



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION FOR  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Travis Childers  
United States House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2401

Dear Representative Childers:

Through our work at the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, we have seen how service can be a powerful strategy for meeting growing needs, giving Americans meaningful work in a difficult climate, and getting our economy moving again. **That is why I am writing to urge you to support swift passage and full funding of the GIVE Act (H.R. 1388).**

We are deeply grateful that the House Education and Labor Committee has recognized the pivotal moment we are in as a country and has responded by passing H.R. 1388, The GIVE Act. The Act recognizes that we need to reinvest in service, starting with the reauthorization of national and community service programs operated by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which have not been reauthorized in 16 years. The Act will also:

- Make it possible for **more Americans** from diverse backgrounds to **serve and volunteer**;
- Ensure **accountability, transparency, and results**, while providing administrative simplification to help faith and community-based organizations—particularly those smaller nonprofits operating in rural areas and in economically disadvantaged communities—to more effectively meet community needs;
- Support and recognize colleges and universities that promote service;
- Establish the **Clean Energy Corps, Education Corps, Healthy Futures Corps, and Veterans Service Corps** to address key needs in low-income communities;
- Enhances state service commissions' capacity;
- Encourage **collaborative service** efforts;
- Expands service opportunities for **older Americans** and foster public-private partnerships;
- **Call all Americans to serve** and recognize **September 11<sup>th</sup> as a National Day of Service and Remembrance**.

In addition, an amendment will be introduced by Congressman Loeb sack that will propose incorporating the **Volunteer Generation Fund** into the GIVE Act. The Fund will provide crucial assistance to help state commissions, community, and faith-based organizations recruit and manage additional volunteers.

I hope that you will **support swift passage of the GIVE Act and the Volunteer Generation Fund amendment when both come to House floor this week.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. David Mallery", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

W. David Mallery  
Executive Director  
MS Commission for Volunteer Service