



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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May 12, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Supporting Funding for Volunteers in Rural Communities

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the Administration's decision to defund the AmeriCorps program. This choice has direct implications for Mendocino County and surrounding rural communities.

The current Administration plans to eliminate nearly \$400 million in AmeriCorps grant funding, dismantling over 1,000 programs and affecting more than 32,000 AmeriCorps members and volunteers. Approximately 85% of AmeriCorps staff have been placed on administrative leave and face termination on June 24. Organizations such as North Coast Opportunities (NCO) and its Volunteer Network, including the California Emergency Response Corps (CERC) here in Mendocino County, will be particularly impacted by this decision, disrupting essential services like disaster preparedness and senior volunteer programs.

The Administration's choice to cancel awarded grants and halt disbursements is shortsighted and harmful. For every \$1 in federal funding, there is a \$17 return in community benefits. AmeriCorps programs foster resilient communities and enhance civic engagement by providing crucial job training and volunteer opportunities in underserved areas.

We urge Congress to take swift action to protect AmeriCorps funding and ensure the program's continuation. Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your support of the residents of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Adam B. Schiff, Senator from California
The Honorable Alex Padilla, Senator from California
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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