

## S 277

Serve America Act

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Social Welfare

**Introduced:** Jan 16, 2009

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### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

**Cosponsors** (42 total)

<b>Cosponsor</b>	<b>Party / State</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>
Sen. Bayh, Evan [D-IN]	D · IN		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jan 16, 2009
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Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV]	D · NV		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 16, 2009
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Feb 25, 2009
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 2, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 9, 2009
Sen. Udall, Mark [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 10, 2009
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 12, 2009
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 16, 2009
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 16, 2009
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Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 17, 2009
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Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 18, 2009
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Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 19, 2009
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Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 23, 2009
Sen. Hagan, Kay R. [D-NC]	D · NC		Mar 23, 2009
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 24, 2009
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 25, 2009
Sen. Kaufman, Edward E. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 25, 2009
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 26, 2009

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Mar 26, 2009

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 18, 2009

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Social Welfare

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 1388	Companion bill	<b>Apr 21, 2009:</b> Became Public Law No: 111-13.

Serve America Act - Amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA) and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA) to revise their programs and reauthorize appropriations for them through FY2014.

**Title I: Amendments to National and Community Service Act of 1990** - Revises under the NCSA: (1) the School-Based and Community-Based Service-Learning programs and Higher Education Innovative Programs for Community Service, also known as Learn and Serve programs; (2) National Service Trust programs, also known as AmeriCorps; (3) the Civilian Community Corps Demonstration program; and (4) the Investment for Quality and Innovation program.

**Subtitle A: Amendments to Subtitle A (General Provisions)** - (Sec. 1101) Adds to NCSA purposes: (1) providing year-round opportunities in service-learning; (2) involving program participants in emergency and disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery; (3) increasing service opportunities for retiring professionals; (4) encouraging service by individuals age 55 or older and continued service by national service alumni; (5) focusing national service on the areas of national need such service has the capacity to address; (6) assisting social entrepreneurs and nonprofit community organizations in addressing national and local challenges; (7) leveraging federal investments to increase other public and private resources directed toward such challenges; and (8) supporting institutions of higher education (IHEs) that engage students in service-learning.

(Sec. 1102) Adds definitions of Alaska Native-serving institutions, approved silver scholar positions, approved summer of service positions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, authorizing committees, community-based entities, disadvantaged youth, Hispanic-serving institutions, historically Black colleges or universities, medically underserved populations, Native American-serving, nontribal institutions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, predominantly Black Institutions, principles of scientific research, qualified organizations, scientifically valid research, territories, tribally controlled colleges or universities, and veterans.

**Subtitle B: Amendments to Subtitle B (Learn and Serve America)** - (Sec. 1201) Revises the School-Based programs for elementary and secondary school students (part of the Learn and Serve programs) to eliminate the current competitive grant portion of such programs. Requires the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) to allocate appropriated funds to states, after reserving from 2% to 3% for Indian tribes and territories, pursuant to a formula that takes into account a state's share of school age youth and funds received under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Sets a minimum grant of \$75,000 per state for School-Based programs when fiscal year appropriations for the School-Based programs exceed \$50 million.

Authorizes grants to be used for the development of civic engagement programs dealing with our nation's history and government.

Limits the Corporation's share of costs for new School-Based programs to 80% for their first year, 65% for their second year, and 50% thereafter. Permits certain schools receiving funds under ESEA title I to use such funds to cover their share of program costs.

Eliminates the current Community-Based Learn and Serve programs.

(Sec. 1202) Revises the Higher Education Innovative programs (part of the Learn and Serve programs) that award grants to IHEs and partnerships of IHEs and nonprofit organizations for the provision of community service-learning opportunities to postsecondary school students.

Allows the use of grant funds for the inclusion of service-learning as a key component not only of preservice teacher education, but also of education in other fields, such as medicine, criminal justice, or public policy.

Directs the Corporation, to the extent practicable, to give special consideration to applications submitted by, or partnerships that include, IHEs serving primarily low-income populations, including predominantly Black institutions, historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities, Native American-serving, nontribal institutions, Alaska Native-serving institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, and community colleges serving predominantly minority populations.

Requires that grantee IHEs meet the minimum requirement set by the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the participation of federal work-study students in community service activities.

Establishes a Campuses of Service program under which the Corporation annually designates up to 25 IHEs, from among institutions nominated by State Commissions on National and Community Service (State Commissions), as recipients of funding to develop exemplary service-learning programs or disseminate them to other IHEs.

(Sec. 1203) Establishes a new Learn and Serve program, Innovative Community-Based Service-Learning Programs and Research, providing grants to states, nonprofit organizations, territories, Indian tribes, IHEs, elementary or secondary schools, and local educational agencies (LEAs) to: (1) provide community service-learning opportunities to elementary and secondary, college, and graduate students; and (2) research and evaluate service-learning.

Includes among allowable grant activities: (1) integrating service-learning programs into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curricula; (2) service-learning programs focused on energy conservation, emergency and disaster preparedness, and improving access to computers and other emerging technologies; and (3) involving high school age youth in the mentoring of middle school students.

Authorizes new Summer of Service programs under which students who will be entering grades 6 through 12 at the end of the summer and complete 100 hours of community-based service learning summer projects become eligible for an educational award of up to \$500 from funds deposited in the National Service Trust. Allows participants to earn a maximum of two summer of service educational awards.

Authorizes new Youth Engagement Zone programs under which partnerships between community-based agencies, states, and LEAs that serve a high number or percentage of disadvantaged students engage students and out-of-school youth in service-learning addressing specific community challenges.

Authorizes new Semester of Service programs that allow secondary school students, including a large number or percentage of disadvantaged students, to earn academic credit for a semester of coordinated school-based or community-based service-learning that totals at least 70 hours and addresses specific community challenges. Requires participants to spend at least a third of such time participating in field-based activities.

Gives funding priority to programs that: (1) involve students and community stakeholders in their design and implementation; (2) operate in low-income or rural communities; and (3) utilize adult volunteers, including retired or retiring adults.

Directs the Corporation to contract for a 10-year longitudinal study into the effect Learn and Serve programs have on participants' academic performance and commitment to public service. Requires the results of such study to be reported

to Congress and made available to the public.

**Subtitle C: Amendments to Subtitle C (National Service Trust Program) -** (Sec. 1301) Revises the National Service Trust (AmeriCorps) program to: (1) include territories as eligible grant recipients; (2) prohibit grants to federal agencies; and (3) require grant recipients to report any non-Corporation federal funding for their program.

Directs the Corporation to develop and, subject to the availability of appropriations, implement a plan to establish the number of approved national service positions as 88,000 for FY2010, and increase them to 115,000 for FY2011, 140,000 for FY2012, 170,000 for FY2013, 200,000 for FY2014, 210,000 for FY2015, 235,000 for FY2016, and 250,000 for FY2017.

(Sec. 1302) : Requires Americorps grant recipients and federal agencies operating or supporting national service programs to devote a portion of their funding to operating or supporting: (1) an Education Corps to address unmet educational needs; (2) a Healthy Futures Corps to address unmet health needs; (3) a Clean Energy Service Corps to address unmet environmental needs; (4) a Veterans Corps to address the unmet needs of veterans and members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty; or (5) an Opportunity Corps to address the unmet needs of economically disadvantaged individuals.

Sets forth authorized Americorps programs, including those that: (1) meet the development needs of rural communities; (2) engage citizens in public safety, health, and emergency preparedness services; (3) expand the number of mentors for disadvantaged and other youths; (4) provide life skills training, employment training, educational assistance, counseling, or a mentoring relationship with an adult volunteer to individuals who are mostly disadvantaged youth; and (5) reduce recidivism by re-engaging court-involved youth and adults.

Authorizes AmeriCorps grantees to implement program models that include: (1) community corps programs that promote community unity through the use of organized teams that include participants with diverse backgrounds and abilities; (2) service programs that recruit individuals with special skills or provide participants with specialized preservice training; (3) campus based programs involving postsecondary school students; and (4) professional corps programs that recruit professionals for service positions that include salaries that are covered by public or private employers and may exceed the maximum living allowance.

Requires AmeriCorps programs to meet or exceed specified performance indicators.

Requires national service programs that provide tutoring to elementary and secondary school students to: (1) certify that tutors have obtained their high school diploma and successfully completed pre- and in-service tutor training; and (2) offer high quality curricula that meet state academic content standards.

