



101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 600 West, Washington, DC 20001

Arizona State University
California State University –
13 Member Schools
City University of New York –
City College
Florida International University
Georgia State University
Indiana University-Purdue
University Indianapolis
Morgan State University
North Carolina State University
Ohio State University
Portland State University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
University of Akron
University of Alabama -
Birmingham
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado – Denver
University of Houston
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Louisville
University of Memphis
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri –
Kansas City
University of New Mexico
University of New Orleans
Virginia Commonwealth
University
Wichita State University

March 11, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Chairman McCarthy:

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), thank you for including provisions in the GIVE Act (H.R. 1388) that support community service and service learning efforts by universities. We endorse the overall purpose of the legislation to encourage more Americans to serve and volunteer in areas of national need.

USU is a network of public urban research universities that represents every region of our country. University presidents created USU to leverage the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities, thereby improving urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. To this end, USU is focused on three major issues – creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

As anchors for our nation's cities, USU institutions are engaged in partnerships and outreach within our local communities and metropolitan areas, including community service and service learning. Many of our members are nationally recognized by the Carnegie classification for campus engagement as well as the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. These same institutions are also recipients of the Learn and Serve higher education program that is designed to increase the number of service opportunities for students within their local communities.

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USU's legislative agenda supports national service in urban areas for K-12 education, health, housing, and economic opportunity. We are appreciative that the GIVE Act acknowledges these important areas of service throughout the bill. USU particularly endorses the bill's intent to create Youth Engagement Zones, Campuses of Service, and additional corps programs. We are also pleased that the GIVE Act contains USU's recommendations to strengthen the Learn and Serve higher education program, including increasing the authorization level for appropriations.

Again, thank you for being champions of community service and recognizing the important role of universities on this issue. We look forward to working with you on ensuring these provisions are included in the final version of the National Service bill passed by the 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy L. Zimpher".

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chair, Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
President, University of Cincinnati