of this devastation and correct the Corporation's management of the National Service Trust. This legislation is an important first step towards assuring fiscal accountability, increasing the enrollment of AmeriCorps members, and ensuring the program's long-term health.

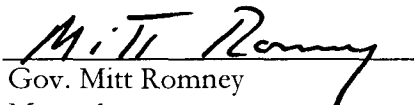
We recognize that prior "fixes" to the Trust have helped put full AmeriCorps staffing for this year in jeopardy. It is truly a shame that mismanagement might prevent willing individuals from serving their communities through AmeriCorps. To avoid such a situation, we hope that you will consider approving an appropriation of up to \$200M for AmeriCorps as part of the FY03 supplemental spending bill currently being debated by Congress. Without an emergency appropriation, the dramatic decrease in AmeriCorps positions now being proposed could seriously affect communities and individuals who rely on AmeriCorps members for help. It is also likely to damage, if not destroy, the infrastructure of strong programs, which do not have the resources to sustain a significant

President Bush
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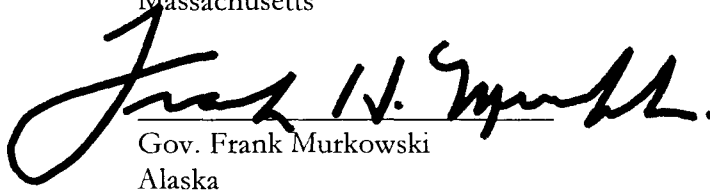
budget cut, even if only for one year. Organizations that have been built over a decade cannot be eliminated this year and rebuilt the next.


Finally, we look forward to working with you to see the goal of 75,000 AmeriCorps volunteers realized in the near future and salute your overall commitment to bringing Americans together around the ethic of service. Over the past ten years, AmeriCorps has become an essential resource for states and their communities to meet pressing needs, train future leaders through service, and provide access to life-changing educational awards for thousands of our citizens. AmeriCorps also greatly leverages private sector dollars for civic initiatives. With your leadership, we can work to assure that it remains a vital force for good across the country for years to come.

Sincerely,

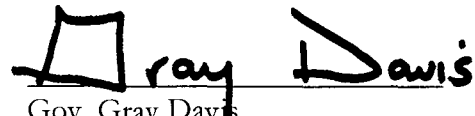

Gov. Mitt Romney
Massachusetts

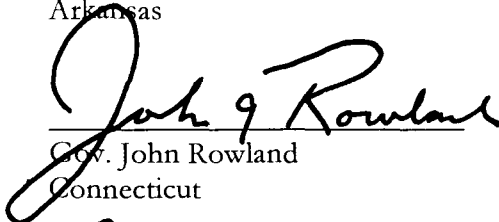

Gov. Edward Rendell
Pennsylvania


Gov. Frank Murkowski
Alaska

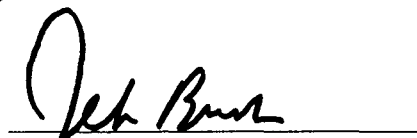

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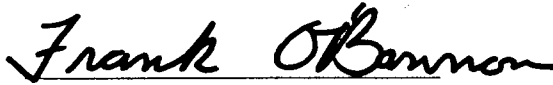

Gov. Sonny Perdue
Georgia



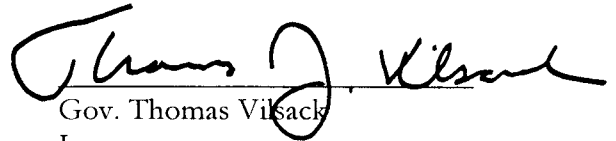
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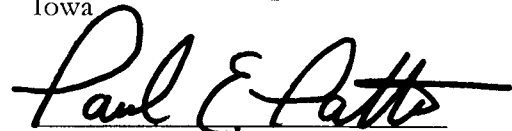
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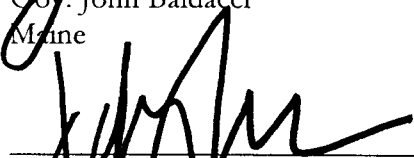
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Louisiana



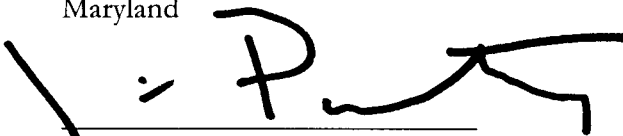
Gov. John Baldacci
Maine



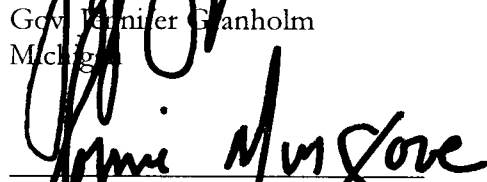
Gov. Robert Ehrlich
Maryland



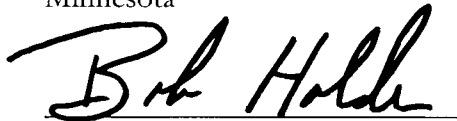
Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Michigan



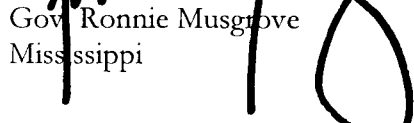
Gov. Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota



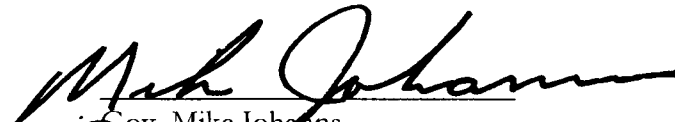
Gov. Ronnie Musgrove
Mississippi



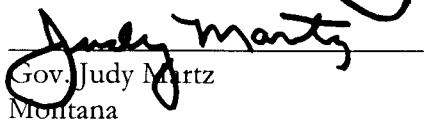
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Missouri



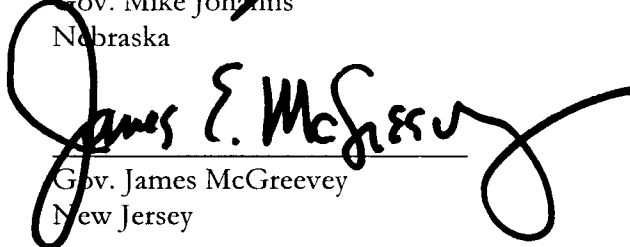
Gov. Judy Martz
Montana



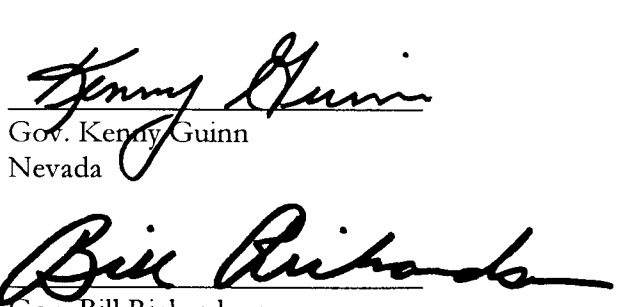
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