Requires national service programs that promote citizenship and civic engagement to meet guidelines, to be established by the Corporation, that are consistent with the principles on which the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' citizenship programs are based.

(Sec. 1303) Allows the Corporation to approve programs carried out by territories as national service programs that include education awards.

(Sec. 1305) Increases the minimum and maximum grant the Corporation may make to states to operate State Commissions. Requires states to match such grants at least dollar-for-dollar, though the Corporation may allow certain alternative matches where a state demonstrates hardship or a new State Commission.

Requires challenge grants for national service programs to be completely matched by private funds for an initial three-year grant period and matched by private amounts that are twice the grant amount thereafter. Allows the Corporation to permit the use of state or local funds as matching funds if private funds are unavailable.

(Sec. 1306) Requires 62.7% the AmeriCorps funds allocated by the Corporation to be for competitive grants to states and national nonprofit organizations, 35.3% for state formula grants, at least 1% for Indian tribes, and 1% for territories. Establish a minimum state formula grant of \$600,000 or 0.5% of the amount allocated for formula grants, whichever is greater.

Allows the Corporation to provide fixed-amount grants to national service programs. Requires such grants to be significantly less than the reasonable and necessary costs of administering the national service programs receiving them.

(Sec. 1307) Establishes the Educational Awards Only program, as part of the AmeriCorps program, allowing the Corporation to provide operational support, in the form of fixed-amount grants, to programs that have approved national service positions but do not otherwise receive AmeriCorps funds. Limits operational support to \$600 per program participant, or \$800 per participant for programs serving at least 50% disadvantaged youth.

(Sec. 1308) Requires the Corporation to reject applications for national service projects that replicate projects that are already receiving assistance or are described in pending applications.

(Sec. 1310) Authorizes the Corporation, in awarding competitive AmeriCorps grants to states and national nonprofit organizations, to give priority to certain national service programs recruiting veterans into service opportunities that promote community-based efforts to meet the unique needs of military families.

(Sec. 1312) Requires the Corporation to place special emphasis on disadvantaged youth when selecting individuals to receive national service leadership training.

(Sec. 1313) Allows individuals performing national service in disaster relief to continue to serve for 90 days after their term of service would otherwise end.

(Sec. 1314) Reduces the national service living allowance by the amount of the federal work study award provided to individuals during their national service.

**Subtitle D: Amendments to Subtitle D (National Service Trust and Provision of National Service Educational Awards)** - (Sec. 1401) Permits the Corporation to use National Service Trust funds to pay for the new Summer of Service and Silver Scholar educational awards authorized under subtitle B and subtitle H of this Act, respectively.

(Sec. 1402) Prohibits individuals from receiving a national service educational award from the Trust if they complete less than 15% of their required term of service.

Limits an individual's receipt of such awards to the aggregate value of two national service educational awards for full time service; but excludes Summer of Service educational awards from such calculation. Gives Summer of Service participants ten years to use their educational awards for such service.

Gives individuals to whom national service or Silver Scholar educational awards are transferred ten years to use such awards (transferors have seven years to use them).

(Sec. 1403) Requires the Corporation, when making educational awards, to rely on certifications by the selecting and

supervising entities that the individuals in the approved national service positions have successfully completed their required term of service.

(Sec. 1404) Sets the national service educational awards for full-time AmeriCorps, National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) participants at a level equal to the maximum available Pell Grant available to students under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(Sec. 1405) Permits the use of such awards to cover the costs of enrolling in educational institutions.

Allows national service educational awards to be transferred to the children or grandchildren of award recipients who were 55 or older when they began their term of service.

**Subtitle E: Amendments to Subtitle E (National Civilian Community Corps)** - (Sec. 1502) Renames the Civilian Community Corps Demonstration program as the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program. Permits the NCCC to operate nonresidential programs.

(Sec. 1503) Makes individuals eligible for participation in the NCCC program (other than the summer program), if they will be at least 18 before the end of the calendar year in which they enroll, but are no more than 24 when they begin participating in the program.

Requires the NCCC Director to take measures to increase the percentage of program participants who are disadvantaged youth toward 50% by 2012.

