

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

June 25, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that you are planning to send Congress a supplemental appropriations request for disaster relief funding. I urge you to request additional funding for AmeriCorps to support a total of 50,000 new volunteers this year.

I hope you will submit this request as soon as possible. Urgency is needed in order to prevent the Corporation for National and Community Service from announcing another round of cuts that will be devastating to our communities, our volunteers, and the national service movement this summer. Without a supplemental appropriations request from you, it will be much harder to provide additional funding for AmeriCorps this year.

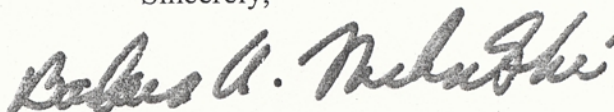
I want to thank you for your support of the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act. I sponsored this legislation with Senator Bond to give accounting flexibility to the Corporation. Your leadership in helping to move this bill quickly through Congress is much appreciated. Without this bill, there would have been only 15,000 new volunteers this year.

But AmeriCorps is not out of trouble yet. Without additional funding, there will still be a cut of 20,000 volunteers this year – the amount that the Corporation over enrolled last year. AmeriCorps programs around the country will close their doors, and communities and volunteers will be penalized.

To prevent these devastating cuts, I hope you will send Congress a supplemental appropriations request. Additional funding, combined with the Bond-Mikulski bill, will put AmeriCorps back on solid ground. Without a Presidential request for funding, it will be almost impossible to provide additional funding for AmeriCorps this year.

I know you share my strong support for AmeriCorps and national service, and I want to work with you to restore the confidence of our communities and volunteers in our national service infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator