CITIZEN SERVICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 25, 2002

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Table of Contents

OPENING STATEMENTOF CHAIRMAN PETE HOEKSTRA, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE 3

OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER TIM ROEMER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE 4

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM OSBORNE, 3RD DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 6

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD, JR., 9TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 9

STATEMENT OF MARTHA JANE BOTTOMLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON, MI 16

STATEMENT OF REVEREND TIMOTHY R. SCULLY, C.S.C., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN 18

APPENDIX A - WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PETE HOEKSTRA, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE 29

APPENDIX B – WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER TIM ROEMER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE 33

APPENDIX C - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM OSBORNE, 3RD DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C37

APPENDIX D - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD, JR., 9TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C 41

APPENDIX E - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, 4TH DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 47

APPENDIX F - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTHA JANE BOTTOMLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON, MI 51

APPENDIX G - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF REVEREND TIMOTHY R. SCULLY, C.S.C., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN.. 59

APPENDIX H – SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD, STATEMENT OF HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER RICHARD A. GEBHARDT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. 67

Table of Indexes..... 70

HEARING ON CITIZEN SERVICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Subcommittee on Select Education

Committee on Education and the Workforce

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in Room 2261, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Peter Hoekstra, Chairman of the Subcommittee presiding.

Present: Representatives Hoekstra, Tiberi, Roemer, Scott, and Davis.

Staff present: Rich Stombres, Professional Staff Member; Whitney Rhoades, Professional Staff Member; Blake Hegeman, Legislative Assistant; Scott Galupo, Communications Specialist; Patrick Lyden, Professional Staff Member; and, Deborah L. Samantar, Committee Clerk/Intern Coordinator.

James Kvaal, Minority Legislative Associate/Education; Maggie McDow, Minority Legislative Associate/Education; and, Joe Novotny, Minority Staff Assistant/Education.

Chairman Hoekstra. A quorum being present, the Committee will come to order.

We are meeting today to hear testimony on Citizen Service in the 21st Century. Under Committee Rule 12(b), opening statements are limited to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. Therefore, if other Members have statements they will be included

in the hearing record.

With that, I ask unanimous consent for the hearing record to remain open 14 days to allow Member statements and other extraneous material referenced during the hearing to be submitted in the official record.

Mr. Scott. Without objection.

Chairman Hoekstra. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Roemer, good morning.

Mr. Roemer. Good morning. I have got my forces here in case we have a vote, Mr. Chairman. I have three votes now.

Chairman Hoekstra. That is all right. Since we are doing this in a bipartisan way, we might even give you five.

Mr. Roemer. I am stacking them any way I can.

Chairman Hoekstra. We will go back to the good old days of proxies, and you can have my proxy today.

Mr. Roemer. It sounds like a deal.

Chairman Hoekstra. Yes.

Welcome to your daughters.

Mr. Roemer. Sarah.

Chairman Hoekstra. Hi, Sarah.

Mr. Roemer. And Grace.

Chairman Hoekstra. Hi, Grace. Good morning.

Well, we are glad they are here. I would also like to welcome all of you to the Subcommittee's second hearing on National Service.

OPENING STATEMENTOF CHAIRMAN PETE HOEKSTRA, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Earlier this month, the Subcommittee learned about the details of the Administration's principles for reforming and strengthening the Corporation for National and Community Service. President Bush has proclaimed this week as National Volunteer Week, so it is particularly relevant that we are meeting this morning about Citizen Service in 21st Century.

As part of National Volunteer Week, the President has called on Americans to join together to celebrate the vital work that volunteers perform every day, and he believes the spirit of American volunteerism in America will he create a culture of responsibility and caring that will inspire us to achieve greatness as a nation. Across the country, volunteers are working behind the scenes to address needs in their communities through a broad range of organizations reflecting the diversity of our civil society including private charities, faith-based organizations, community organizations, and federal service programs.

Today, we will continue our discussion of the President's principles for reforming the programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service. Over the next few weeks, we will be working with the administration to update the law to reform and enhance the service programs under the Corporation.

We also hope to work closely with Representatives Ford and Osborne to include provisions from H.R. 3465, the Call to Service Act. There are many similarities between H.R. 3465 and the President's principles for reauthorization. Both proposals would:

- Increase support for homeland defense activities including public safety, public health, and emergency preparedness;
- Eliminate the taxation of the education award;
- Add accountability provisions for Corporation programs; and
- Provide authority for the Corporation to explore innovative and flexible programs that allow participants to determine where they wish to serve from among a variety of options.

The Subcommittee will also receive testimony today from service organizations such as Volunteer Muskegon, which enriches its community by providing leadership, services, and programs that support, promote, and recognize volunteerism. We will also hear from the Alliance for Catholic Education, a service program that allows college graduates to serve as full-time teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools in the southern United States.

WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PETE HOEKSTRA, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – SEE APPENDIX A

Chairman Hoekstra. I will keep my remarks brief this morning, so we will have ample time to hear from our distinguished witnesses. With that, I will yield back my time, and yield to my colleague from Indiana, Mr. Roemer.

Mr. Roemer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask unanimous consent to have my entire statement entered in the record.

Chairman Hoekstra. Without objection, so ordered.

OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER TIM ROEMER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Thank you very much. First of all, I want to welcome our distinguished colleagues here to our Subcommittee. Congressman Ford, a very good friend of mine, who has served on the New Democrat Coalition with me over the years, and has also been somebody who has continually brought new ideas to the forefront, and certainly presents a very intriguing idea to us now on National Service, one that mirrors one introduced by Senator Bayh, my colleague and friend, on the Senate side. So I welcome my good friend, Congressman Ford.

I also want to recognize and welcome Congressman Osborne. Congressman Osborne and I have worked on a host of bipartisan issues together on the Education Committee, and we have worked across the aisle, together with the Chairman, on issues. We are very anxious to hear your testimony on the Bayh-McCain senate bill that Congressman Ford and you have introduced on this side. I know that you have worked with the DLC and the PPI on this idea. We welcome many of the aspects in the bill.

We also welcome Congressman Shays. The Chairman and I have met several times with Congressman Shays on the reauthorization of AmeriCorps with John Ridgeland and other White House people. And so, we look to do this in a very bipartisan way, and see a bipartisan representation here before us.

If I am interrupted in my next two minutes, Mr. Chairman, it is because my daughters, Sarah and Grace, probably have reminded me of something that I have left out of my statement. So, excuse me if that happens.

I also want to welcome a good friend and a real inspiration to me in the way he has run an AmeriCorps program; the AmeriCorps Service continually holds up as one of the single best programs in the entire nation. And that is Father Tim Scully, who came up with the idea. He is

going to be a witness on the next panel, and we are going to hear more about the Alliance for Catholic Education, the great provisions, the great ideas, and the great inspiration that this program provides for public schools in South Bend to tutor underprivileged children.

They take a host of different students who are graduating with their master's degrees in teaching, and put these teachers in underserved Catholic schools in the South, where they teach science and math and help educate underserved children across the United States. So their impact is two-fold, both in public schools in Indiana, and in some private schools underserved in the South.

I am very excited about this reauthorization process. As I said, we are working with President Bush. I was encouraged with the President's statement in the State of the Union where he wants to expand National Service on President Clinton's idea. We are working with his representatives to get this through Congress.

In light of what happened to this country on September 11, I think you are seeing a real revival in the spirit of giving to our communities. We are not leading this revival in spirit as public servants; the people are leading it. I was back home on Friday in an AmeriCorps ceremony in my hometown of South Bend, where we had a score of AmeriCorps volunteers who participate in already successful programs in a homeless center, and in a shelter for battered women and their children.

These AmeriCorps volunteers have been succeeding across the board for the last five or six years. We want to replicate these programs and tap into this great spirit that is percolating across our country and find ways for more and more people to contribute, whether it be to help the homeless and shelter them, whether it be to feed the hungry, or whether it be to educate the underprivileged.

We can come up with these great ideas and do it in a bipartisan way across the aisle. So I am encouraged by the proposal here before us. With Senator McCain, and Senator Bayh having a similar proposal on their side it brings a bicameral perspective to this as well. So we are very excited to hear the testimony this morning.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your bipartisan spirit and your cooperation in the many meetings we have already had on this. Thank you.

WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER TIM ROEMER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE - SEE APPENDIX B

Chairman Hoekstra. Thank you. Mr. Roemer, I think you wrapped up my comments pretty well, in terms of where I was going to go. We want to welcome our colleagues, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Shays for being with us this morning and sharing their perspectives on service.

You know, not only are Tim and I doing this on a bipartisan basis, but any time you can get somebody from the University of Michigan and the University of Nebraska to sit next to each other and agree on something here in Washington, it is great progress because we do not agree on much on the football field. We also have Notre Dame represented here. And, Chris, I don't know if they play football in Connecticut or not.

Mr. Roemer. They play basketball.

Chairman Hoekstra. Well, in Michigan we don't talk about basketball a whole lot recently. But, Tim and I are trying to set a tone for the reauthorization of this bill by working with Chris, and we hope by working with Congressman Osborne and Congressman Ford, and getting it done this year.

We have set a tentative objective of moving this bill out of Subcommittee and Full Committee by the end of May, before the Memorial Day recess. So that is a very aggressive schedule. But, you know, we started this work last fall when Chris and Tim and I met with the folks over at the Corporation of National Service, and we met with their board.

So, with that, we are looking forward, Congressmen Osborne and Ford, and Congressman Shays, to your comments this morning. Congressman Osborne, we will begin with you.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM OSBORNE, 3RD DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Congressman Roemer for his kind comments. It is nice to see Sarah and Grace here. I think Sarah was right, I know Grace is, and the rest of you on the Committee.

As Mr. Roemer mentioned, I think all of us are aware there is a tremendous resurgence of patriotism and a desire to serve throughout the country after September 11th. I am old enough to remember back to Pearl Harbor. I guess that it rang a bell because I began to see the country come together. A lot of young people became aware there was a patriotic fervor that they did not know was there. And so, that has been encouraging. The question has been, “How do you harness this?” And I thought about it.

Congressman Ford came to me with an idea that seemed to make sense that was embodied in the Call to Service Act (H.R. 3465). It was mentioned that this was initiated over on the Senate side, to some degree, but there are several key components of Call to Service, I would just like to mention briefly here. Some of them may prove to be attractive to the Committee, some may not.

As you know, it expands the AmeriCorps program from 50,000 to 250,000 members by 2010. So it is fairly ambitious in that regard.There is a military component, which is not within the jurisdiction of this Committee, and I understand that. It may be something that is a little bit

farfetched, but I still like the idea. It is 18 months of active duty, 18 months of reserve duty, and then at the completion of the military component, $18,000 of educational award goes to the person who completes that service. And, of course, it can be used only for education.

I guess the reason that it rang a bell with me was that so many of the young people I worked with were 18-years-old. Most of them had no idea what they wanted to do. They knew they wanted to play football, and that kind of helped them hang in there, and gave them something shoot for. But there was not a whole lot else in their lives, and maybe by the time they were 20 or 21, they had it figured out what they were going to do. And so it served them well to play on a football team, but most people don't have that. So I think sometimes a period of reflection, a period of military service, and an opportunity to serve your country can serve as a time that kind of stabilizes you, and gives you some vision of what you want to do.

And then, of course, I think it benefits the country because as all of us know, our borders are very vulnerable. We need people to guard airports, nuclear plants, bridges, and buildings. And, right now, in many cases, people who are overqualified and more highly paid than they need to be, are doing that. We have fireman, and policemen, and career military people doing jobs that entry-level military people could handle.

So it is something I think we ought to think about. I think it would cost-effective, even though it is expensive. I think it could benefit the country a great deal, and certainly benefit the young people involved.

