

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1989 (S.1430)

SUMMARY OF BILL

As reported out of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources on August 2nd, 1989.

This bill creates a comprehensive volunteer program in which virtually all interested Americans will be able to participate.

Goals: This bill calls on every American, regardless of age or income, to engage in full or part time service to the nation, renewing the ethic of civic responsibility and restoring the habits of the heart that built our nation. We hope to generate one billion hours of community service over five years by offering incentives to those not now volunteering, building on existing programs.

<u>Title I,</u>	aimed at: elementary and secondary schools and students;
<u>Title II,</u>	to create: a full-time conservation/youth corps;
<u>Title III,</u>	to recruit: full-time and part-time community volunteers to serve in a five-year demonstration program, with analysis and evaluation throughout the program;
<u>Titles V, VI,</u>	to restore funding of VISTA and the Older Americans Volunteer Programs to earlier peak levels (\$30 million).

TITLE I-- SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Purpose:

To create or expand service opportunities for students and out-of-school youth. Also to help community members, especially the elderly, volunteer in schools.

Federal Administration/Budget:

\$100 million per year. Three-year competitive grants awarded to state and local governments, which will partially match grants based on statutory formula.

Part A:

Administered through Department of Education. Gives grants to states for school-based (K-12) programs. States, higher educational institutions, non-profits, and consortia to receive funds for training, technical aid, development of curricula, etc.

Eligible participants:

Students, kindergarten through 12.

Part B:

Administered through state Departments of Education. Gives grants to schools in partnership with community-based organizations to help community members, especially the elderly and businesspeople, volunteer in schools.

Eligible participants:

No restrictions.

Stipend/Voucher:

None, but states may give academic credit if desired.

Part C:

Modifies federal contribution to Innovative Projects for Community Services and Student Financial Independence (thru FIPSE) and provides for partial loan cancellation for Peace Corps, VISTA volunteers (Perkins/Stafford loans).

TITLE II-- YOUTH CORPS

Purpose:

To create a full-time youth service corps aimed primarily at disadvantaged youth and high school dropouts, building on and modeled after existing corps in California, Washington, Michigan, Pennsylvania and other states. Summer or year-round signups. Participants to work in teams, developing community spirit. High School dropouts to work toward GED during program. Provides small stipend, health insurance, education voucher.

Federal Administration/Budget:

\$100 million per year, awarded to states through competitive grants. States to match 25% of award.

Eligible participants:

Youth aged 16-25 for year-round, full-time program; 15- 21 for summer program.

Work to be done:

Conservation; also work in nursing homes, health care, government agencies, libraries, parks, day care centers, schools, law enforcement agencies, and other nonprofits.

Stipend/Voucher:

Not less than 100% of the poverty line or more than 100% of minimum wage (\$6200-\$7000/yr), education voucher between \$50-\$100/wk in the program (\$2600- \$5200/yr), health insurance (\$1100/yr). Live-ins shall pay 50-100% of minimum wage for cost of room and board.

TITLE III-- COMMUNITY SERVICE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Purpose:

To create a five-year demonstration program which will use full and part time volunteers in community-based projects, providing vouchers good for first-time homebuying or educational expenses and, for full-timers, health insurance and a small stipend. Part-timers agree to spend 3-6 years in program, full-timers, 1-2 years. Volunteers will receive at least three weeks of training.

Federal Administration/Budget:

\$100 million first year, with five full-time and five part-time sites, growing during five-year demonstration. States awarded competitive grants. Administrative and other expenses over \$12.5 million per year paid by states.

Eligible participants:

Anyone 17 or older.

Work to be done:

Self-help, conservation, human service, education, public safety.

Stipend/Voucher:

Part-timers: \$3,000/yr voucher, minimum 3 yr commitment. Full-timers: \$8500/yr voucher, plus health insurance (\$1100/yr) and stipend (not less than 100% of poverty or more than 100% of minimum wage, or \$6200-\$7000).

TITLE IV--GENERAL LANGUAGE

- Administration: Creates corporation to oversee program (except for Titles I, V, VI), select states, distribute funds.
- States to establish Advisory Boards for community input, also to collect data needed to assess and evaluate programs, including effects on military and other volunteer organizations.
- Training: Federal corporation will create training corps to visit states, offering community service/ideals training; skills training to be designed and paid for by the states.
- Contains anti-displacement language, including streamlined grievance procedure, developed after consultation with labor groups (but no sign-offs by unions).



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Senate

● **Ms. MIKULSKI.** Mr. President, I'm very happy to join with my distinguished colleagues today in introducing the National Community Service Act. This is really the Congress at its best. This is where we've taken a look at a compelling national need: the desire of young people to either afford higher education or the ability to own their own home. A national need that we need more volunteers: full time, part time, anytime. And at the same time we've taken our individual ideas and fashioned them together into a continuum of community service.

I am proud to join with so many of my distinguished colleagues:

Senator **KENNEDY** believes that all people of any age should have the opportunity to volunteer and can volunteer whether they're 9 or 69. He fashioned a particular program reaching out to the youth.

Senator **DOMB**, who believes that the disadvantaged should not only be the beneficiaries of social services, but can make an actual contribution to the delivery of social services.

Senator **PELL**, who wants to be sure college students have an opportunity that while they are learning in the classroom, they could also learn in the laboratory of life.

Senator **NUNN** and Senator **ROBB**, who believe that there should be full-

time service to ensure civil responsibility along with meeting a civil need.

Senator **BOB GRAHAM**, who believed that the business community wanted to do something, if we show them how they could get involved and stay involved.

And therein lies the genesis of our bill. A national need, a willingness to take our individual ideas and fashion them into a continuum of community service.

I am so pleased to be part of this bill because what it does is this: whether you're a 9-year-old kid doing aerobics at a nursing home, or you're a 19-year-old delivering meals-on-wheels, or you're a 69-year-old in the classroom doing literacy training, there's not only room for you in America, America needs you.

I'm particularly pleased that I was part of the post-high school component of this program, or post-GED. It is a complement to the Nunn-Robb approach to full-time community service. Mine is modeled on a part-time idea where we would ask people to give 2 weekends a month to work in their own community. As we worked on volunteer services, we know that not everybody could go away or not everybody should go away. Our high-tech graduates had to go immediately into their fields, but boy could we use them running Saturday scholars programs or science fairs. And some people wanted to get on with their life and relationship in their own community.

Well, we know now that this would create both an opportunity for young people to pay for their education or put down a downpayment on a first home, but at the same time we ask an obligation. We want to reach out to people and show that we want to help them with their aspirations, but we want them to put a little perspiration into their own community and along the way get inspiration through their continued work.

Let me just sum up by saying this is the 25th anniversary of "Mississippi burning." We all remember that. And we all remember that 25 years ago volunteers spread out through this world in an unprecedented effort through Peace Corps, through VISTA, through other programs that then went into parts of rural America to teach. Twenty years ago we landed on the Moon. Everybody remembers that, but I remember that it was the summer that I began a fight against a highway in Baltimore. That fight led to changing the face of Baltimore, but it changed my life. For all that I've done, it was my work as a citizen volunteer that maybe meant the most to me, and I hope it meant the most to others.

So President Bush said in his inaugural address, we were heavy on will and light on wallet. I think this modest demonstration project shows we're heavy on will and we'll be light on the wallet.●