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*Executive Director*

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Education and Labor Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 17, 2009

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing as the executive director of America's Service Commissions (ASC) in support of HR 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act. This bill would reauthorize the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

Our association represents more than 1,100 governor-appointed leaders serving the 52 state and territorial service commissions that administer national and community service funding in their jurisdictions. AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, as well as a host of state and local volunteer initiatives, count on the leadership and support of these innovative organizations.

The GIVE Act includes many important programmatic adjustments that will help to make the benefits of service available to more participants and more communities, improve program quality, provide a mechanism for appropriate evaluation of programs, ensure participant diversity, recalculate the value of the AmeriCorps Education Award, and address a host of other structural and programmatic issues

In addition, an amendment will be introduced by Congressman Loeb sack that will propose incorporating the Volunteer Generation Fund into the GIVE Act. The Fund will provide crucial assistance to help state commissions, community, and faith-based organizations recruit and manage additional volunteers. We fully support this amendment.

By reauthorizing these national service programs, you can ensure that every American has an opportunity to serve in his or her community. Our communities, our states, and our entire nation will benefit from the continued services that these volunteers provide. I, therefore, thank you for your championing this effort to reauthorize these vital service programs.

Sincerely,

Tom Branen  
Executive Director