The SeniorCorps component, those over 55, I think is very important too. I think this is a tremendous untapped resource that we have in this country. We have more and more people retiring early, and we have more and more people who are living longer. So I think it is important we take a look at this. This is the fastest growing segment of our population.

As most of you know, there have been some real problems with family stability in the last 20 to 30 years. Over one-half of our young people are apparently growing up without both biological parents, 18 million fatherless children in our country. I dealt with a lot of those guys, and I realize the havoc that that plays in your life. There is a lot of dysfunction going on out there, a real lack of extended family, and so we think that the SeniorCorps is something that can be used very effectively in a couple of ways.

One way is tutoring. There are a lot of reading, math and science programs that seniors can help with one-on-one. I think that would be very helpful.

Another way, and something that has been near and dear to my heart, is mentoring, a relationship with a caring adult. Someone who has some life experience can reduce absenteeism by roughly one-half, drug abuse by one-half, teenage pregnancy by 30 to 40 percent, violent crime, and different types of civil disobedience dramatically.

We think that mentoring is something that really works. And the Act provides that for 500 hours of volunteer service, a senior would get a $1,000 academic stipend, which they could give to a grandchild, to someone in their community, or maybe to the young person they are working with.

So it gives them some motivation. It gives them a way that they can focus their energies. I think lots of people are looking for ways to serve, and they just really don't know how to go about it.

The third component is expanding community service. As you are aware, I think the President has a component in his bill, and we have this idea that 25 percent of college work-study programs would address community service. I think the President's plan was 50 percent, or something like that, but certainly both ideas are excellent. Also, the Act provides $100 million in challenge grants to be matched by grants from the private sector for nonprofits that serve communities. And so, if you have got a program that is doing well, that is serving a lot of people, it allows people to expand. Some of these grants may be used as stipends for teachers in underserved areas and such programs.

The last thing I will mention I think is important and that is accountability. I know a lot of my colleagues on the Republican side are a little uneasy about these kinds of programs, and probably rightly so, because government programs are generally viewed with some suspicion. The thing is, like we always say here, the devil is in the details. If a program is not well administered, it can be a boondoggle. But I think that there is a built-in accountability in the Call to Service Act that really will help. It requires an independent third party review. This, of course, holds people to a standard of performance and accountability. This is an annual review, and I think that is very important. I think it is an important part of the bill.

So, it may be that we have an amalgamation of ideas here, and maybe there is something here that you can use. But I think in general the country will be well served if we can incorporate some of these ideas. Thank you for your time, and your attention, and we will be at your disposal this morning.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM OSBORNE, 3RD DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C SEE APPENDIX C

Chairman Hoekstra. Thank you. I do believe that there are a number of points that directionally are consistent with what the President has been talking about, and with what we have been talking about with the Corporation. And so, I think there is a lot of common ground that we can build on.

Congressman Ford.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD, JR., 9TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you Congressman Roemer, for the kind words, and for all of the work with regard to the New Democrats. We are going to miss you here in the Congress. We hope to have you back somewhere here on the Hill one day in the near future.

It is always good to see my favorite members of your family, Grace and Sarah, as well, with you being a distant fourth, and your wife being the third. I used to serve on this Subcommittee, so it is a delight to be back before Mr. Scott, and Ms. Davis, and Mr. Tiberi. Thank you for having me here this morning.

I can only echo the points already made by Congressman Osborne. I will say that it is good to be on the side of the coach. I know when my teams have gone up against them in the past, they haven't fared so well at Michigan and Tennessee.

So it is a delight to be with him and Chris Shays, who is one of the more courageous voices here in the Congress. When the history books are written, and you look at the accomplishments of not only this Congress but also many before and those who provided inspiration and momentum, Chris Shays will be viewed very favorably. He is viewed favorably by a lot of us in the Congress already, and I am a firm believer that history will treat him perhaps more generously than some of us already treat him here. It is a delight to have him on the bill.

Let me just highlight two or three points that Congressman Osborne did not raise. I can only align myself with all of his comments about the surge in patriotism and the belief that patriotism is about more than fireworks and waving flags. It is about service and sacrifice. And, obviously, many members of our military, who are representing and defending us, overseas as we speak, are rendering the greatest sacrifice.

Nine of us traveled not long ago, Mr. Chairman, to Afghanistan. I am proud I can pronounce the names of these countries, Uzbekistan, and Kurdistan, and Tajikistan. We met with defense and economic ministers in all of those places and had a chance to meet not only with Chairman Karzai, but also with many members of our U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

As someone who has no military experience, and there is very little military experience in my family, you walk away with the greatest appreciation for the dedication, and resolve, and frankly the courage of these young men and women.

For anyone who believes that young people are incapable of doing wonderful and important things, as Mr. Scully and others know, you need look no further than those who are representing and defending our interests and our values, not only in Central Asia, but all across the world, for

that matter.

It has been said that Senators McCain and Bayh were the original authors of this legislation. They are, and we give them full credit for all that they have done on the Senate side. We thank them in a lot of ways for allowing us to try to move this bill on this side.

The President's USA Freedom Corps is a great idea. I do not think you will find much resistance from Congressman Osborne, or even Congressman Shays, or for that matter the many who have signed on to this piece of legislation. However, there are a few differences.

If I could be so bold in this land of bipartisanship to just point some of those differences out and ask for some consideration, I would hope that we would have a very thoughtful and sincere debate about where there are differences.

To add on to what Congressman Osborne said, in addition to all that he said, the Call to Service Act actually eliminates a tax on education awards. Having served on the Committee, I know all of our collective affinity for eliminating taxes. It is estimated this would cost some $4.5 million a year in the first year; $15 million annually when fully implemented; and close to $80 million over the nine-year life of the bill.

One other thing that the Call to Service Act does is that it boosts community service and work-study programs to an achievable 25 percent. The President's version increases it to 50 percent. One of the reasons or considerations for that, Mr. Chairman, is, as you know I come from an urban area in Memphis, and Tom Osborne comes from a very rural area. I think his district covers perhaps some 70 percent of the state of Nebraska, two very, very different districts. One of the ways in which we were able to harmonize or reconcile some of the differences was to figure out ways in which we would not overburden institutions of higher learning, and many in the higher education community expressed some reservation and objection to this 50 percent number in their work study program, so the Call to Service Act brings that down to 25 percent.

Congressman Osborne also mentioned the Senior Service Act. We lower the age limit from 60 to 55, and we raise instead of eliminate, as the Freedom Corps bill does, the low-income cap to 200 percent of the poverty line for those qualifying for a stipend, for all of the reasons that Congressman Osborne mentioned.

Second to last, I know this Committee's fervor for accountability. We have all seen in the past three to six months, in particular those who might have worked for, or had someone in Enron, the need for annual third party reporting. I share the Chairman's concern for assessing outcomes and effectiveness of programs. The Call to Service Act actually includes an independent audit provision, which will allow us to continue to find ways, to search for ways to lower the cost of this program, and increase or improve its effectiveness.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, the focus of the Call to Service Act, again, as Congressman Osborne mentioned, increases member participation from 50,000 to 250,000 by 2010. The AmeriCorps structure is one that is working in a lot of ways. There are some problems and flaws. The

Chairman and I have had conversations about this in the past.

Congressman Osborne and I are both Members of the Full Committee, and I am no longer on the Subcommittee. But what we have seen is that the program can work, and that the program is working, and there are ways in which we can improve it.

The President's plan actually creates a new bureaucracy. And, again, I know this Committee's lack of affinity for new bureaucracies, or even old bureaucracies for that matter. Much of this program would be administered through the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The concern that I have, or I should say, the reason that we took this approach is that FEMA has a top-down approach, and the President has offered the idea of a civilian corps that would help and assist FEMA in its efforts.

It is probably a good idea, but I do not think we should confuse the two. And, perhaps, we can do both. If this Committee, this Congress and Senate, and the legislative branch, sees fit to fund both, then we should do that.

What this effort does is build on the success of a current program. I think we have an infrastructure in place to accommodate that. We also ask for 50 percent of the efforts through the expansion of AmeriCorps to be directed towards homeland defense or homeland security, including public health, public safety, and disaster relief, and preparedness.

In the public health infrastructure in Memphis and Shelby County where I am from, kids could participate there. The Call to Service Act also requires that the Homeland Security Office work with state commissions including Father Scully's.

I would be interested in his thoughts because, as you analyze these bills, the Call to Service Act would allow for his organization, and for Tim Roemer to go back to that district and work closely with his organizations. The USA Freedom Corps would cause you to have to work with FEMA, and another letter would have to be sent asking you to work with Father Scully because of his experience. It would cause you to have to work with another entity creating another level of bureaucracy.

In a lot of ways, the Call to Service Act decreases the level of bureaucracy and allows for the programs that are currently in place, Mr. Chairman, to continue working, and allows this Committee and this Congress to choose the independent or third party that would be charged with auditing.

So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and look forward to hearing from Mr. Shays.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD, JR., 9TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.- SEE APPENDIX D

Chairman Hoekstra. I think Tim, and Chris, and I have worked and have talked with the Administration on each of these points. Again, I think there is a lot of common ground on the issues that you are talking about. Any time we can find some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that are in favor of permanent tax cuts, hey, we are with you.

Mr. Ford. Sign me up, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hoekstra. We will sign you up. The work study provisions are something that we have had extended discussions about, as to whether 50 percent is the appropriate target, or whether it should be something along the lines that you and Congressman Osborne are talking about, 25 percent. We recognize that is an issue that needs a lot of discussion.

The change in SeniorCorps is something that we have talked about. The Administration recognizes that your bill is out there, and that there is not an exact difference of opinion, about what is the most appropriate direction to go in, and the accountability provisions, and the increase.

You are right in outlining exactly what the best structure is here in Washington to support this, because we and the Administration wants this to be grass roots. We recognize that the strength of this program is from the bottom up, not from the top down.

And so I think there is a lot of common ground in what you are proposing between the Members that are here today, and this is why we are optimistic we can move through on an aggressive schedule. We may not end up exactly where your bill is. We probably won't end up exactly where some of the provisions of the original White House bill are, but we are all fine with that.

We think that through good dialogue we can find common ground that will enable us to move this bill forward, and that these things won't become roadblocks, but we recognize that they are minor differences on a road with shared common objectives, and that we can work through them quickly and effectively and get a good resolution. So we look forward to working with you and Congressman Osborne and taking elements of your bill and putting them with the Administration's.

Congressman Shays, welcome and good morning.

Mr. Shays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to be with you, and your Ranking Member, and your fellow Committee Members. And obviously to be on the same panel with Congressman Osborne, a true hero in the United States for so many of us, and then to be with someday President-elect, Harold Ford. I figure since I think he will be President someday, he can call me whatever the heck he wants.

Chairman Hoekstra. Ambassador?

Where did you want to go?

Mr. Shays. I was kind of thinking Vice President, but ambassador sounds good.

Mr. Ford. We're going to put him up for the selection committee.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, 4TH DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

I know, Mr. Chairman, you are clearly a strong fiscal conservative. I know that you believe, as many of us do, that one of the most productive and cost-effective investments in our government can be National Service. And, obviously, the benefits to those who serve, and to those they serve are just frankly, unbelievable.

I still remember how I felt as a 14-year-old watching the 1960 debates between Vice President Nixon and Senator Kennedy. I felt energized to hear Senator Kennedy's appeal to me and other young people when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place.

I wanted to be part of that vision as a young person. I would like to think there are young people today that are hearing President Bush speak about service to humanity and to their country, and feel that same sense of vision. Obviously, I was grateful that my wife and I had the chance to serve in the Peace Corps. I will tell you, and if you spoke to any Peace Corps volunteer who serves in Congress, as much as we appreciate and are extraordinarily grateful to be Members of Congress, the best two years of our lives were in service to our country, and to the world community in the Peace Corps.

