

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

As members of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, we write in support of \$50 million for Teach For America in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Since 1990, the Teach For America network has grown to include 24,000 of our nation's current and future leaders. Currently, some 7,300 Teach For America corps members teach in 35 urban and rural areas profoundly affected by the achievement gap. They are working tirelessly to ensure that their students achieve academic success despite the challenges they face. Teach For America's 17,000 alumni are a powerful and growing force for change working in all sectors of our society.

This year, Teach For America received 46,000 applications for approximately 4,000 positions – its third consecutive year of over 30% growth – in addition to a large number of inquiries from communities eager to launch new Teach For America sites. With a \$50 million appropriation, Teach For America can place nearly 17,000 teachers nationwide reaching more than a million students by 2015.

Most rigorous independent studies show that Teach For America corps members are more effective than other new teachers in their schools, and there is increasing evidence that Teach For America is building an unparalleled pipeline of leadership for education reform in low-income communities. Most importantly from a budget perspective, Teach For America is a sound financial investment: every federal dollar invested in Teach For America will leverage at least \$4 in private, state, or local funds.

Teach For America was recognized by Fortune Magazine as being one of the best recruiters in the nation – cover story attached. And to give you a sense of who is applying:

- The 2010 applicant class hails from all 50 states. At 123 private and public colleges and universities, over 5% of the senior class applied

- Nearly 12% of all seniors at Ivy League schools, 7% at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and 6% at the University of California-Berkeley.
- One in four African-American seniors and one in five Latino seniors from Ivy League schools applied.
- One in five seniors at Spelman and one in ten seniors at Morehouse applied.
- More than 1 in 5 applicants majored and/or minored in mathematics, science, or engineering.


For all of these reasons, we strongly support providing \$50 million to this outstanding organization so that they can continue to bring talented and passionate teachers and leaders to communities across this great nation. We appreciate your continued leadership on this important bill and look forward to working with you to ensure sufficient funding for Teach For America.

We certify that neither we nor our immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. We further certify that we have posted a description of the items requested on our official websites, along with the accompanying justification.

Sincerely,


Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator


Lamar Alexander
United States Senator


Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator