



March 16, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

Thank you for stewarding the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act of 2009 (H.R. 1388) through the House Education and Labor Committee. Jumpstart deeply appreciates your leadership dedication to the national and community service field. In addition, Jumpstart is sincerely grateful for the hard work and countless hours your staff have committed this bill. As the GIVE Act reaches the House floor, I look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

As one of the largest part-time national service organizations, Jumpstart looks forward to this important reauthorization. The GIVE Act will dramatically improve the national service field's ability to meet our nation's most challenging needs. Jumpstart applauds the inclusion of provisions to strengthen national and community service, including the provisions to create new Corps to address particular challenges, increase in the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award amount, allow individuals to be eligible to receive an aggregate of two full-time service awards, and establish a Community Solutions Fund to support the growth of innovative programs.

The call for national service has never been more important. This year, Jumpstart pledges to serve more than 1 million hours to young children in 2009. National service programs allow Jumpstart to operate in 20 states and the District of Columbia to provide high-quality early childhood education to low-income preschoolers. During the 2008-2009 school year, Jumpstart has recruited and trained nearly 4,000 college students and community members to serve almost 15,000 preschoolers in extraordinary yearlong relationships. By providing these vital services at over 300 early learning centers around the country, Jumpstart plays a critical role in helping narrow the achievement gap.

Passage of this legislation would allow Jumpstart and other organizations to work directly in communities most in need of services. Again, thank you for all you have done and continue to do on behalf of national and community service.

Please feel free to reach out to Lena Zwarensteyn, Manager of Government Relations, at lena.zwarensteyn@jstart.org or 847.413.4577 if Jumpstart can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

James Cleveland
President