The President's call to service through U.S. Freedom Corps, I think is just the right prescription. It has the term “Freedom Corps,” but it is really I think a clearinghouse to help direct Americans to service, and to help show them all of the different ways they can be of service.

His call for 4,000 hours out of our lives for community service, which amounts to two years of service work time, if you thought of a 40 hour work week; not that I think Americans ever think of just working 40 hours a week. It is a noble cause that so many Americans already have responded to.

Now I think it is time for Congress to do what it needs to do and reauthorize the National Service Bill, the Corporation for National and Community Service. I want to say when President Clinton put forward this legislation and I worked with Dave McCurdy, I was impressed with Eli Segal, who worked hard to set this up. He wanted Republicans to be a part of this process. He listened to the one thing Republicans asked for, “don’t have it be central based.” “ Don't have it be nation based. Have it be programs that come from the local communities and the states.”

That is what we did on a bipartisan basis. The result is you have good programs and you have bad programs, instead of one average program that kind of just gets by. You have such energy in the states and the local communities from that, and I think that is a strength that has to be

maintained. But, with it, when you let local control and states bring forth so many of these programs, you can have some programs that simply don't work. That is the nature of it. And so, you watch it, and you eliminate them, and you seek and try to maintain what is good in them.

I could go on with my gratitude to this President for wanting to increase AmeriCorps by 25,000 members, the SeniorCorps for 100,000 members, the estimated student volunteers by 200,000 to 300,000 members. All of this is extraordinarily exciting. And you, Chairman Hoekstra, and Mr. Roemer, are going to be guiding this legislation through the Subcommittee, through the Full Committee, and on the floor of the House.

I think you have one of the extraordinary opportunities that a Member of Congress has, to take what was good from the past, and work on a bipartisan, bicameral basis. I am just here to pledge my support as someone who would work on the original legislation and to say, I want to be part of your team. I want to make this happen. I want to work with my colleagues who sit at this table. And, frankly, I want the opportunity to finally go to a bill signing.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, 4TH DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEE APPENDIX E

Chairman Hoekstra. Let's not push it here. Thanks, Chris. I think you know, as Congressman Roemer and I have indicated over the last few months, we value your input. We have tried to make you a part of this team and feel ownership of this.

Mr. Shays. Thank you.

Chairman Hoekstra. That will continue, as it will with our colleagues who are Members of the Full Committee. So we thank the three of you for testifying this morning. We look forward to working with you over the coming weeks. And, like we said, we hope that this will be on a fast track.

Mr. Shays. Thanks.

Chairman Hoekstra. Great, thank you.

Mr. Roemer. Mr. Chairman, as the other witnesses come up, can I ask unanimous consent to have Mr. Gephardt's statement in support of our efforts to get a bipartisan bill put in the record?

Chairman Hoekstra. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Roemer. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hoekstra. Good morning, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our second panel. We have Ms. Martha Jane Bottomley. She is from my district, and we just had an opportunity to get together on Monday.

Ms. Bottomley is the Executive Director of Volunteer Muskegon. She also works for the Youth Volunteer Corps, an organization dedicated to engaging youth in community service. In addition to her numerous volunteer efforts, Ms. Bottomley has served on the Governor's Service Award Selection Committee. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University.

Thank you for being here. And thank you, most importantly, for all of the work that you have directed in the west Michigan area, specifically in Muskegon, Michigan.

Chairman Hoekstra. I will yield to Mr. Roemer for purposes of introducing our next witness.

Mr. Roemer. I could go on and on for probably an hour to introduce Father Scully, who has held many positions at the University of Notre Dame. His current one is the Executive Vice President of the University. He has been Assistant Provost. One title that I think he holds very near and dear to his heart is teacher or professor. He has done many outstanding things for the University.

One of the things that he is here today to talk about, however, is the Alliance for Catholic Education, an idea that is really his brainchild. We now have teachers spread throughout America due to his dedication and the original idea that he came up with. This really is an inspiring idea. It is working. It is an effective idea. It retains these students in teaching professions. And, as I said before when I talked about my friendship with Father Scully, it is a "two-fer."

It gets teachers going into the public schools in Indiana helping underserved, underprivileged children, especially with remediation efforts in the summertime. I would like to see the university do even more with the public schools in South Bend. I hope to continue to encourage you to do that. Then the second part of this is, as the students graduate, the University of Notre Dame helps find schools in the South for these students to go teach in. They don't teach religion. They cannot teach religion. They go to teach math and science, and fill in the gaps. They would have no teachers in most of these schools if it were not for this program.

So we are very excited about what Father Scully has done, and what the University of Notre Dame has done. For every dollar that we give in government money, I think Father Scully and the University of Notre Dame raises eight or nine dollars to match and exceed that. As I said before, when you talk to the former heads of AmeriCorps, National Corps, National Service, every one of them would say, before I could even get it out of my mouth, "This is one of the outstanding programs in the country."

So, Father Scully, thanks for being here to talk about this program and all of the good things that you are doing with this, and maybe how expanding on President Bush's efforts will further expand on this idea at the university and in other places. Thank you again.

Father Scully. Thank you, Congressman.

Chairman Hoekstra. Thank you and welcome.

Ms. Bottomley.

STATEMENT OF MARTHA JANE BOTTOMLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON, MI

I would like to thank Chairman Hoekstra, and say hello to Ranking Member Roemer, and the rest of the Members of this Committee for the opportunity to speak to you today. As you know, my name is Martha Bottomley. I am the Executive Director of Volunteer Muskegon, which is a volunteer center in Muskegon, Michigan, on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan. We are a county of approximately 170,000 diverse citizens.

Volunteer Muskegon is one of 34 volunteer centers in the state of Michigan. We also are part of 470 volunteer centers through the National Network of Volunteer Centers, and that network partners with the Points of Light Foundation. When we aggregate all of our numbers, we connect over 2.6 million volunteers, and these are volunteers that are the traditional non-stipend volunteers with opportunities to serve their community. When you put a dollar value on this, it adds up to over $7.5 billion of volunteer efforts that are given to the local communities.

Each year in the state of Michigan alone, we generate over 50,000 volunteers, who are connected with meaningful, productive, volunteer experiences in their local communities. Volunteers exist to address identified needs in those American communities. These needs vary from community-to-community, but very often they are tutoring, or community clean up. In the state of Michigan with all of our beautiful lakes, we do lots of beach sweeps and we work in neighborhoods to beautify them. We help at soup kitchens, with housing, tutoring, mentoring and many, many other activities.

The overriding goal in any volunteer center is to make each and every community a stronger, better place to live, and to raise your family. With the extremely large, extremely tight budgetary concerns, it is really important that a combination of federal, state, and local dollars go in to continue to support volunteer centers. It takes money to recruit volunteers, and to perform security checks, and to place and recognize our volunteers. In the volunteer field, we often say volunteers are not really free because you have to do all of those things.

Today, however, I would like to talk to you about the reauthorization and how I really feel very passionate about this. The best way for me to do that is to tell you my story. I started out as an AmeriCorps member in 1994. I am very proud to have been part of the first class of AmeriCorps. I was single, had raised my children, and I was ready for all of the doors that were to open to me. I have learned that National Service programs are all about opening doors for people.

We have come a long way in Muskegon, Michigan, with our volunteer center. We started out as a result of a Michigan initiative from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation that wanted to study volunteerism in our state. After the task force was assembled, and we recognized that what we had to do was to institute a volunteer center, it was created and that's when Volunteer Muskegon was born in 1996. I was already working, as I said, as an AmeriCorps member with Youth Volunteer Corps. Part of that was to include the Youth Volunteer Corps as part of the Volunteer Center. So we have an extremely strong youth component in our center.

In 1998, we were given the opportunity to serve the other end of the age spectrum, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Through the Points of Light Foundation, we were given one of three RSVPs that were awarded by the corporation. That allowed our center to expand, and develop, and move out of the United Way, where we had been housed. We are a United Way agency, so we do receive some funds from that source for our Youth Volunteer Corps. But the RSVP has really enabled us to grow and to serve that senior population. Some of the things that they do are what most volunteers do.

We have lots of tutors in the Muskegon schools. We also have started a truancy program with RSVP in collaboration with Muskegon public schools, where the seniors are actually patrollers, but the collaboration is with the city, police department, with the county prosecutors, with 911, and with juvenile court. What we are trying to do is address the issue that I think is prevalent in many, many urban areas, and that is truancy. We want to keep our kids in school in Muskegon, so that they are better educated.

RSVP currently had approximately 75 host sites where we place volunteers, and they do such things as work for the Red Cross, the local hospital, animal shelters, Habitat for Humanity, and lots and lots of tutoring in our schools. They work for many other nonprofit agencies in a variety of activities.

While Volunteer Muskegon had AmeriCorps members through the Youth Volunteer Corps of America, we have also had Learn and Serve grants, which have been very, very important to our youth program. But currently we are the host site for our state AmeriCorps team through the Michigan Community Service Commission. It was really important for us to put together a collaboration of local entities to be able to meet the mandate set down by our state commission. But we have done that, and it has worked really well for us locally.

We have AmeriCorps members who are stationed in schools, some in the after school programs, some all day. We have some at municipalities, and other nonprofit agencies, but they all do service learning, and they all work with youth. So that is what makes up our Volunteer Center.

When President Bush gave his State of the Union Address, I was very curious and interested. My ears really perked up, I think like most volunteer center directors, with his call to service. I think that is a really critical initiative that is happening, and I am thrilled for the national attention. However, I think it is going to take some federal funds. I would beg Congress not to create a new bureaucracy, but rather to use the existing volunteer center network and the Points of Light. They have set up benchmarks that we all must adhere to, and so there is a standard already

in place.

I would encourage Congress also, if they were so disposed, to pass legislation to give money to create new volunteer centers, so that we have far more than 470 to reach across this great nation. Right now, I believe there are approximately 75 to 80 percent, something like that, that are within a geographical vicinity to a volunteer center. It would be wonderful if that would reach 100 percent.

Again, I want to thank Congressman Hoekstra for this opportunity. I really do feel passionate about Corporation for National Service, and what it can do for citizens of all ages, whether it is AmeriCorps, VISTA, or the SeniorCorps. I never had the privilege of being a Peace Corps member, but AmeriCorps comes very close. Thank you very much.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTHA JANE BOTTOMLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON, MI - SEE APPENDIX F

Chairman Hoekstra. Thank you.

Father Scully.

STATEMENT OF REVEREND TIMOTHY R. SCULLY, C.S.C., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN

Thank you Chairman and Congressmen, for welcoming us this morning. It's nice to be sharing a table with an almost neighboring Congressional district.

You know, our partnership with the Corporation for National Service began when President Clinton visited our campus right at the outset of his first term, and he announced his vision for a Corporation for National Service.

I just want to quote a sentence or two from President Clinton on our campus, because it really did strike a cord, and it began our involvement. He said, "If we truly believe that children are God's most precious creation, then surely we owe every child born in the United States the chance to make the most of his or her potential, not only because this is essential for our economic success, but because providing opportunity is how we fulfill our obligations to each other, and the moral principles we honor."

We began the ACE program, frankly, in response to that invitation. We had closed our school of education, Chairman, in the 1970s because we didn't feel as a university that we were contributing distinctively to serving America's neediest kids. We also didn't feel that the products of our school of education were performing in the way that America's school children required.

With President Clinton's initiative, we approached the Corporation for National Service in its initial grant making round, and we ended up receiving what was called a demonstration grant. There were 465 colleges and universities that applied, and we were one of 11 chosen.

Chairman Hoekstra. I hate to tell you this, but one of your constituents does not like your testimony.

[Laughter.]

And I have no doubt that it is a future Notre Dame student that is crying out there. But those are future tuition dollars and we have to respect them.

