

S 3642

UNITE Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: May 7, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 7, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3642>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 7, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		May 7, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 7, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6853	Related bill	May 14, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
116 HR 6560	Related bill	Apr 22, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Undertaking National Initiatives to Tackle Epidemic Act of 2020 or the UNITE Act of 2020

This bill responds to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency by increasing volunteer opportunities within AmeriCorps and employment opportunities at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and requiring the re-enrollment of Peace Corps volunteers whose service ended involuntarily on March 15, 2020, or earlier for volunteers who were serving in China or Mongolia.

Among other things, the bill

- reauthorizes through FY2022 Americorps programs;
- increases recruitment levels of its volunteers to 500,000 in FY2020-FY2022;
- sets the minimum compensation for Americorps volunteers, beginning in FY2020, at 200% of the poverty line applicable to a family of one;
- increases the ceiling on grant amounts to such volunteers from \$18,000 to \$25,000;
- increases the ceiling on the grant amount maximum limit from to not more than \$19,500 to \$30,000 per full-time equivalent position if necessary to meet the compelling needs of a particular program;
- requires FEMA to appoint, administer, and expedite the training of an additional 62,000 Cadre of On-Call Response/Recovery Employees above the level of such employees in FY2019 to address the COVID-19 emergency;
- .authorizes federal agencies to provide assistance essential to meeting immediate threats to life and property resulting from a major disaster to provide for temporary or supplementary facilities for official government polling places; and
- authorizes the President to pay a state, tribal, or local government in which a major disaster has been declared stipends for temporary workers conducting nonpartisan official election poll worker services.

Actions Timeline

- **May 7, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 7, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.