

The GIVE Act: Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Renewing the Spirit of Service for Our Nation

Volunteering in America is at a 30 year high. In 2006, more than 61 million Americans gave back to their communities through service. Volunteers play a critical role in building a stronger nation, from improving communities to helping our children succeed in school to rebuilding cities and towns in times of disaster. The GIVE Act, H.R. 2857 would strengthen and reauthorize our nation's service programs and take volunteerism into the 21st century by:

Increasing Number of AmeriCorps Volunteers by 25 percent

- Sets a goal of 100,000 AmeriCorps volunteers by 2012, putting 25,000 additional volunteers into our communities.
- Promotes recruitment of disadvantaged youth, baby-boomers, and veterans into national and community service opportunities through the new Office of Outreach and Recruitment.

Engaging Youth in Service through Summer Volunteer Opportunities

- Fosters a sense of civic engagement for youth in grades 5-12, and introduces them to the benefits of volunteering in their community during the summer.
- Provides supervised and constructive service participation for young people in their communities to discourage 'summer slide' and promote leadership development.
- Includes a \$500 education award to be used for college preparatory work or college costs.

Strengthening Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

- Encourages collaborative efforts at the national, state, and local level to provide service in the areas of disaster preparedness, response, and relief.
- Strengthens the emergency response and disaster preparedness efforts of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to increase the program's effectiveness during times of national need.
- Establishes a "Reserve Corps" of AmeriCorps alumni ready for deployment in times of national need.

Boosting America's Competitiveness

- Encourages national service programs to recruit scientists, technicians, mathematicians, and engineers to address our nation's community needs.
- Encourages innovative efforts to address unmet education and human needs and help close the digital divide in low-income communities.

Investing in the Future of Volunteerism and Service

- Includes a total authorization level of \$1 billion for national service activities in FY 2008, including \$324 million for the AmeriCorps program – almost a 20 percent increase above what was appropriated in the 2008 omnibus bill.