[Laughter.]

In any case, ten years later, President and Mrs. Bush came to our campus last spring and celebrated with the ACE program, our growth, our commitment to service, and our commitment to excellence. So I want to just join my colleague here from Michigan in thanking you, and thanking our public servants in both parties for recognizing the importance of this contribution.

Let me just take a couple of minutes to highlight why this has been important to Notre Dame, and I hope to the communities we serve.

In '93, when we began our program, we placed 40 volunteer teachers who were receiving master degree level training in four southern states. We chose those states because our Bishops' conference identified those states as the most underserved in our systems. Eight years later, we have about 165 teachers in 90 schools in 14 states, and 110 schools next year. We have also replicated the program in 10 other institutions, not all Catholic. This replication has allowed us to provide another 250 AmeriCorps teachers through other institutions to another 16 states. So this has been just an enormous contribution I think of the AmeriCorps program to higher education, not just Notre Dame, but to 11 other institutions.

What kind of schools do we serve? Well, we serve poor schools mostly, kids that don't have particularly strong access to good teachers. That is kind of the magic of this. Of the 150 schools where we have served, just about all of them are Title I federally funded schools. Over 60 percent are almost exclusively African-American or Hispanic schools.

This year, just to give you an example, we will be serving in a new school. We continually try to expand our scope of service. We will have two Notre Dame teachers at San Xavier Mission School, which is the Tohono O'odham Nation. That is the second largest Native American reservation in the United States. It is about 12 miles south of Tucson. There are 163 kids there that don't have particularly strong teachers, quite honestly; 80 percent of them qualify for free lunches. So we have been able to expand pretty dramatically over the last couple of years.

We had 350 applicants to fill about 75 or 80 spots. So we are able to be pretty darn aggressive, in terms of the kind of people we want in classrooms. About 10 percent of Notre Dame's graduating class applies to become Catholic school teachers in this program, which is kind

of an extraordinary thing.

Of those 350 applicants, about 80 come from different universities. Again, not everybody is Catholic, but everybody shares a commitment to serve the poor in public and Catholic schools. The average GPA of our participants last year coming from Ivy League schools, or even Boston College, is 3.44. That “ain't” bad. I know that grade inflation has not hit Boston College, so we are pretty pleased about that statistic.

Tim Roemer, our Congressman, inspired us to move beyond the model that we had selected by taking only young people and expand it to people who were moving to the second part of their careers. He has done that, as you know, and led that effort for military people in a second career, a second vocation. So we did that in South Bend, and I am happy to say that that program has grown as well. We had seven applicants to last year's program. This year we have 33 applicants, so that over time our community in South Bend is going to be enriched by this program, which is really a national program as well.

We are pretty results-driven. We have taught about 45,000 elementary and secondary school students in 150 schools. We don't have your numbers of 2.5 million. I was pretty astonished by that. I feel kind of puny, frankly, next to what you shared, Martha.

The kids that we recruit to teach in schools come from pretty diverse backgrounds. One of the reasons we are able to have over 20 percent of our teachers from traditionally underrepresented groups in education is because of the AmeriCorps Education Award. Our kids, as you know, graduate from a place like Notre Dame and other places that are prestigious schools with some debt burden. This program allows them to relieve that debt burden and to continue in teaching.

Let me tell you very briefly about two kids who have joined our ACE program for this year. Tiffany Carter is a 2000 graduate from Western Washington University. She enrolled in officer candidate school, and in the course of her training she suffered two broken feet. She was unable to continue in the armed services, so she decided to apply for the ACE program. Tiffany is just going to be an unbelievable role model as an African-American teacher in a predominantly African-American school in inner city Atlanta. Benny Guilbeaux is in our newest ACE class also. He is a three-year starter on Notre Dame's football team. And, as an ordained Baptist deacon, he will be a terrific Catholic school teacher, we feel, in South Central Los Angeles, again, in an African-American school system.

Let me just close by saying that one of the most surprising things that has developed, is I did not expect that the number of young people who entered our volunteer service program for two years would continue in teaching. After eight years, 77 percent of our kids who have graduated, over 500 graduates, have remained in teaching, and almost half of them have migrated to public schools.

I know Tim has been encouraging us to move our resources to public schools, and this is one way they do. It is actually not bad that our kids get their start in teaching in private schools. Frankly, the learning experience is often a little more controlled and they move into becoming

some of the nation's strongest teachers. So, with that, let me just say that what Tim suggested is correct. It is only too correct.

I wish we did not have to leverage quite so many private dollars, Chairman Hoekstra, as we do for your federal dollars. We get about three or four percent of our total budget from the Corporation at $60,000, not bad. Believe me, I want it. You know, we have moved from $1,000 per member to now $400 per member, and I hope in your reauthorization you won't move that too much further down because we really could use the support. We use that money to train our teachers. We don't use that money to put it into private schools.

I might just close by saying that if you can eliminate the taxability of this award; I think that would be absolutely terrific for our participants. And finally, let me just say that this notion of adjusting the education award for inflation would also be tremendously helpful to all of us.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be here.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF REVEREND TIMOTHY R. SCULLY, C.S.C., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN - SEE APPENDIX G

Chairman Hoekstra. Thank you for being here. I think there is a strong sentiment within the Subcommittee to remove the tax deductibility Thursday morning.

Father Scully. Wonderful, that is wonderful.

Chairman Hoekstra. The question and the problem is it is not within our jurisdiction. We have to go to our friends over at Ways and Means, and we are hoping that we can get support for that, so that is an important ingredient.

Obviously, if we get that feature in, that would be a huge step forward in just getting the award to catch up to the inflation over the last seven or eight years. I don't necessarily see us going to the indexing route, but there will be some consideration perhaps for increasing the award, and some structure to evaluate that on a regular basis.

Father Scully. Thank you.

Chairman Hoekstra. Good, thanks, and it was very good input.

The other thing that we are talking about, Ms. Bottomley, I think you mentioned it in your written testimony, is the impact of the transferability of the award for AmeriCorps volunteers. I think there are two kinds of transferability. The White House in the principles that they have outlined has indicated that perhaps for AmeriCorps volunteers it could be used for things other than educational purposes somewhere down the line, and that for senior citizens it could be used to

transfer to someone else.

Any additional comments that you would like to make on that?

Ms. Bottomley. Well, I think that would be a wonderful step. As an AmeriCorps member, who already had my degree, I would love, for instance, to have been able to transfer my Ed Award to one of my children, who are still struggling to pay off their college loans.

I know that that is a concern, specifically of an older AmeriCorps member. I also think the issue of getting some kind of Ed Award for the SeniorCorps has been talked about and it would be wonderful, if they could transfer it to a child, grandchild, or even another deserving person that they are working with. It would be a really, really wonderful recruitment tool, quite honestly.

Chairman Hoekstra. Right.

Father Scully, give me the finances of the ACE program, not the global, okay. But for one of the students that you select, what happens to their finances? What are the private/Notre Dame dollars, and what are the Federal Government dollars?

Father Scully. Sure. Well, it is split.

Chairman Hoekstra. Okay.

Father Scully. Once we accept an applicant into our program as a participant, we commit ourselves for the next two years to be responsible for the full expenses of that participant's livelihood. So we pay for their transportation to campus, we pay for their housing, their food. Notre Dame underwrites, as a gift to the program, a full tuition waiver for a master's degree in education. Notre Dame also underwrites the housing piece, does not charge the program for that. That is an in-kind contribution of the university to the program.

The schools where the young people will be teaching pay a fee, and that fee is based on the average salary of their first year student, and then discounted. So we receive fees from some of our schools, frankly, in central Louisiana, of maybe $500 per participant. But in some areas of Los Angeles, where wages tend to be higher, we can receive a fee from a school of up to $6,000. Those school fees constitute about 70 percent of our budget. There are about 160 school fees.

As you know, the young people receive two educational awards. We ask for a contribution of one of those two awards towards the cost of the master's degree in education. So they keep one, and they donate the second. If they decide to stay in teaching beyond their second year, and they are having pressure because teachers don't make a lot of money, as you know, we will often set aside a reserve pool for those folks.

We use our private money to begin paying down those debts as well to provide an incentive for our young people to stay in education. That is basically how the program works. We also, I should just add, are pretty aggressive at Notre Dame about raising private support for what we are trying to do. This program has generated about a $10 million endowment. That provides some

money for our summer programs. And, frankly, even with the amounts that I mentioned to you, we still are running a little bit short. We want some things; we want some money available for new ideas.

We just started a principal leadership program. It is going to be a 16-month program over two summers at Notre Dame, and our young people will receive a licensure as a principal in the state of Indiana. The nice thing about this, Congressman, is that we will be able to supply the opportunity to become school leaders for the 500 and 600 kids we have. That is going to run a $200,000 a year deficit. The way we work it is we just go to our donor base and say, "Hey, we need a couple of million dollars," and they often come forward with it.

Chairman Hoekstra. That is what we do with our campaigns too, but it is not quite that easy.

Father Scully. Well, happily, we don't have the limits you do.

Chairman Hoekstra. That is true.

Mr. Roemer. Either that or Peter has exceeded them.

Chairman Hoekstra. All right. We have three votes. My time is completed. We will go to Mr. Roemer and Mr. Scott.

Mr. Roemer. Let me quickly go to mine, so Mr. Scott can get his questions in as well too. Thank you so much for this very helpful testimony, and the extraordinary job that you are both doing.

Ms. Bottomley, you said in your written testimony, and you mentioned it very briefly in your oral testimony, about how important Learn and Serve dollars were to initially get your program going. I think you used them for the first six years or so?

Ms. Bottomley. Yes, we received Learn and Serve dollars for six years for a camp project that Congressman Hoekstra has visited in Muskegon.

Mr. Roemer. Oh, good to hear he is getting around, huh?

Ms. Bottomley. Yes, he has.

Mr. Roemer. Good.

Ms. Bottomley. The United Way funds it now, but without the Learn and Serve dollars, we could never have gotten it off the ground. We start working with children at eight years of age, and begin to teach them service.

The wonderful thing is that we have been doing this long enough now that the campers become our Youth Volunteer Corps members. And now our Youth Volunteer Corps members are becoming AmeriCorps members. So we know that to really get people started in this whole idea of

service, you must start very young.

We have done some other projects that have been started with Learn and Serve dollars. So I really see that as a very essential part of the corporation program.

Mr. Roemer. I agree with you. I think Learn and Serve is a key component in starting this service idea at an early age. We are hopeful about working with the Administration to get that program a higher priority in restoring their proposal.

Do you agree with Father Scully on removing the taxability of the awards as well, too?

Ms. Bottomley. Absolutely. That is probably one of the biggest gripes that AmeriCorps members have.

Mr. Roemer. We get the e-mails, and the letters. I like it. I like your style. I agree with you, too.

Father Scully, thank you again for your testimony. You have been innovative with this program. You have had some creative ideas that go into different areas to tap resources in AmeriCorps.

What do you think about President Bush's new idea of expanding AmeriCorps? How do you see this affecting the ACE program? How do you see this expanding the Notre Dame program? You mentioned the principal leadership program idea. What other things are you thinking about? And, within the scope of the outline of the President's program, are you already formulating some ideas as to how this might help further improve maybe one of the best National Service programs we have out there?

Father Scully. Well, you know, I have to confess, Congressman, I am not that familiar with the President's program suggestions. I apologize for that.

I can say that one of the things I get a little concerned about from my own perspective is that Notre Dame is a national university. And, therefore, the preservation of some core resources at the federal level is important for a school like us because our students come from every one of the 50 states, and another 80 nations outside of the United States. We, like a number of other schools, will want to serve the communities from which our constituents come. And, increasingly, of course, I see program dollars appropriately moving to state and local control. I think that is wonderful. I just hope that the Congress won't ultimately eliminate national programs like Teach for America that are national in scope. So that is the one thing that I am concerned about.

Mr. Roemer. I appreciate that, and that is very helpful.

Has Notre Dame tapped into the competitive grant part of AmeriCorps as well? Do you know the funding stream that is provided through competitive grants that go out to some of these stellar programs? I believe you have received grants.

Father Scully. We have received a couple of grants from AmeriCorps to sponsor conferences on teacher training. We began in one cul-de-sac, Congressman, with very generous funding. And, as I have mentioned in my testimony, it has been shrinking a bit. But, you know, we are always looking to get as much support as we can for what we are trying to do.

We do see the federal portion of our program shrinking, and I know that that is delightful from your point of view. We would just like to make sure it does not shrink to de minimis proportions.

Mr. Roemer. Well, we want to make sure that the federal dollars continue to leverage your program and support one of the best programs out there. Maybe that is something the Chairman and I can work on, to see ways that we can further incentivize Notre Dame to implement some of these new ideas that grow wonderful teachers, and now principals, and maybe some other ideas as well, too. We would talk more to you.

I know Congressman Scott wants to ask a couple of questions before we have a vote. I have to take off early to get to this vote on time along with two aides that will be advising me all the way over.

Thank you again.

Father Scully. God bless you.

Mr. Roemer. Thank you so much.

Father Scully. God bless you and thank you for your help.

Mr. Scott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you both for testifying.

Ms. Bottomley, as I understand your testimony, you used the AmeriCorps volunteers to help coordinate other volunteers?

Ms. Bottomley. Yes, they work with youth. Last year alone, the AmeriCorps team that we have in Muskegon reached 900 young people, and those 900 young people gave 24,000 hours of service.

Mr. Scott. And if you had more AmeriCorps staff could you coordinate more volunteers?

Ms. Bottomley. Sure.

Mr. Scott. Is there any limit to the number of people you could use?

Ms. Bottomley. The limit comes in how much local matching dollars you can raise. Unfortunately, it always seems to come down to dollars.

Mr. Scott. How many do you have now?

Ms. Bottomley. We have, approximately, a team of 15 that serve Muskegon.

Mr. Scott. Okay.

Father Scully, Congressman Roemer mentioned religion. Your program doesn't need to teach religion in order to be successful, does it?

Father Scully. That is correct. Our teachers do not receive any AmeriCorps funding for teaching religion.

Mr. Scott. Okay. Now you mentioned a reduction of $1,000 to $400. What was that? Could you go over that again?

Father Scully. Yes. AmeriCorps, in an effort to encourage private leverage, has moved the administrative fee, which we are able to capture, for each participant in our program. It scaled it back in our program, which is Learn and Serve America, which is an education awards only program, from $1,000 down to $600, and now to $400 per participant.

That has made it pretty difficult for us to provide the kind of training that we need to provide to our teachers. Sixty thousand dollars a summer does not come near enough to providing the money we need to get the national faculty. We recruit faculty, the best teachers, practitioners, and the best scholars from all over the country, to teach our teachers how to teach, so we end up having to scramble quite a bit for private dollars to fill in that difference.

Mr. Scott. Was $1,000 enough?

Father Scully. Yes, $1,000 was terrific, yes. “Enough” is a relative term, Congressman.

Mr. Scott. As I understand the use of the student educational grant, it can be used to pay off student loans instead of going to more college?

Father Scully. That is correct.

Mr. Scott. And how many people use it to pay off student loans, as opposed to achieve more education?

Father Scully. I have data.

Mr. Scott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you again for coming and testifying.

Father Scully. Thank you, Congressman.

Chairman Hoekstra. Great, thank you.

We want to thank the witnesses for being here, for telling the personal stories of your organizations back in Indiana, and in Muskegon, Michigan.

Like I said, Tim and I really believe that we can put this on a fast track. We can get this done, and there will be no uncertainty about the direction and the future of the Corporation for National and Community Service. We want to get this done.

Father Scully. Wonderful, Congressman.

Chairman Hoekstra. And so, if there is no additional business before the Subcommittee today, the Subcommittee will stand adjourned.

Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned

APPENDIX A - WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PETE HOEKSTRA, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Subcommittee on Select Education
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives

"Citizen Service in the 21st Century"

April 25, 2002

Opening Statement of Chairman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI)

Good morning. I would like to welcome you all to the Subcommittee's second hearing on national service. Earlier this month, the Subcommittee learned about the details of the Administration's principles for reforming and strengthening the Corporation for National and Community Service. President Bush has proclaimed this week as National Volunteer Week, so it is particularly relevant that we are meeting this morning about citizen service in the 21st Century.

As part of National Volunteer Week, the President has called on Americans to join together to celebrate the vital work that volunteers perform every day and he believes the spirit of volunteerism in America will help create a culture of responsibility and caring that will inspire us to achieve greatness as a Nation. Across the country volunteers are working behind the scenes to address needs in their communities through a broad range of organizations reflecting the diversity of our civil society, including private charities, faith-based organizations, community organizations, and federal service programs.

Today, we will continue our discussion of the President's principles for reforming the programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service. Over the next few weeks we will be working with the Administration to update the law to reform and enhance the service programs under the Corporation.

We also hope to work closely with Representatives Ford and Osborne to include provisions from H.R. 3465, the Call to Service Act. There are many similarities between H.R. 3465 and the President's principles for reauthorization. Both proposals would:

- Increase support for homeland defense activities, including public safety, public health, and emergency preparedness;

- Eliminate the taxation of the education award;

- Add accountability provisions for Corporation programs; and

- Provide authority for the Corporation to explore innovative and flexible

programs that allow participants to determine where they wish to serve from among a variety of options.

The Subcommittee will also receive testimony today from service organizations such as Volunteer Muskegon, which enriches its community by providing leadership, services and programs that support, promote and recognize volunteerism. We will also hear from the Alliance for Catholic Education, a service program that allows college graduates to serve as full-time teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools across the southern United States.

I will keep my remarks brief this morning so we have ample time to hear from our distinguished witnesses.

As I have said before, the spirit of community service in our country is stronger than ever because of the tragedy our nation has endured. I am confident that we can put together a bipartisan reauthorization bill that will build on this spirit and help to sustain it in the future.

At this time I would yield to my colleague from Indiana, Mr. Roemer, for his opening statement.

APPENDIX B – WRITTEN OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER TIM ROEMER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Congressman Tim Roemer, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Select Education
Hearing on the Corporation for National and Community Service
Opening Statement
April 25, 2002

Mr. Chairman thank you for holding this hearing today on the Corporation for National and Community Service. Two weeks ago we had the opportunity to hear Les Lenkowsky testify before us about the administration's proposal on national service and I look forward today to hearing from some of our colleagues here in the House as well as from Ms. Bottomley and Father Scully.

I particularly want to welcome Tim Scully from the University of Notre Dame. ACE is a wonderful program, and I am glad that you could travel here from South Bend today to testify. ACE volunteers spend two summers in South Bend tutoring underprivileged students in some of South Bend's neediest schools. They then make at least a two year commitment to teach in under-resourced schools across the south. This corps of highly motivated young educators give back to some of the most underserved areas of our country.

Last Friday I was in South Bend visiting another AmeriCorps program. These AmeriCorps volunteers were in the process of planning a day of service at the Milton Home, a senior-citizens home. These volunteers collaborated to organize a day to spend time and build relationships with all 41 residents at the home.
In addition to their work at the Milton Home, AmeriCorps volunteers have also served to strengthen the South Bend community by serving the homeless, addicted and other marginalized low-income individuals and families.

Community Service is vital to our nation and I have been a longtime supporter of the Corporation for National and Community Service. I was glad to hear President Bush during the State of the Union address call on all Americans to devote the equivalent of at least two years of their lives to service and volunteerism.

Since the tragic events of September 11th, Americans from across the country have had a renewed need to give back to their country and to the communities that they live in. Whether it be Seniors tutoring children in a local elementary school or a recent college graduate helping to build houses, National Service provides a wide array of Americans with the opportunity to give back to the community.

I look forward to expanding AmeriCorps, SeniorCorps, VISTA, and other volunteer opportunities so that more people have the opportunity to give back to their community.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you on the reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses.

APPENDIX C - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM OSBORNE, 3RD DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C

COMMENTS OF THE HONORABLE TOM OSBORNE
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION
APRIL 25, 2002

Chairman Hoekstra, Ranking Member Roemer, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to appear here today along with my colleagues Mr. Ford and Mr. Shays to discuss an issue about which I feel very strongly – national service. Since September 11, 2001, we have seen a tremendous surge of patriotism and a sense of unity within the country. From this has stemmed a real desire to be of service to our nation. This has been particularly true of young people, many of whom had not thought much about the importance of patriotism prior to the recent attacks.

President Bush has also recognized this movement sweeping our country and has proposed the Citizen Service Act, which has many parallels with the Call to Service Act that was introduced previously on the Senate side by Senator McCain and which Congressman Harold Ford and I are pleased to have introduced in the House.

The Call to Service Act would expand the opportunities for participation in national service programs, through AmeriCorps, by increasing participation to 250,000 members. This is a five-fold increase from the current 50,000 members. This increase would allow more communities and organizations to reap the benefits of National Service programs. In 2010, there will be more than 30 million Americans between the ages of 18 and 24, providing ample candidates for National Service. In addition, there is evidence that young people want to serve. For example, in the weeks following September 11th, AmeriCorps experienced a 30 percent increase in interest profiles submitted by individuals who are considering joining. The interest is there, now. We must follow through with the leadership and programs to capture this moment and translate it into actions that will better all of our communities and strengthen our national fabric. As a coach, I saw thousands of young people who did not know what they wanted to be or do, but who knew they wanted to do something to help.

Additionally, our bill includes a component to enhance opportunities for military enlistment. While I know that this provision is not under the jurisdiction of this Subcommittee, I do want to mention it because I believe that it is important. Over 36 years of coaching, I dealt with a number of 18 year-olds and 19 year-olds. The vast majority did not know what they wanted to do with their lives, other than that they wanted to play football. This indecision as to what path to take in one's life is fairly common for young people who have graduated from high school. It seems to me that the military component of the Call to Service Act can be very helpful in this regard. This component is comprised of 18 months of active duty, 18 months of reserve duty, with an $18,000 stipend to be paid upon completion of military service. The 125,000 people who would be involved in this program would provide for the national defense by guarding borders, airports, buildings, or assisting with medical disasters involving bioterrorism.

My own experience would lead me to believe that the discipline involved in basic training and some military experience is good for young people, as we live in a relatively undisciplined culture, and the money provided at the end of the service period would pay for at least two years of junior college, a trade school education, or would provide an excellent start in

a four-year college or university. This military component would establish a pool of young people who could undertake basic national defense tasks. This would free up more highly trained, higher paid individuals such as policemen, firemen, and full-time military service personnel to perform the more technical duties for which they are trained.

Further, National Service opportunities need to be available to all Americans, young and old, urban and rural. I believe that we have a tremendous resource in our senior citizens. This is the fastest growing segment of our population and both the Call to Service Act and the President's bill recognize the role that senior citizens could play in serving our nation at a time when there is less family connection with extended family, more broken homes, and more dysfunctional situations for young people. We have correspondingly more retired people who can make a difference. Both the Call to Service Act and the President's proposal would recognize those who are over 55 as being qualified for the senior corps. These people can be involved in tutoring in schools and also for in an activity that is very important to me, mentoring. Having been involved in a mentoring program personally for a number of years, I realized that having a caring adult in a young person's life will reduce absenteeism from school significantly, will cause dropout rates to fall, and reduce teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and violent behavior. The Call to Service Act provides a $1,000 academic scholarship for every 500 hours of service that a senior citizen provides. This scholarship can be used for a grandchild or possibly for a young person in school who is being tutored or mentored by the senior citizen.

