



8/28/20

The Honorable John Garamendi  
Transportation, Infrastructure, Foreign Affairs, Education & Labor Committees  
2368 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: SUPPORT for HR 6560 UNITE Act: Undertaking National Initiative to Tackle Epidemic Act of 2020**

Dear Representative John Garamendi,

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, a nonprofit whose mission is to enhance the wellbeing of older adults in Yolo County, writes in support of HR 6560. In particular, components of this legislation support assistance to the vulnerable aging population and overall population during pandemic of COVID-19. As the bill is currently waiting to be reviewed by the subcommittees on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, we have identified areas of support for our aging population.

**Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS):** Under health, disaster and poverty services administered by CNCS the 3 main groups of AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps State and National Volunteers should aid frontline workers and communities most impacted by the Covid-19 emergency. The president should fully mobilize those 3 groups to assist.

**FEMA and Peace Corps:** Because FEMA is understaffed to fully address the Covid-19 crisis we support the Peace Corps assisting in efforts for public health issues. The Peace Corps has recently laid off 7,300 workers who have many skills in public health that can apply to further service in AmeriCorps and FEMA.


**Role of President:** The president should fully utilize the trained Federal Government workforce and to elevate the role of CNCS in the whole-of-government response to Covid-19 in the USA.

**Prioritizing Certain Agreements:** Prioritize agreements with Secretary of Health and Human Services, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Administrator of Federal Emergency Management Agency and State governments to direct volunteers in programs administered by CNCS to assist individuals most impacted by the Covid-19 public health emergency by providing support services to veterans, homeless populations, elderly and others who are most vulnerable during this public health emergency.

**Authorization for Surge Capacity for Federal Emergency Management Agency:** Add 10,000 more CORE employees (Cadre of On-Call Response/Recovery Employees) to provide logistical support for supply chain of medical equipment, tracing contacts of infected persons, nutritional assistance to vulnerable populations, and administrative duties such as staffing call centers to disseminate public health information.

**HR 6560** will help comprehensively connect our very vulnerable aging population with assistance during this unprecedented time. We support funding and grant allocation to provide the above activities and to include proper training for the volunteers and personnel noted above and to report to congress on the efforts also noted above. These measures will help to provide valuable services to those in great need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J P', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Provenza  
Chair, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance