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October 3, 2023

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Dear Senator Murray, Senator Collins, Congresswoman Granger, and
Congresswoman DeLauro:

As Congress moves to complete the FY2024 Appropriations bills and resolve differences between the House and Senate, I urge your support for funding of the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps) and the Federal Work Study program of at least the Senate Committee levels of \$1,263,000,000 and \$1,220,000,000 respectively. Both of these programs play a critical role in supporting higher education's role in community and civic engagement across the country.

Campus Compact (Compact) is a national nonprofit organization. We are the largest and oldest higher education association dedicated to higher education civic and community engagement. Our members include thousands of presidents, faculty, researchers, students, and civic and community engagement experts at colleges and universities. Our mission is to advance the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. We challenge all of higher education to make civic and community engagement an institutional priority.

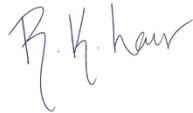
Compact and AmeriCorps are long-term partners in educating citizens and building communities. Arapahoe Community College [CO] and Mitchell College [CT] are advancing low-income student college completion and career/workforce readiness. Buffalo State University [NY] and the University of Wisconsin Parkside [WI] are addressing food insecurity for low-income college students while Wheaton College [MA] is addressing hunger in their local community. The University of Indiana South Bend [IL], Stanford University [CA], and the University of New England [ME] are building K-12 partnerships

that advance student attainment and college access. Tarrant County College [TX], AmeriCorps teams with students to address low-income student completion and improve career and workforce readiness. Finally, on campuses, our VISTA project helps to support low-income student academic success at the University of Kansas [KS] and military veterans degree attainment at National Louis University [IL]. These are just a sample of how higher education and Campus Compact partner to leverage AmeriCorps to make a difference. The return on investment for this program is demonstrable for the American taxpayer.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) positions create community service opportunities on nearly every campus in the country. We have seen an increase in student interest in these types of jobs that should be encouraged and supported, providing meaningful engagement for students in their local communities. At Tarrant County College, for example, 244 students are employed on campus through the program, which helps keep them as engaged students working toward degree completion. At Rutgers University-Camden, Bonner Civic Scholars work throughout their collegiate experience to connect Rutgers to communities beyond their campus. Through the program, 25 Civic Scholars partner throughout the academic year with community organizations on various issues, including education and youth development, STEM after-school activities, mentoring, and homelessness. These students conduct their work through the support and benefit of the FWS program.

I realize that during any budget negotiation, compromises must be made. However, given the important investments that AmeriCorps and FWS represent in our communities nationwide, I hope you will support the funding levels requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobbie Laur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "L".

Bobbie Laur
President