Additionally, the Call to Service Act expands opportunities for community service by requiring that 25% of college work-study programs address service in the community in which the college or university is located. Currently, a small percentage of work-study money is spent in this way. The Call to Service Act also provides $100 million in challenge grants to be matched by grants from the private sector that go to non-profit organizations for particularly deserving programs. These grants can be used or multiply some of the more efficient community service programs that are now ongoing in the country. For example, state initiatives can provide grants for teachers, which will serve us well, as the teacher shortage expands. Currently in Nebraska there are 500 annual awards at $4,725 each through the Nebraska Teacher Corps through AmeriCorps for teachers to stay in the profession and stay in Nebraska. This is particularly important in rural areas.

Lastly, the Call to Service Act has an accountability component. Like most government programs, the Call to Service Act looks good on paper. However, the way in which it is implemented is going to be critical as to how successful it is. The Call to Service Act requires a yearly independent third-party review of all the phases of the program in terms of its effectiveness. This accountability factor will enhance the effectiveness of the program and delay the fears of some that this will simply create another bureaucracy that does very little.

I realize that the Administration's proposal contains many of the same priorities and goals of your Subcommittee for reauthorization of the Corporation for National Service. I agree with much of what is in the President's plan and I look forward to working with the Administration and this Subcommittee as we work to reauthorize and strengthen National Service during this critical time in our nation's history. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

APPENDIX D - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD, JR., 9TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE HAROLD FORD, JR.
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2002
2261 RAYBURN

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Mr. Roemer – I think I speak for all of the members of this Committee when I say that we are going to miss your expertise and your dedication to bipartisanship.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today along with our colleague Tom Osborne, and share our vision for the reauthorization of the programs associated with National Service.

As you know, Congressman Osborne and I have introduced, H.R. 3465, The Call to Service Act -- legislation that we believe can empower Americans of all ages with the opportunity to serve the nation, as well as their communities. With that said, we were very excited that the President has emphasized the importance of service, and established the USA Freedom Corps initiative. We look forward to working with the White House, and with all of the members of this Committee, in crafting a bipartisan bill this year.

I have enjoyed working with my colleague from Nebraska, and appreciate his leadership on this issue. I am glad to have him on my side, because the last time Tennessee went up against Nebraska it didn't work out so well for us. Few Members of Congress -- and for that matter few Americans -- have inspired more young people than Coach Osborne. And few people better embody the spirit of public service.

The two of us represent rural Nebraska and urban Memphis, Tennessee -- districts that are, in a number of ways, as different as any in the Congress. However, we came together to help more Americans serve their country regardless of who they are, where they live, or how they may identify themselves politically.

Our association has not been a long one, but our partnership is strong. Along with our Senate partners in this effort -- Senators McCain and Bayh – we share a commitment to make national service more readily available, more accountable, and more cost effective. I also want to thank my dear friend Chris Shays for his advocacy of National Service, and his cosponsorship of the Call to Service Act.

It is appropriate that we are having this hearing during National Volunteer Week, during which we extol the value of service to others. We also recognize the role government can play in facilitating service through a framework of efficiency and accountability.

For some time now, and long before September 11, many Members of Congress -- including our distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member -- have supported initiatives to allow Americans to become more engaged as citizens.

National service is particularly valuable for young people. For my generation and those younger, service can be more than a right of passage, but also an activity that provides a sense of ownership and belonging in their communities. Service can be an enriching experience that fosters the civic

spirit that has been a foundation of our democracy dating to the earliest New England town meetings.

The Call to Service Act is a bipartisan product of a shared commitment to build upon the success of the AmeriCorps program, to strengthen homeland defense, and establish a new mechanism to meet the dynamic needs of our military.

While maintaining AmeriCorps' decentralized structure, our legislation calls for a five-fold expansion of the traditional program. It would create new opportunities for learn and serve, senior service, work study, and most importantly, homeland defense. Fifty percent of the program's expansion would be used to augment homeland defense in the areas of law enforcement or public health.

Under our bill, the Corporation for National Service, in conjunction with the Office of Homeland Security, would identify new opportunities to aid local law enforcement and public health agencies with anti-terrorism efforts. This addition would be particularly beneficial both for state and local authorities short on resources, and allow young people to gain valuable experience.

With a growing chorus of governors highlighting their overburdened budgets to the Congress and the Administration, this provision has the potential to ease the added pressure of post-September 11 security concerns.

In my state of Tennessee, for example, young people interested in a career in public health could provide invaluable, low-cost administrative support to the newly created Tennessee Office of Homeland Security or to the Shelby County Public Health Department. Likewise, those interested in law enforcement could provide support to local and state agencies.

Mr. Chairman, this approach differs from that proposed by the President, who, as you know, would place homeland security volunteers under the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
Creating a "civilian corps" of retired law enforcement or physicians or community leaders is a wonderful idea, and can fill needs in many communities.

However, the question of whether FEMA is the appropriate entity to manage a commitment to homeland security needs is one that should be the subject of a thoughtful and sincere debate. FEMA should have a role, perhaps similar to that defined under our bill for the Office of Homeland Security and HHS. But we should also reach out to governors, mayors, law enforcement, and others charged with domestic security.

Some have voiced concern that these positions would either pose significant risk to volunteers, or create an unqualified bureaucracy. But I believe there is little real reason for concern. No one has ever suggested that AmeriCorps volunteers should be either armed or placed in harms way. Volunteers would merely provide support functions, just as we have thousands of civilian employees in the Department of Defense, none of whom ever see combat.
The Call to Service Act would also correct existing problems and inequities such as the taxation of AmeriCorps education awards, and the limitations on access for military recruiters. Our bill also attempts to reach a greater number of participants -- particularly in rural areas -- by eliminating the

cap on the national direct program, and creating a demonstration program that would widen the category of eligible AmeriCorps activities.

In an ongoing effort to enhance National Service, our bill sets accountability standards and requires an annual independent audit of AmeriCorps. On the issue of accountability in particular, let me first commend both the Chairman and Congressman Roemer for their efforts to ease some of the growing pains associated with AmeriCorps. Those of us who want to expand national service also recognize the importance of accountability.

Before concluding, allow me to comment briefly on a few additional provisions, specifically work study, and senior service. Much discussion went into moving the work study requirement beyond its minimal 7% community service to a 25% threshold. The President's proposal, by contrast, would raise the work study requirement to 50%.

These proposals have raised some concerns in the higher education community, concerns which we share. Mr. Osborne and I are both attentive to these concerns, and we certainly do not wish to place additional burdens on college communities, particularly in rural areas. Representatives of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and other education interests have reached out to my office. They have let me know that they intend to make formal recommendations on increasing the role of our nation's colleges and universities in community service. We share the same goals, and we are more than willing to work with the higher education community, and of course our colleagues, in fostering service on our campuses.

Our bill takes steps to expand opportunities for senior service. The bill lowers the age limitation to 55, increases the income limitation to 200% of poverty, and increases the authorization. We see these expansions as strengthening our investment in our nation's seniors. One dire problem that could be improved through senior service is the looming long term care crisis. With the aging of our baby boom population we will face caregiver shortages requiring more options for our efforts to keep seniors in their homes. This only increases the importance of senior service.

Finally, although the issue is not within this Committee's jurisdiction, the Call to Service Act also includes provisions to expand opportunities for military service. The bill would provide new options for military enlistment, including expansion of the Montgomery GI bill, and the establishment of a new "18-18-18" short-term enlistment option. These provisions acknowledge that the GI bill has not kept pace with inflation, and that a growing shortage exists for entry-level service needs. The "18-18-18" plan would qualify E1 level recruits for an $18,000 education bonus after serving 18 months of active duty and 18 months of reserve duty.

In closing, the Call to Service Act, is only a starting point for helping the government play a meaningful role in promoting service, without bloating the bureaucracy. September 11 and our war against terrorism have reinforced our common values as Americans and reminded us of the true meaning of patriotism. Patriotism is not just about waving flags and watching fireworks. Patriotism is about service and sacrifice, about working together to protect America and strengthen our communities. Since September 11, millions of Americans have heard the Call to Service. Let's give them the chance to serve their country.

APPENDIX E - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, 4TH DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Testimony of Congressman Christopher Shays
Education Subcommittee on Select Education
Reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service
April 25, 2002

Thank you Chairman Hoekstra and Ranking Member Roemer for your dedication to helping Americans answer the President's call to service by reauthorizing the Corporation for National and Community Service. I also want to thank Congressmen Ford and Osborne for their work on this issue.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe National Service is one of the most productive and cost effective investments our government can make. Through service, Americans of all ages gain a sense of commitment to their communities and their country which will prove valuable for the rest of their lives.

National service benefits both the recipient and the giver. Volunteers not only address an immediate need, they lead and teach through example, and through that example they learn the value of serving and helping others.

I still remember how I felt as a 14 year-old watching the 1960 Presidential election between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy. I felt energized listening to Senator Kennedy's appeal to me and other young people when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place. I wanted to be part of his vision.

Years later, that dream was fulfilled when my wife Betsi and I served two years in the Peace Corps.

The same powerful emotion, the same sense of energy, eagerness and anticipation we felt in the sixties, is alive today.

The President's call to service through the USA Freedom Corps is just the right prescription during these times. The best anecdote to terror and hate in society are acts of kindness and service. In calling on all Americans to volunteer 4,000 hours in their communities during their lifetimes, President Bush spoke to our country's finest traditions of civic duty.

Now it's time for Congress to do its part by reauthorizing the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In 1993 I was thrilled to work with Congressman Dave McCurdy in passing the National and Community Service Trust Act. It was through this Act that the Corporation was created in an effort to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. Nine years later I am grateful to be part of the effort to continue and build the integral programs within the Corporation.

In a little more than one month after the President made his call for Americans to serve, applications to AmeriCorps programs at the Corporation increased by more than 50 percent and interest in Senior Corps programs at the Corporation rose dramatically. For that reason it is important for us to support the principles the President sent to Congress on April 9.

I believe most Americans support efforts to provide service opportunities for 25,000 new AmeriCorps participants, 100,000 new Senior Corps volunteers and an estimated 200,000-300,000 student volunteers at colleges and universities throughout the country.

The President's proposals for a Citizen Service Act are integral in providing the Corporation the tools to be more efficient and effective. They also make tremendous progress in encouraging and supporting those who want to serve their country.

National Service takes place in every community across the country and around the world, by individuals of all backgrounds and ages, supporting organizations large and small. Swift approval of National Service legislation will harness the energy and commitment of those anxious to contribute to their country and provide wonderful opportunities and incentives for them to do so.

I look forward to working with you Chairman Hoekstra, Ranking Member Roemer and Congressmen Ford and Osborne on this vital issue.

APPENDIX F - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTHA JANE BOTTOMLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON, MI

Written Statement of Martha Jane Bottomley
for the Committee on Education and the Workforce

I would like to thank Chairman Hoekstra and other Members of this Committee for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Martha Bottomley and I am the executive director of Volunteer Muskegon, a comprehensive Volunteer Center located in Muskegon, Michigan on the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan. Muskegon is a county of 170,000 diverse citizens. Volunteer Muskegon is one of thirty-four Volunteer Centers located in Michigan; and one of 470 Volunteer Centers comprising the Volunteer Center National Network. The Volunteer Center National Network, in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, our key programmatic partner, connects 2.6 million traditional, non-stipended volunteers with opportunities to serve, on an annual basis. These volunteers represent a total dollar value of over $7.5 billion. Each year in Michigan, over 50,000 eager volunteers are connected with meaningful, productive and fulfilling volunteer experiences.

