

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
September 25, 2003

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young, Chairman,
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Walsh, Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Chairman Walsh:

As you are no doubt well aware, some Members of Congress and outside organizations have asserted that \$100 million in emergency funding is necessary to prevent cutbacks in AmeriCorps programs. In July, the Senate included \$100 million for AmeriCorps in H.R. 2859, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act 2003, but the House rejected this provision, largely on the basis that the bill was an inappropriate place for such funding, but also because AmeriCorps' problems were a result of overenrollment and improper accounting.

We are writing to thank you for your steadfast leadership in upholding the belief that emergency supplemental funding is justified for true national emergencies, but not for discretionary programs whose problems are a result of agency mismanagement. As AmeriCorps backers may continue their plea, seeking \$100 million in another vehicle or spending bill, we encourage you to maintain this position. With tremendously competing priorities in defense, health care, education, and many other areas, we must carefully consider all funding requests, and AmeriCorps would not seem an appropriate investment.

Thank you again for your leadership in wisely allocating supplemental emergency funding to true emergencies. As we proceed with the FY 2004 Appropriations process, we hope you will continue to support such prioritization of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,


Rep. Cliff Stearns


Rep. Todd Akin

Chairman Young and Chairman Walsh Page Two

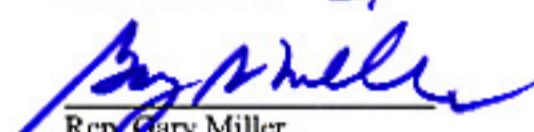

Rep. Gresham Barrett


Rep. Walter Jones

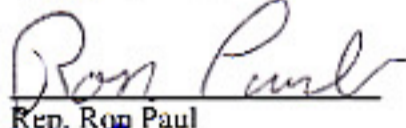

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett



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Rep. Rob Bishop


Rep. Gary Miller

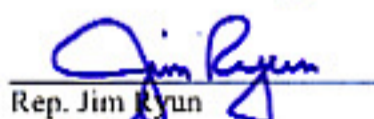

Rep. Michael Burgess


Rep. Ron Paul

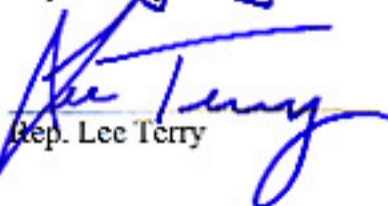

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