March 20, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Related Agencies  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Appropriators:

On behalf of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership and our national network of affiliate partners, we write to offer our strong opposition to the President’s recommendation to eliminate the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in his first budget request to Congress. We write today to call on your Subcommittees to protect funding for CNCS in fiscal year 2018 and ensure that nonprofit, faith-based, and other youth-serving and community-based organizations across the country can continue to benefit from the vital contributions it provides.

This month, CNCS celebrated the one million Americans who have served their country through the year-long AmeriCorps volunteer service program since it was established in 1994. Every year, more than 80,000 Americans sign up to serve over 20,000 communities in schools, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and public agencies across the country.

MENTOR, our affiliates, and many mentoring and youth-serving organizations across the country have benefited from the successes of CNCS’s AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and their volunteers. AmeriCorps has made a particularly important impact to the mentoring field by focusing on organizational capacity, directly supporting local programs, and increasing the recruitment and retention rates of volunteer mentors for these nonprofits. The value of having AmeriCorps members working in partnership with these programs extends far beyond having more hands to help carry the load.
AmeriCorps members allow these organizations to focus more on their mission and better serve the unique needs of the young people they support.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical bipartisan program supporting positive change in the lives of young people and communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
California Mentoring Partnership
Mentor Colorado
The Governor’s Prevention Partnership (Connecticut)
Mentor Center of Palm Beach County (Florida)
MENTOR Illinois
Iowa Mentoring Partnership
Mass Mentoring Partnership
Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota
Midlands Mentoring Partnership
The Newark Mentoring Partnership (New Jersey)
Mentor New York
The Mentoring Center of Central Ohio
Institute for Youth Success at Education Northwest (Oregon)
Mentoring Partnership and Resource Center of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership
Team Up Youth Mentoring Partnership (Tennessee)
Texas Mentoring Partnership
Mobius – Vermont’s Mentoring Partnership
Virginia Mentoring Partnership
Mentoring Works Washington