Today I would like to address the issue of the reauthorization of the National and Community Service Trust Act. The best way to underscore the importance of this legislation is to tell my story and the story of Volunteer Muskegon. I have been involved with the volunteer and National Service movement for about eight years. In 1994 I made the commitment to become an AmeriCorps member through the Youth Volunteer Corps of America to serve in my home community of Muskegon County, Michigan. At the time I had no idea that making that commitment would be the beginning of an incredible journey. My family was raised and so I was very ready for the doors that opened for me. I believe opening doors for people of any age is a part of what National Service is all about.

In 1994, the first year of AmeriCorps in the country and for me, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Michigan started an initiative on volunteerism in the state. One of the communities selected by the Kellogg Foundation was Muskegon. The conduit for the funding from Kellogg was the Muskegon County Community Foundation. A task force was assembled by the Foundation. The task force represented several nonprofit agencies among them United Way, Goodwill Industries, Youth Volunteer Corps, Muskegon Catholic Foundation, at-large community members and staff from the Community Foundation. At this time Muskegon did not have a viable volunteer center. After much study and convening various focus groups in Muskegon County the consensus was the county wanted and needed a comprehensive volunteer center. This center was to include the Youth Volunteer Corps as the starting bases for the center and serve all ages of the population. The task force also knew to sustain the center a strong financial support of both private and non-private sources was necessary.

The Youth Volunteer Corps of Muskegon County was started in 1993. The financial needs were met with a Learn and Serve America grant. The Youth Volunteer Corps was housed at the United Way but without any funds for support. We had a place to live but no money to do any programming, except the Learn and Serve Grant. The grant was written to have a day camp for young children where teenagers would be the counselors. This camp was and is still held at Muskegon State Park. Actually Chairman Hoekstra visited this camp one summer. Hundreds of children have learned about the natural sciences and the beautiful Michigan outdoors. One of the highlights of our camp is a trip on Grand Valley State University's research vessel, docked on Muskegon Lake, the boat also goes out in Lake Michigan. This project now receives United Way

funding and continues as a popular project with the young children, teens and AmeriCorps members. We received Learn and Serve grants for six years to start several projects and are now seeking local funding to ensure program sustainability. One of the best things about the camp is that youth at a very early age are beginning to make a commitment to serve their community. The grants have enabled Volunteer Muskegon to establish itself as a strong agency to recruit and connect people of all ages, but most notably, to work with the youth of our community.

In 1995 as an AmeriCorps member I was continuing to learn more about the Corporation for National Service and how some of their other programs could help Muskegon County build a stronger Volunteer Center. In 1996 Volunteer Muskegon came into existence with the little money left over form the original Kellogg grant. Volunteer Muskegon was started with an Executive Director, AmeriCorps member (to work with the Youth Volunteer Corps) and a Board of Directors. Volunteer Muskegon had the support of the United Way for some funding in next cycle. Volunteer Muskegon later in the year 1996 was also able to secure a VISTA position to help recruit adult volunteers. Volunteer Muskegon was wobbly but on it's way. The mission of Volunteer Muskegon is to provide leadership, services and programs that support, promote and recognize volunteerism thereby enriching the lives in our community. We continue to work to meet our mission and serve Muskegon County. In 1997, after two years as an AmeriCorps member, I have had the privilege and pleasure of being the Executive Director. Volunteer Muskegon has grown from a small center to a vital Volunteer Center that serves hundreds of volunteers every year. Volunteer Muskegon took another big step when we were awarded a Retired Senior Volunteer Program in 1998 through the Points of Light Foundation.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has allowed our center to grow and stabilize. The grant allowed us to move out of the United Way office and find a home of our own. The RSVP grant has enabled us to serve the population over 55 to enrich their lives and make Muskegon a better place to live. Volunteer Muskegon's RSVP has about 75 host sites where volunteers are placed. Several hundred RSVP volunteers tutor, help at the Red Cross, hospitals, animal shelters, Habitat for Humanity, schools, do mailings and help at various other nonprofit agencies. One project manned by RSVP volunteers is a truancy program with Muskegon Public Schools. We have put together a collaboration with the schools, city police, 911 and the Prosecutor's Office with the goal of keeping kids in school. The seniors are helping Muskegon positively address this issue.

We currently are the host site for a state AmeriCorps team. The grant was secured through the Michigan Community Service Commission by putting together a collaboration of educational institutions, municipalities and other nonprofit agencies. We found we could not meet the requirements of the State Commission alone so I ask around the community who might be interested and the collaboration was formed. The current team has a combination of 15 members full, part-time and summers only. Volunteer Muskegon's AmeriCorps team last year engaged 900 youth and those youth gave more than 24,000 hours of service to their community. One of the important aspects of serving in your own community is that you learn about the community and can see projects grow.
I have had the privilege of being involved in the development of many young people of all ages because of AmeriCorps/VISTA and the Youth Volunteer Corps. All of the AmeriCorps members in our team work with youth whether it is with the Youth Volunteer Corps, after school programs, during the school day or with Muskegon's Parks and Leisure Department. One of the most important things we as adults can be about is the positive development of our youth and young adults. The education award of AmeriCorps provides possibilities for career development and

advanced education which just a few years ago was not available. The child-care portion of AmeriCorps has also been a wonderful benefit for those who need the assistance.

In case you think we only work with youth and seniors, Volunteer Muskegon also has an adult program, which recruits and places volunteers for other nonprofit agencies and to meet community issues. We have hundreds of volunteers who tutor, mentor, do office work, plant flowers along the main street of Muskegon and a wide variety of other activities. The staff works to bring together neighborhood associations to create better relations and build a stronger community. Volunteer Muskegon also administers a Family-to-Family program where families are recruited to help meet the needs of other families, especially around the holidays. I could continue to tell you all of the wonderful things our volunteer center and other centers do but today I want to ask this committee to carefully look at the issue of reauthorization and meeting the needs of President Bush's new initiates and how all of that impacts the local volunteer centers.

Volunteer Centers are created in communities to meet unmet needs of that community whether that is a need for tutors, community cleanups, beach sweeps, beautification, helping at a soup kitchen, housing, the list goes on and on. They may look different in different communities but I believe the over riding goal is to make each and every community a stronger and better place to live, work and raise a family. However the sad truth is that it is very difficult for local communities to meet all of the needs of the agency. In our community the United Way only funds programs and then does not provide all of the money needed. The combination of federal, state and local money is essential to create the necessary funding base. In the volunteer business we have a saying that volunteers are not free. It takes money to recruit, do security checks, place and recognize volunteers. It doesn't make any difference if the volunteer is a youth, adult or senior. Some volunteers cost more than others. Special accommodations have to be made to meet the special needs of some people. It is important to be inclusive of all of our citizens. I know if I want teenagers to come back they have to be fed and recognized for their efforts. The same is true for volunteers of all ages.

Most nonprofits solicit many donations for projects and fundraisers are held to raise local dollars. However, in less affluent communities there are more needs than can be paid for locally. I am asking you to keep the same Corporation programs in place and strengthen them. As an example it would be easier to recruit members to the AmeriCorps and VISTA programs if the education award could be transferred to other members in the family or given to someone deserving. The basic stipend is difficult to live on. I know an upward adjustment would be appreciated by all members.

AmeriCorps and VISTA teams can help not only local nonprofits but also national organizations. They can in turn sub-grant money or programs to their local affiliates. Some agencies cannot support a team on their own but need the support of a larger organization so the state mandates can be met. Volunteer Muskegon had their first AmeriCorps members from the Youth Volunteer Corps of America because we could not support a larger team. It was several years before we were stable enough to put together the state AmeriCorps grant. Many times fewer numbers can be located in a community by being part of a larger organization. Without the Points of Light Foundation we would never have received an RSVP program. By being part of a national organization we were qualified to put our name in for one of the programs they were awarded. Michigan had not received any new funding for new Senior Corps programs for quite a few years so the State Corporation office was just as happy as we were when we got the RSVP program.

As you look at ways to meet any new initiative, I urge Congress not to start a new bureaucracy but to strengthen, enhance and utilize proven volunteer commodities. To meet President Bush's call for more volunteers and people to volunteer more hours I ask you to consider the existing Volunteer Center National Network and the Points of Light Foundation.

- I urge the committee to support local volunteering infrastructure through existing Volunteer Centers to recruit, train, supervise and deploy prospective volunteers in both traditional activities, as well as stipended National Service programs and to build the capacities of local agencies to engage volunteers in meaningful service;
- At present, approximately two-thirds of our nation's citizens have geographic access to a Volunteer Center. I urge the committee to strive for 100% coverage through the establishment of new Volunteer Centers in presently under-served locales;
- All Volunteer Centers must be held to the highest of standards. The Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network have implemented a comprehensive outcomes measurement plan. Programs and activities of the Points of Light Foundation are evaluated using the program outcomes model developed by the Urban Institute. This model is currently employed by local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as nonprofits such as the United Way, for program evaluation purposes. It provides a framework for discussing how resources support program activities that lead to benefits for participants.
- A key ingredient for successful volunteerism is providing prospective volunteers with diverse opportunities to serve. I urge the committee to assist the Points of Light Foundation with its comprehensive technology initiative which will integrate better than 500,000 volunteer opportunities into an online searchable database accessible to all Americans.

The State of Michigan has a support system that many other states do not have. The Community Service Commission, the Corporation Office, the Volunteer Centers of Michigan and Campus Compact all get along and work to support volunteerism in the state. Every volunteer center in every state deserves the same kind of support. As the director of a local Volunteer Center I understand first-hand how difficult it is to make financial ends meet.

Without AmeriCorps and VISTA members Volunteer Muskegon could not reach the number of youth we do. These programs have allowed us to substantially leverage our local dollars. These programs also insist that members have training and development while they are members. RSVP has made a tremendous difference in our community by enriching the lives of seniors and meeting the needs of our community. The Learn and Serve Grant is what got us started. It takes the federal and state dollars matched by local dollars to meet the growing federal push for all of us to meet our civic responsibility.

I would like to sincerely thank Chairman Hoekstra for this opportunity to speak to you today. Tomorrow can be a brighter day if we all work together.

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Witness Disclosure Requirement -"Truth in Testimony"
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2 (g)

Your Name: **Martha Jane Bottomley**		
1. Will you be representing a federal, State, or local governmental entity? (If the answer is yes please contact the committee).	Yes	No **X**
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) which you have received since October 1, 1999: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). We have also been the host site for VISTA.		
3. Will you be representing an entity other than a government entity?	Yes **X**	No
4. Other than yourself, please list what entity or entities you will be representi: **Volunteer Muskegon - Muskegon, Michigan**		
5. Please list any office or elected position held and or briefly describe your representational capacity with each of the entities you listed in response to question 4: **I am the Executive Director of Volunteer Muskegon.**		

6. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received by the entities you listed in response to question 4 since October 1, 1999, including the source and amount of each grant:	Federal	Local
1999 - **Learn and Serve - Michigan Community Service Commission** --------	$ 22,400	$26,300
Retired Senior Volunteer Program - points of Light Foundation -----	$86,520	$23,162
VISTA - Points of Light Foundation (no money came to VM) -------	----------	--------
2000 - **AmeriCorps - Michigan Community Service Commission** ----------	$155,931	$73,506
Learn and Serve - Michigan Community Service Commission ------	$19,250	$19,250
Retired Senior Volunteer Program - Points of Light ----------	$89 981	$38,608
VISTA - Points of Light Foundation ----------	-------	----------
2001 - **AmeriCorps - Michigan Community Service Commission** ----------	$180,828	$84,741
Learn and Serve - Michigan Community Service Commission --------	partial year	
Retired Senior Volunteer Program - Points of Light Foundation -----	$94,030	$40,299
2002 - **AmeriCorps - Michigan Community Service Commission**----------		
Retired Senior Volunteer Program - Points of Light Foundation ------	(Waiting approval)	
All programs of the Corporation for National Service		

7. Are there parent organizations, subsidiaries, or partnerships to the entities you disclosed in response to questions number 4 that you will not be representing? If so, please list: **Michigan Community Service Commission, Youth Volunteer Corps of America, Corporation for National Service and Points of Light Foundation**	Yes **X**	No

Signature: Martha Bottomley Date: 4/23/2002

Please attach this sheet to your written testimony

APPENDIX G - WRITTEN STATEMENT OF REVEREND TIMOTHY R. SCULLY, C.S.C., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN

Testimony of Reverend Timothy Scully

"Citizen Service in the 21st Century"
Committee on Education and the Workforce
Subcommittee on Select Education

April 25, 2002

"If we truly believe that children are God's most precious creation, then surely we owe every child born in the USA the chance to make the most of his or her potential. I want an America that offers every child a healthy start in life, decent schooling, and the chance to go on to college or to job training worthy of the name, not only because all of this is essential for our economic success but because providing opportunities is how we fulfill our obligations to each other and to the moral principles we honor."

