Date of Hearing: July 12, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
SJR 6 (Pan) – As Introduced March 22, 2017

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps

SUMMARY: Calls on the United States Congress to protect and sustain full funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal entity that administers the national service program known as AmeriCorps. Specifically, **this resolution**:

1) Makes numerous legislative findings related to the impact of AmeriCorps on communities and on the lives of the members who serve, including the following:

   a) More than 23,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in California at more than 3,200 locations throughout the state;

   b) This year, the CNCS committed more than $128 million to support California communities;

   c) National service programs represent a smart investment for the nation and for the State of California because, with every $1.00 invested in national service, there is a return to society of $3.95 in terms of higher earnings, more output, and other community-wide benefits; and,

   d) Since 1994, more than 130,000 California residents have served more than 160 million hours and benefited millions of Californians with their selfless dedication and commitment to service.

2) Recognizes AmeriCorps members, both past and present, who have made the commitment to serve our state and our country and thanks them for their service.

3) Urges the U.S. Congress to protect and sustain full funding for the CNCS to ensure the continuation of critically needed services, expand opportunities, and save taxpayer dollars through essential national service programs like AmeriCorps.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

COMMENTS: The CNCS was established in 1993 to manage AmeriCorps and other national service programs. Its mission is to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. Through AmeriCorps, millions of Americans are engaged in meeting critical community needs through a variety of service projects in six priority areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

According to the author, in late March, the Trump Administration's first federal budget for the fiscal year that begins in October proposed to eliminate the CNCS and to provide funding only

for its orderly shutdown. The author states that the Trump Administration's budget documents contend that "Funding community service and subsidizing the operation of nonprofit organizations is outside the role of the Federal Government." However, the author maintains that "programs like AmeriCorps administered through the CNCS have a profound positive impact on the communities that they serve and, at a time where civic engagement is under attack, it is imperative that California and the nation continue to invest in service projects through AmeriCorps that aim to make our communities better."

According to a May 2017 New York Times article entitled "Trump's Plan to Cut National Service Programs Breaks Decades of Tradition," the CNCS is one of the few federal agencies with a bipartisan board. A survey conducted in October 2015 by TargetPoint Consulting also found that 83% of voters, regardless of political affiliation, strongly support investing federal dollars in national service. CNCS's 2017 fiscal year budget of $1.03 billion represents less than .03% of the federal budget.

The sponsor, Child Abuse Prevention Center, adds that this resolution is intended to urge Congress to ensure that one administration does not undermine decades of volunteerism and good work in communities throughout California and the nation.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Child Abuse Prevention Center (sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

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