



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

March 11, 2008

Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Howard “Buck” McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Healthy Families
and Communities
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Todd Platts
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Healthy Families
and Communities
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Committee Leaders:

We, the undersigned members of Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), are writing in support of the *Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act* (GIVE Act, H.R. 2857, **H.R. 5563**). We are grateful for the many hours of hearings, research, drafting, and negotiating that went into this bill, which will benefit so many boomers, older adults, and the thousands that they will assist through volunteer service.

After many years of work to reauthorize the national and community service programs, you have brought us an important step closer to a new and revitalized law. We are strong supporters of the Senior Corps programs – the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the Foster Grandparents Program – and we are also excited about the multigenerational approach that you have taken in the GIVE Act. We support the good work of AmeriCorps, as well.

In addition, several programs in the bill address the emerging need to enable Baby Boomers and seniors to secure volunteer opportunities and continuing education. These provisions include: Silver Scholarships, Preparing for Next Chapters Grants, Time Banking demonstrations, and requiring states to prepare comprehensive plans for civic engagement among boomers. We were also pleased that you included language that will promote Bilingual Volunteer Recruitment, particularly in senior programs.

We do, however, want to express our concern about the imposition of competition in RSVP and the effects it will have on the program. We commend the Committee for its willingness to work with the National Association of RSVP program directors to mitigate those adverse effects and to minimize any disruptions that may affect RSVP volunteers.

Congratulations again on reaching this essential step in the legislative process. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate to ensure that these vital programs are authorized as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AARP
AFSCME Retirees
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Postal Workers Union Retirees
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and
Universities
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America
B'nai B'rith
Experience Works
Gray Panthers
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Adult Day Services Association
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
National Association for Hispanic Elderly
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Association of State Units on Aging
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged
National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council on Aging
National Indian Council on Aging
National Senior Corps Association
The Gerontological Society of America
United Jewish Communities