



September 16, 2008

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned, strongly support the Serve America Act of 2008. This legislation will build on existing national service and volunteer programs to provide millions of Americans new opportunities to serve – from early childhood through retirement, to tackle our nation's toughest problems, and to show the compassion and commitment of Americans at home and abroad. Today, more than ever, our nation must harness the energy and determination of our people to solve some of the most critical challenges of our time.

The two presidential candidates are making community and national service a centerpiece of their candidacies for President, and both are original co-sponsors of this bill. This bold, comprehensive bill is a model of the sort of bipartisan leadership our nation needs to meet its greatest challenges. With strong grassroots support, it will give the next President the momentum he will need to realize the vision of a stronger ethic of service in America.

Service is at the core of who we are as Americans. Our nation's leaders should ask every American to serve, and should expand opportunities for every American to serve. We hope you will agree to support this effort by co-sponsoring S. 3487.

Sincerely,

John Bridgeland, CEO, Civic Enterprises, LLC

Nelda Brown, Executive Director, National Service-Learning Partnership

Michael Brown, Co-Founder & CEO, City Year

James Cleveland, President, Jumpstart

AnnMaura Connolly, Member, Voices for National Service Steering Committee

Alan Khazei, Founder & CEO, Be the Change, Inc.

Marguerite Kondracke, President & CEO, America's Promise Alliance

Mark Lazzara, Executive Director, Western New York AmeriCorps

Michelle Nunn, President & CEO, Points of Light Institute

Jill Pasewalk, CEO, Camp Fire USA

Sally Prouty, President & CEO, The Corps Network

Michael Rubinger, President, LISC

Eric Schwarz, President & CEO, Citizen Schools

Martin Weinstein, Executive Director, Bay Area Community Resources, CA AmeriCorps Alliance