(Sec. 1504) Requires, to the extent practicable, that at least 50% of the participants in the NCCC summer program are from economically and ethnically diverse backgrounds, including youth who are in foster care.

(Sec. 1505) Permits the Director to select Corps members with prior supervisory or service experience to be team leaders within NCCC units. Requires assignment of units to campuses, rather than camps, which shall be headed by campus directors, rather than camp superintendents.

Requires campus locations to be cost-effective (as determined by a feasibility study), and distributed in a manner that allows Corps units to be easily deployed for disaster and emergency response.

(Sec. 1506) Requires the Director to ensure, to the extent practicable, that each NCCC participant receives training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and other skills related to disaster preparedness and response.

(Sec. 1507) Places a specific emphasis on NCCC projects that support infrastructure improvement, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Specifies additional federal agencies required to develop NCCC project proposals.

(Sec. 1509) Makes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation, rather than the NCCC Director, responsible for appointing a permanent cadre of NCCC supervisors and training instructors. Requires the CEO, in appointing members of the permanent cadre, to give consideration to retired and other former law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency personnel, and other individuals with backgrounds in disaster preparedness and recovery. Requires such cadre to receive training in working with disadvantaged youth.

(Sec. 1513) Expands the NCCC Advisory Board to include the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Secretary of Transportation, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Secretary of Energy. Includes among the Board's activities helping to

coordinate activities with the Corps, including disaster response activities.

(Sec. 1514) Changes from annual to periodic the required evaluation of NCCC programs and subsequent report to Congress.

**Subtitle F: Amendments to Subtitle F (Administrative Provisions)** - (Sec. 1603) Prohibits national service programs from existing solely to refer individuals to federal assistance programs or state assistance programs that receive federal funding.

(Sec. 1604) Alters hearing and grievance procedures to: (1) allow the emergency suspension of national service assistance to grantees for up to three 30-day periods; and (2) require all grantees, not just states and localities, to establish grievance procedures.

(Sec. 1605) Requires grantees that serve children to consult with parents when developing or operating their programs, and obtain written permission from parents when transporting minor children.

(Sec. 1606) Adds to the duties of State Commissions in preparing national service plans for their states, to include such duties as developing measurable state goals and coordinating national service funding applications in the state.

Requires states to develop comprehensive state service plans for volunteer service by adults age 55 or older.

(Sec. 1607) Requires the Corporation to: (1) establish performance measures for national service grantees in consultation with such grantees; and (2) provide technical assistance to failing grantees who have received assistance for less than three years.

Requires national service grantees to reach agreements with the Corporation on corrective action plans if they fail to achieve such measures. Provides for the reduction or termination of assistance to grantees who continue to fall short of performance standards after an agreed upon correction period.

Allows the Corporation to reserve up to 1% of the total NCSA and DVSA program funds appropriated in a fiscal year for program accountability activities.

(Sec. 1608) Directs the Corporation, in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship, to select a set of civic health indicators to compose a Civic Health Index that enables states and communities to assess their civic health.

Requires such partnership to: (1) evaluate and update the Index periodically; (2) issue a detailed report, at least annually, analyzing the civic health indicators which, to the extent practicable, include data on different demographic groups; and (3) arrange for the research and tracking of domestic and international volunteering.

(Sec. 1611) Entitles the Inspector General of the Corporation to access to the records of national service program grantees relating to such assistance.

(Sec. 1612) Requires the Corporation to consolidate or modify national service application procedures and reporting requirements.

Authorizes the Corporation to: (1) set sustainability goals for national service programs which are in writing; and (2) provide technical assistance to program sponsors in acquiring and leveraging non-federal funds.

Limits the Corporation's national service grants or agreements to three years, unless a different term is specifically

authorized.

Limits Corporation grants for national service programs to \$18,000 per full-time national service position, with adjustments for inflation.

Requires entities that select individuals for national service positions to run criminal background checks on such individuals. Prohibits sex offenders, murderers, and those who make false statements in connection with such background checks from serving.

**Subtitle G: Amendments to Subtitle G (Corporation for National and Community Service) - (Sec. 1701)** Allows voting members of the Corporation's Board of Directors whose term expires to continue serving until their successor takes office, but no longer than one year after their term expires.

(Sec. 1702) States that it is the Board's responsibility to set overall policy for the Corporation. Requires the Board to review the CEO's budget proposal in advance of its submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and review the CEO's performance annually.

(Sec. 1703) Increases the compensation of the Corporation's CEO by 3%.

(Sec. 1704) Requires the Corporation's CEO to: (1) submit a plan to the Board for reaching the goal of 50% full-time approved national service positions by 2012; (2) bolster public awareness of, and recruitment efforts for, the wide range of service opportunities for all citizens; (3) identify and implement recruitment methods that increase the diversity of national service participants and program sponsors; (4) identify and implement recruitment strategies and training programs for bilingual volunteers in the DVSA's National Senior Service Corps; and (5) obtain the opinions of peer reviewers in evaluating applications to the Corporation for assistance.

Allows the CEO to solicit funds to support outreach and recruitment efforts.

(Sec. 1705) Gives the CEO authority to appoint and determine the compensation of the Corporation's Chief Financial Officer.

(Sec. 1706) Allows the Corporation to enter into personal services contracts for national service research, evaluation, and public awareness activities.

(Sec. 1707) Allows the Corporation to solicit and accept the donation of services from individuals or organizations.

(Sec. 1708) Allows the CEO to delegate programmatic functions to states in order to increase the efficiency or oversight of a national service program.

(Sec. 1709) Directs the Corporation to study and report to Congress on the involvement of veterans in national service programs.

(Sec. 1710) Requires the Corporation to study national service programs for displaced workers to identify how existing programs could better serve such workers and communities that have been adversely affected by plant closings and job losses, and then implement a pilot program based on the study's findings.

(Sec. 1711) Directs the Corporation to study the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a data matching system to verify an individual's claim to be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien, and thus eligible for a national service educational award, by using information in the possession of other federal agencies. Authorizes the Corporation

to implement a pilot data matching program based on the study's findings.

**Subtitle H: Amendments to Subtitle H (Investment for Quality and Innovation)** - (Sec. 1802) Requires the Corporation to conduct a nationwide Call To Service campaign to encourage everyone to perform public service in the nonprofit sector or government, or by volunteering.

Authorizes the Corporation to undertake appropriate ceremonies and activities to observe September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

(Sec. 1803) Repeals the Military Installation Conversion Demonstration programs and the Special Demonstration Project in Alaska.

(Sec. 1805) Establishes a ServeAmerica Fellowships program which directs the Corporation to provide formula grants to states that enable them to award fellowships to individuals they have chosen to participate in service projects, run by nonprofit organizations, which address certain areas of national need.

Includes as ServeAmerica areas of national need: (1) the education of economically disadvantaged students; (2) access to health care; (3) energy efficiency and natural resource conservation; (4) economic opportunities for economically disadvantaged individuals; and (5) disaster preparedness and response.

Requires the number of ServeAmerica positions to increase from 500 for FY2010 to 1,500 for FY2014. Makes ServeAmerica Fellows eligible for national service educational awards.

Authorizes the Corporation to award fixed-amount grants to community-based nonprofit organizations to carry out a Silver Scholarship Grant Program which provides \$1,000 scholarships to individuals age 55 or older who complete at least 250 hours of service in a year in an area of national need.

Establishes an Encore Fellowships program providing one-year fellowships to individuals age 55 or older who are placed with nonprofit organizations to serve in areas of national need and receive training to transition to public service employment in the nonprofit sector or government. Provides matching grants to the nonprofit organizations with which Encore Fellows are placed.

Requires the Corporation to conduct an independent evaluation of the Silver Scholarship and Encore Fellowships programs and widely disseminate the results to the service community.

(Sec. 1806) Establishes a National Service Reserve Corps of individuals who have completed a term of national service or are veterans and are interested in being deployed, for 30-day periods, in response to national disasters and emergencies. Requires the Corporation to develop or contract for the development of a database of all National Service Reserve Corps members and all nonprofit organizations certified to participate in the program.

