

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2003

Dear Colleague:

We are disappointed that President Bush did not include funding for AmeriCorps in his recent supplemental appropriations request. When the supplemental comes to the floor of the Senate later this month, we will offer an amendment to add \$100 million for AmeriCorps. We urge you to join in sponsoring our amendment.

We recently supported legislation to clean up the bureaucratic accounting mismanagement at the Corporation for National and Community Service, which runs the AmeriCorps program. We are pleased that President Bush has signed this bill into law. But without an additional \$100 million in 2003, there will still be a cut of 20,000 new AmeriCorps volunteers this year – the number that the Corporation overenrolled last year.

You have undoubtedly heard from advocates in your states about massive cuts and confusion in the AmeriCorps program. Their concerns are real and valid. Unless additional funds are provided, AmeriCorps programs around the country will close their doors. Communities and volunteers will be penalized for the bureaucracy's mistakes. We urge you to join us in supporting communities and volunteers by cosponsoring our amendment. By adding \$100 million to the supplemental, we can ensure that the commitment made for this year will be kept and the 50,000 new AmeriCorps volunteers promised for this year will be enrolled.

If you would like be a sponsor of our amendment, or if you have any questions, your staff may contact Gabrielle Batkin with Senator Mikulski at 224-3106 or Jane Oates with Senator Kennedy at 224-8460.

Sincerely,



Senator Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator Edward M. Kennedy