



101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 600 West, Washington, DC 20001

Arizona State University

March 18, 2009

California State University –  
13 Member Schools

The Hon. Edward Kennedy  
Chairman  
HELP Committee

The Hon. Michael Enzi  
Ranking Member  
HELP Committee

City University of New York –  
City College

U.S. Senate  
428 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senate  
428 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Florida International University

Georgia State University

Indiana University-Purdue  
University Indianapolis

The Hon. Barbara Mikulski  
U.S. Senate  
503 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Orrin Hatch  
U. S. Senate  
104 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Morgan State University

North Carolina State University

Ohio State University

Portland State University

Temple University

Tennessee State University

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Enzi, Senator Mikulski, and  
Senator Hatch:

University of Akron

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), thank you  
for including provisions in the Serve America Act (S. 277) that support  
community service and service learning efforts by universities. We endorse  
the overall purpose of the legislation to encourage more Americans to serve  
and volunteer in areas of national need.

University of Alabama -  
Birmingham

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado – Denver

University of Houston

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Louisville

University of Memphis

University of Minnesota

University of Missouri –  
Kansas City

University of New Mexico

University of New Orleans

Virginia Commonwealth  
University

USU is a network of public urban research universities that represents every  
region of our country. University presidents created USU to leverage the  
intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities, thereby  
improving urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy.  
To this end, USU is focused on three major issues – creating a competitive  
workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a  
diverse population.

Wichita State University

As anchors for our nation's cities, USU institutions are engaged in  
partnerships and outreach within our local communities and metropolitan  
areas, including community service and service learning. Many of our  
members are nationally recognized by the Carnegie classification for campus  
engagement as well as the President's Higher Education Community Service  
Honor Roll. These same institutions are also recipients of the Learn and Serve  
higher education program that is designed to increase the number of service  
opportunities for students within their local communities.

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USU's legislative agenda supports national service in urban areas for K-12 education, health, housing, and economic opportunity. We are appreciative that the Serve America Act acknowledges these important areas of service throughout the bill. USU particularly endorses the bill's intent to create Youth Engagement Zones, Campuses of Service, and additional corps programs. We are also pleased that the Serve America Act contains USU's recommendations to strengthen the Learn and Serve higher education program, including increasing the authorization level for appropriations.

Again, thank you for being champions of community service and recognizing the important role of universities on this issue. We look forward to working with you on ensuring these provisions are included in the final version of the National Service bill passed by the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. Zimpher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "Z".

Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chair, Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
President, University of Cincinnati