

Introduced by Senator De León

July 9, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to AmeriCorps.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 16, as introduced, De León. AmeriCorps.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to protect and sustain full funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to ensure the continuation of critically needed services, expand opportunities, and save taxpayer dollars through essential national service programs like AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, More than 27,000 people of all ages and
2 backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen
3 communities, and increase civic engagement through national
4 service in California; and

5 WHEREAS, These citizens tutor and mentor children, support
6 veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the
7 environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity,
8 and recruit and manage volunteers at more than 3,200 locations
9 throughout the state; and

10 WHEREAS, The Corporation for National and Community
11 Service (CNCS) runs three AmeriCorps programs: AmeriCorps,
12 which provides grants to a network of local and national
13 organizations and agencies committed to using national service to
14 address critical community needs in education, public safety,
15 health, and the environment; AmeriCorps VISTA, whose members
16 help bring individuals and communities out of poverty by serving

1 full time to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create
2 businesses, and increase housing opportunities; and AmeriCorps
3 NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a residential program
4 for people 18-24 years of age that strengthens communities and
5 develops leaders through direct, team-based national and
6 community service; and

7 WHEREAS, This year, the CNCS committed more than
8 \$108,520,000 to support California communities through national
9 service initiatives, investing in cost-effective community solutions
10 and working hand in hand with local partners to improve lives,
11 expand economic opportunity, and engage citizens in solving
12 problems in their communities; and

13 WHEREAS, The CNCS provides vital support to schools, food
14 banks, homeless shelters, community health clinics, youth centers,
15 veterans service facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based
16 organizations at a time of growing demand for services in many
17 of the state’s most impoverished communities and, through a
18 unique public-private partnership, leverages an additional
19 \$49,930,000 in other resources to strengthen community impact,
20 build local support, and increase return on taxpayer dollars; and

21 WHEREAS, This year AmeriCorps is providing more than 7,600
22 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven
23 service to meet the pressing needs in communities across
24 California. Administered primarily through CaliforniaVolunteers,
25 the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase
26 the number of Californians involved with service and volunteerism,
27 AmeriCorps received \$28 million in grants to 48 programs
28 statewide with a majority of the investment benefitting
29 education-related programs; and

30 WHEREAS, AmeriCorps helps make higher education more
31 affordable for young Californians who serve and qualify for the
32 Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards, which AmeriCorps alumni
33 can use to pursue higher education or to pay off existing, qualified
34 student loans, thereby enhancing their financial stability and
35 increasing their employability into the future; and

36 WHEREAS, National service programs are cost effective and
37 represent a smart investment for the nation and for the State of
38 California because, with every dollar invested in national service,
39 there is a return to society of \$3.95 in terms of higher earnings,
40 more output, and other community-wide benefits and every federal

1 dollar invested in national service yields \$2.20 in savings to other
2 government programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Since 1994, more than 120,000 California residents
4 have served more than 150 million hours and benefited millions
5 of Californians with their selfless dedication and commitment to
6 service; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
8 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature recognizes AmeriCorps
9 members, both past and present, who have made the commitment
10 to serve our state and our country and thanks them for their service;
11 and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the United States Congress
13 to protect and sustain full funding for the Corporation for National
14 and Community Service to ensure the continuation of critically
15 needed services, expand opportunities, and save taxpayer dollars
16 through essential national service programs like AmeriCorps and
17 AmeriCorps VISTA; and be it further

18 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
20 in the Congress of the United States and to the author for
21 appropriate distribution.