(Sec. 1807) Directs the Corporation to establish a Social Innovation Funds grant program awarding competitive, renewable, five-year matching grants to existing grantmaking institutions or partnerships between such institutions and state or local governments which will use the grants to provide competitive, three-to-five year matching subgrants to community organizations for use in supporting new initiatives or replicating or expanding proven initiatives in low-income communities.

Requires Fund grantees to be focused on improving measurable outcomes relating to: (1) the education of disadvantaged students; (2) child and youth development; (3) economic opportunity for the disadvantaged; (4) health; (5)

resource conservation and environmental quality; (6) energy efficiency; (7) civic engagement; or (8) crime reduction.

Authorizes the Corporation to reserve program funds for: (1) direct grants to community organizations serving low-income communities or addressing one of the issue areas listed above in geographical areas with the highest need in such area; and (2) researching and evaluating the use of program funds.

(Sec. 1808) Replaces the current Clearinghouse program with one that requires the Corporation to provide assistance to entities for the establishment of one or more clearinghouses providing information, research, and training services designed to enhance service-learning and national service programs.

Creates a Volunteer Generation Fund program requiring the Corporation to award competitive grants to a state commission or a nonprofit organization to increase the number of volunteers available to address state and local priorities with regard to areas of national need, including statewide volunteer initiatives.

**Subtitle I: Training and Technical Assistance** - (Sec. 1821) Creates a new subtitle to the NCSA, consolidating training and technical assistance provisions of the NCSA and DVSA that require the Corporation to provide such assistance to NCSA and DVSA programs. Gives priority to programs where services are needed most, that focus on service opportunities for underserved rural and urban areas, or that seek a service component combining students, out-of-school youth, and older adults as participants providing community services.

**Subtitle J: Repeal of Title III (Points of Light Foundation)** - (Sec. 1831) Eliminates federal funding for the Points of Light Foundation.

**Subtitle K: Amendments to Title V (Authorization of Appropriations)** - (Sec. 1841) Authorizes: (1) \$97 million for subtitle B's Learn and Serve programs for FY2010 and such sums as may be necessary for FY2011-FY2014; (2) such sums as may be necessary for subtitles C, D, E, and H for FY2010-FY2014; and (3) \$51 million for NCSA administration and financial assistance to State Commissions for FY2010 and such sums as may be necessary for FY2011-FY2014.

Reserves up to 2.5% of the amounts appropriated under subtitles B, C, and H of title I of the NCSA and titles I and II of the DVSA for: (1) School-Based service-learning improvement initiatives with the Secretary of Education; (2) Civic Health Index activities; and (3) training and technical assistance under subtitle I.

**Title II: Amendments to the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973** - Revises under DVSA: (1) the VISTA program; and (2) the National Senior Volunteer Corps (Senior Corps), including the Retired and Senior Volunteer program (RSVP), the Foster Grandparent program, and the Senior Companion program.

**Subtitle A: National Volunteer Antipoverty Programs - Chapter 1: Volunteers in Service to America** - (Sec. 2102) Amends the VISTA program under part A of title I of the DVSA to include the Northern Mariana Islands as a recipient of program services.

Adds to the work to which VISTA volunteers may be assigned: (1) drug abuse rehabilitation and treatment; (2) addressing mental illness; (3) assisting with the reintegration of formerly incarcerated youth and adults into society; (4) financial literacy and planning programs in low-income communities; (5) before- and afterschool programs serving children in low-income communities; (6) community economic development initiatives; (7) assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining access to support services; and (8) health and wellness services to low-income and underserved communities.

Gives priority to the recruitment of low-income youth.

Authorizes public or nonprofit organizations to pay all or a portion of the costs of supporting the service of VISTA volunteers.

(Sec. 2103) Establishes a minimum monthly stipend for VISTA volunteers of \$125 and a maximum monthly stipend of \$150, subject to the availability of funds. Allows the Director to provide a stipend of \$250 per month for volunteer leaders.

(Sec. 2104) Eliminates the VISTA Literacy Corps program.

**Chapter 2: University Year for VISTA** - (Sec. 2121) Eliminates the University Year for VISTA program.

**Chapter 3: Special Volunteer Programs** - (Sec. 2132) Eliminates the Literacy Challenge Grants program.

**Subtitle B: National Senior Service Corps** - (Sec. 2141) Amends title II of the DVSA to rename the National Senior Volunteer Corps program the National Senior Service Corps (NSSC) program.

