

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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July 30, 2015

Dear Members of the Washington Congressional Delegation:

I am writing 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. The unique state-federal partnership between our state service commission and the CNCS provides vital, cost-effective services to communities across Washington State by harnessing the power of our state's most valuable resource - its people.

The U.S. House and Senate are considering appropriations bills this year that would cut or eliminate AmeriCorps and other national service programs, severely inhibiting service commissions and the CNCS in their ability to use service as a strategy to address unmet community needs.

State service commissions play a critical role in the delivery of national service. In fact, 75 percent of the AmeriCorps resources are administered through the nation's 53 governor-appointed commissions, including our state's commission, Serve Washington. State service commissions oversee more than \$250 million in federal AmeriCorps grants annually. 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.

In our state, more than 2,100 AmeriCorps members and 7,400 Senior Corps participants are tutoring and mentoring struggling students, providing support to returning veterans and military families, and coordinating relief and recovery efforts in areas affected by natural disasters. The proposed cuts would threaten the scope and impact of national service programs, depriving students, veterans, military families and victims of natural disasters from receiving these much-needed services.

I know Congress has to make tough decisions on funding priorities. However, I believe service is an important investment that should be fully funded. Each time our nation is faced with a crisis, be it natural disaster, shortfalls in critical human needs, or economic depression, national service programs are among the first to respond. The federal investment in CNCS and state service commissions provides a strong return for individuals, communities, and our nation. We do not want to lose this force for good in our state and country.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written over a blue line.

Jay Inslee
Governor