President Bill Clinton
September 11, 1992
University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame, taking its inspiration from President Clinton's speech on values and National Service delivered on our campus on September 11, 1992, decided to respond to this challenge by forming a broad alliance for educational service in under-resourced schools across the nation in areas of the United States experiencing the greatest need.

Commitment to Growth

In 1993 ACE placed 40 teachers in 4 Southern states to serve as teachers in the country's most under-served elementary and secondary schools. Only 8 years later, 154 ACE AmeriCorps members teach in 99 schools throughout 14 states in the South and Southwest.

Through geographic expansion, ACE continues to strengthen its commitment to serve disadvantaged children, with a particular focus on those from traditionally under-educated minority groups. The majority of the 150 schools where ACE AmeriCorps teachers have served qualify for Title I Federal funding. Last year 35% of the schools served had a predominately Hispanic population, while 25% were primarily African-American schools. The expansion efforts over the past five years have focused on diverse, under-resourced schools throughout Texas, Arizona, and in Los Angeles.

- Beau Schweitzer has served for the past two years as a middle school

teacher at St. Malachy School in South Central Los Angeles. Through his experience at St. Malachy as an AmeriCorps member, Beau has been inspired to seek out innovative ways to serve the community and to create educational opportunities in South Central Los Angeles. He plans to start a new, alternative middle school to serve a niche of at-risk inner city youth from Compton and Watts. With the help of his principal, Sam Robles, Beau has secured several grants and designed a feasibility study for this ambitious project.

- This year, for the first time, ACE AmeriCorps members are teaching at a school on an Indian reservation. Two ACE teachers serve at San Xavier Mission School. This school is centered in the San Xavier District of Tohono O'odham Nation, the second largest Native American reservation in the U.S., about twelve miles south of Tucson, Arizona. San Xavier Mission School serves 163 children, of which 77% qualify for free lunch.

ACE has expanded dramatically without sacrificing the quality of its participants and the program; in fact, they are stronger than ever today. In the past few years approximately 10% of Notre Dame's graduating class applies to ACE. This year 81% of all applicants had GPAs of 3.0 or higher. This year's cohort of 85 teachers, originating from 20 different undergraduate institutions, including several Ivy League schools and public universities, has an average GPA of 3.44.

- Notre Dame's 1999 Valedictorian, Jennifer Ehren, who earned a Fulbright, decided instead to participate in ACE. She taught for two years in Biloxi, Mississippi, helping high school students to learn chemistry and biology, before going on to begin a career as a pharmaceutical chemist.
- This past year, ACE began a new initiative designed to attract career changers to teach in under-resourced South Bend, Indiana area schools. Like the traditional ACE program, ACE-South Bend seeks applicants with a bachelor's degree in any discipline. In its inaugural year, ACE received 14 applications for 4 positions. This year applications rose to 33 files for 7 positions. The ACE South Bend initiative allows ACE to modify its traditional approach in order to recruit a more diversified corps of members and to target a demographic--career changers--with great potential to serve the nation in becoming professional educators.

Replication of ACE. ACE is collaborating with 10 different partnering institutions to develop teacher service programs that follow the ACE model of providing professional development, community, and opportunity for personal growth. ACE shares its own knowledge, gained through institutional experience, to assist other colleges and universities in helping school systems in regions beyond ACE's present geographic reach. At this point, needy students and schools in 12 additional states are being served.

Commitment to Excellence

ACE is a results-driven service program. Over 8 years ACE AmeriCorps members have taught more than 45,000 elementary and high school students in 150 schools, throughout 55 cities in 14 states. This current school year, 154 ACE AmeriCorps teachers have spent more than 150,000 hours teaching, planning, grading, coaching, mentoring, and tutoring. These teachers have also recruited over 1,000 volunteers to help in their classrooms, schools, and communities.

ACE attracts a diverse applicant pool. As ACE's outreach to under-served communities across the South intentionally targets high proportions of poor, frequently African-American and Hispanic students, diversity is a major feature of the program. Yet with the typically high debt load of these students as they graduate from college, participation in post-graduate service simply would not be an option without relief as provided through the education award. Therefore, the availability of the education award allows ACE to attract a more diverse applicant pool and membership, both in terms of racial/ethnic and socioeconomic composition. Over 20% of the newest ACE cohort come from under-represented groups. The number of applicants from Notre Dame and other colleges continues to increase, in large part due to the greater awareness of the national service movement. In fact, this year ACE had applicants from over 80 different public and private colleges and universities.

- Tiffany Carter, a member of ACE's newest class, graduated from Western Washington University in 2000. Upon graduation from college, she entered the Army and enrolled in Officer Candidate School. Through the intense training she suffered two broken feet. Her injuries prevented her continuation in the military, but she decided to serve her country in a different way--as a teacher. As a successful young, African-American woman, Tiffany will serve as an excellent role model for the students she will teach in inner-city Atlanta.
- Benny Guilbeaux, a member of our newest ACE class, recently completed his Master's degree in history from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A stand-out three-year starter on the Notre Dame Football team as an undergraduate and an ordained Baptist deacon, Benny brings unique experiences and tremendous depth of character that will surely make him an ideal role model for the African-American and Hispanic students he will serve in South Central Los Angeles.

Commitment to Service

ACE has enlarged the pool of teachers available to under-resourced schools. By summer 2002, ACE will have graduated nearly 500 teachers. Very few of these graduates majored in education during their undergraduate experience and most did not intend to pursue a career in education after their two years of service. Nonetheless, over 77% of ACE's graduates have remained in education. Most of these graduates continue to teach, filling a critical and pressing national need for teachers. Last year, in fact, 91% of the graduating ACE class remained active in education. Moreover, ACE's 95% retention rate for the two years of service underscores the strong professional and personal support ACE

teachers receive throughout their two-year service experience and beyond.

Educational Leadership Program. ACE continues to broaden its commitment to K-12 education this year in developing and unveiling its brand new administrative certification program offered to selected ACE graduates. The coursework for this program builds directly upon the ACE M.Ed. curriculum and represents an innovative partnership between Notre Dame's tier 1, nationally ranked programs in Law School and the Mendoza College of Business. Upon completion of this program, all participants will receive a principal's certification from the state of Indiana.

CNCS programmatic funding has enabled ACE to leverage substantial additional support. Last year, CNCS funding and applied education awards amounted to 19% of the $2.2 million ACE operating budget. The $400 per member administrative operating provision comprises 3% of total revenue; an additional 16% of Federal support originates through the contribution of one education award to cover the nominal tuition of Notre Dame's Master of Education program in which the ACE teachers are enrolled. The Federal government's backing of ACE also alerts foundations and private individuals to the program's distinguished track record. ACE has provided a powerful magnet for Notre Dame's own interests in building education. Private funding has been exceptionally forthcoming, allowing Notre Dame to build an endowment to insure the program's growth and development.

Changes in reauthorization that would be helpful to ACE's vitality.

- To increase the education award to adjust for inflation.
- To eliminate the taxability of the education award.
- To increase the administrative operating grant received by education award programs from $400 to the original $1,000 per full time member.

In conclusion, we are deeply grateful for our long-standing partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service. From Notre Dame's initial six-year involvement with Learn and Serve America to our current participation in the AmeriCorps Education Awards Program, this partnership represents quite a success story in connecting the federal government, national universities, and under-resourced school systems across the country. There can be no doubt that Federal support has catalyzed ACE's dynamic growth and has enabled us to leverage substantial resources--all to recruit, educate, and support a new generation of educational leaders.

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Witness Disclosure Requirement – "Truth in Testimony"
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)

Your Name: Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C.

	Yes	No
1. Will you be representing a federal, State, or local government entity? (If the answer is yes please contact the committee).		X

2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) which you have received since October 1, 1999:

1999-00	CNS	97LHSIN011	$119,200.00
2000-01	CNS	00EDNIN01101	75,000.00
2001-02	CNS	00EDNIN01101	62,000.00
2002-03	CNS	00EDNIN01101	66,000.00

	Yes	No
3. Will you be representing an entity other than a government entity?	X	

4. Other than yourself, please list what entity or entities you will be representing:
Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), University of Notre Dame

5. Please list any offices or elected positions held and/or briefly describe your representational capacity with each of the entities you listed in response to question 4:
Founder, Executive Committee Chair, and Advisory Board Member, Alliance for Catholic Education, 1994-
Executive Vice President, University of Notre Dame, 2000-
Vice President and Senior Associate Provost, University of Notre Dame, 1996-2000
Vice President and Associate Provost, University of Notre Dame, 1994-1996

6. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received by the entities you listed in response to question 4 since October 1, 1999, including the source and amount of each grant or contract:

	Yes	No
7. Are there parent organizations, subsidiaries, or partnerships to the entities you disclosed in response to question number 4 that you will not be representing? If so, please list:		X

Signature: _____ Date: 4/30/02

Please attach this sheet to your written testimony.

APPENDIX H – SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD, STATEMENT OF HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER RICHARD A. GEBHARDT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Richard A. Gephardt

House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt
Testimony before Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Select Education
"Citizen Service in the 21st Century."

April 25, 2002

"I am pleased today to submit testimony to the Select Education Subcommittee on an issue near to my heart. I have been inspired by the dedication and sacrifice of the American people in the last eight months. People from all walks of life have rushed to the aid of their fellow citizens, donating blood and money, assisting in the clean-up in New York and Virginia, acting simply because they wanted to help their neighbors in need.

"I proudly cosponsored legislation introduced by Reps. Ford and Osborne (and strongly endorse similar legislation introduced by Sens. McCain and Bayh) to keep this spirit going and inspire a new generation to enter public service. With the President's support in his State of the Union address we should be able to pass a strong bill quickly.

"I know first-hand what it means to have leaders and policies that promote public service. I got my start when President Kennedy was calling on a new generation to volunteer for their country and serve others in public life. The Corporation for National Service will help fulfill these goals at a new time of national challenge. It will help strengthen our border defense, first responders, local law enforcement, and make the greatest military in the world even stronger. It will encourage Americans to get involved in their communities through adult literacy programs, care for the elderly, and education for our children.

"I will work hard in the House to build on the good work of the American people and seize the opportunity to strengthen our civic life. I applaud Reps. Hoekstra and Roemer for holding this important hearing and Reps. Ford and Osborne for their leadership on this issue. I also applaud my colleagues in the Senate for their commitment and look forward to working with them and the President in the name of all Americans."

Table of Indexes

Chairman Hoekstra, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27
Father Scully, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
Mr. Ford, 12, 13
Mr. Roemer, 2, 4, 6, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25
Mr. Scott, 2, 25, 26
Mr. Shays, 13, 14
Ms. Bottomley, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

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