(Sec. 2143) Amends the Retired and Senior Volunteer program (RSVP) to eliminate the priority given to RSVP participation by volunteers who are 60 or older.

Requires RSVP programs to be designed and implemented with the advice of experts in the field of service being offered, as well as with those who have expertise in the management of volunteers and the needs of older individuals.

(Sec. 2144) Amends the Foster Grandparent program to lower the minimum age for program volunteers from 60 to 55.

Authorizes providers to determine whether it is in the best interest of a disabled child and foster grandparent to continue their relationship after the child reaches age 21. Requires foster grandparent replacements to be determined through the mutual agreement of all parties providing services to the child.

Increases the minimum stipend provided to low-income foster grandparents to \$3 an hour. Redefines low-income foster grandparents as those whose income does not exceed 200% of the poverty level.

Reduces restrictions on Foster Grandparent program participation by volunteers who are not low-income persons.

(Sec. 2145) Amends the Senior Companion program to lower the minimum age for program volunteers from 60 to 55.

(Sec. 2146) Alters the list of RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs of national significance. Adds to such list programs that support: (1) drug abuse rehabilitation and treatment; (2) mentoring for low-income youth; (3) energy conservation and environmental protection; and (4) crime prevention activities directed toward low-income or formerly incarcerated youth.

Allows NSSC programs to accept donations.

**Subtitle C: Administration and Coordination** - (Sec. 2151) Prohibits volunteer activities under the DVSA from displacing volunteers who are not participants under the national service laws.

(Sec. 2153) Includes the Northern Mariana Islands in DVSA programs.

**Subtitle D: Authorization of Appropriations** - (Sec. 2161) Authorizes: (1) \$100 million for the VISTA program for FY2010; (2) \$70 million for the RSVP for FY2010; (3) \$115 million for the Foster Grandparent Program for FY2010; and (4) \$55 million for the Senior Companion program for FY2010. Authorizes necessary appropriations for these programs and activities for FY2011-FY2014.

Authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the Special Volunteer (under part C of title I of the DVSA) and NSSC demonstration programs for FY2010-FY2014.

Reauthorizes appropriations for the administration and evaluation of DVSA programs through FY2014.

**Title III: Technical Amendments to Tables of Contents** - (Sec. 3101) Makes technical amendments to the respective tables of contents of the NCSA and the DVSA.

**Title IV: Amendments to Other Laws** - (Sec. 4101) Makes a technical amendment to the Inspector General Act of 1978.

**Title V: Volunteers for Prosperity Program** - (Sec. 5103) Requires the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement a VfPServe program providing skilled professionals with fixed-amount stipends to offset their costs of volunteering abroad to address specified VfP objectives aimed at ameliorating living conditions in developing countries.

Lists those objectives as: (1) eliminating extreme poverty; (2) reducing world hunger and malnutrition; (3) increasing access to safe potable water; (4) enacting universal education; (5) reducing child mortality and childhood diseases; (6) combating the spread of preventable diseases; (7) providing educational and work skill support for girls and empowering women to achieve independence; (8) creating sustainable business and entrepreneurial opportunities; and (9) increasing access to information technology.

Requires VfP volunteers to provide a dollar-for-dollar match for their stipend through the organization with which they are serving or by raising private funds.

Authorizes \$10 million for the VfP program for each fiscal year from FY2010-FY2014, with 90% of that amount devoted to VfP expansion and 10% to VfP management.

**Title VI: Effective Date** - (Sec. 6101) Makes this Act effective upon enactment, unless specifically provided otherwise.

(Sec. 6102) Applies changes made by this Act in the terms and conditions of terms of service and other service assignments under the national service laws (including the amount of the education award) only to individuals who enroll or otherwise begin service assignments later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, except when otherwise agreed upon by all interested parties.

Applies changes made by this Act in the terms and conditions of grants, contracts, or other agreements under the national service laws only to agreements entered into later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, except when otherwise agreed upon by the parties to such agreements.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 18, 2009:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Mar 18, 2009:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Reported by Senator Mikulski with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Mar 18, 2009:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 34.
- **Jan 16, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 16, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.