

Draft AmeriCorps Week 2008 Governor Proclamation

WHEREAS the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community needs and promote the ethic of service and volunteering since its creation in 1994; and

WHEREAS each year AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps NCCC, provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens across the nation, including approximately [CURRENT NUMBER OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS FROM NATIONAL SERVICE STATE PROFILE] in [STATE], to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and

WHEREAS AmeriCorps was designed to give a key role to states in deciding where resources should be directed to meet state and local needs through the work of Governor-appointed state service commissions, including the [NAME OF STATE COMMISSION]; and

WHEREAS AmeriCorps has strengthened America's independent sector by investing more than \$5 billion dollars to support the efforts of tens of thousands of nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide; and those grants have leveraged hundreds of millions of additional funds and in-kind donations from others sources; and

WHEREAS AmeriCorps members last year recruited and supervised more than 1.7 million community volunteers, demonstrating AmeriCorps value as a powerful catalyst and force multiplier; and

WHEREAS more than 540,000 men and women across the nation, including [CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS] from [STATE], have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America" by becoming AmeriCorps members since 1994; and

WHEREAS those AmeriCorps members have served a total of more than 705 million hours nationwide, including [CUMULATIVE HOURS OF SERVICE] served by resident from [STATE], helping to improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthen our educational system; protect our environment, and contribute to our public safety, and;

WHEREAS AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for their service, have earned more than \$1.4 billion in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to use to further their own educational advancement at colleges and universities—including more than [CUMULATIVE EDUCATION AWARD DOLLARS EARNED] that has been awarded to residents of [STATE]; and

WHEREAS AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week (May 11-18, 2008) is an opportune time for the people of [STATE] to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact; thank all of AmeriCorps' community partners in [STATE] who make the program possible; and bring more Americans into service;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, [INSERT NAME], Governor of [STATE], by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby designate May 11-18, 2008 as AmeriCorps Week in [STATE], and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities.

[NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL] of [CITY], [STATE]