

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5062

To provide for a more inclusive voluntary civilian national service program to promote civic engagement, enhance national unity, and foster a sense of shared sacrifice by helping young Americans participate in national service, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for a more inclusive voluntary civilian national service program to promote civic engagement, enhance national unity, and foster a sense of shared sacrifice by helping young Americans participate in national service, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “21st Century American  
5       Service Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 Section 2 of the National and Community Service Act  
3 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(7) The number of Americans applying to par-  
7 ticipate in national service programs each year sig-  
8 nificantly exceeds the number of available positions,  
9 depriving hundreds of thousands of Americans from  
10 participating in national and community service,  
11 which unintentionally transforms national service  
12 programs into exclusive and selective entities and  
13 prevents national service from serving as an inclu-  
14 sive, unifying activity open to all Americans.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(6), by inserting “so that  
16 all young Americans between ages 18 and 30 are  
17 provided a voluntary opportunity to serve in organi-  
18 zations” after “national service programs”.

19 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF AMERICORPS**  
20 **EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Internal Rev-  
22 enue Code of 1986 (relating to qualified scholarships) is  
23 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
24 section:

25 “(e) AMERICORPS EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Gross  
26 income shall not include any national service educational

1 award described in subtitle D of title I of the National  
2 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601  
3 et seq.).”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
5 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 4. CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY**  
8 **SERVICE DEFINED.**

9 In this Act, the terms “Corporation” and the “Cor-  
10 poration for National and Community Service” have the  
11 meaning given the term “Corporation” in section 101 of  
12 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
13 U.S.C. 12511).

14 **SEC. 5. 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task  
16 force within the Corporation for National and Community  
17 Service to be known as the “21st Century National Service  
18 Program Implementing Taskforce” (in this Act referred  
19 to as the “Task force”).

20 (b) DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.—

21 (1) PROGRAM.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task force shall  
23 develop the 21st Century National Service Pro-  
24 gram to ensure that each eligible individual who  
25 applies to serve in a voluntary national service

1 program will be provided an opportunity to  
2 serve in such program.

3 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the  
4 21st Century National Service Program de-  
5 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Task force  
6 shall carry out the following:

7 (i) NOTIFICATION.—Determine how  
8 the Corporation for National and Commu-  
9 nity Service will work with Federal or  
10 State agencies and other entities to—

11 (I) contact each eligible indi-  
12 vidual upon such individual's 18th  
13 birthday to notify the individual  
14 about—

15 (aa) the individual's eligi-  
16 bility for national service pro-  
17 grams;

18 (bb) such national service  
19 programs and how to register for  
20 a specific program;

21 (cc) other service programs  
22 for which the individual may be  
23 eligible, including the Peace  
24 Corps (as established by the  
25 Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.

1 2501 et seq.)) and military serv-  
2 ice; and

3 (dd) the individual's option  
4 to opt-out of receiving any notifi-  
5 cations, or just notifications in a  
6 paper format, under subclause  
7 (II); and

8 (II) after contacting an eligible  
9 individual under subclause (I), notify  
10 the eligible individual every 2 years  
11 thereafter of the information de-  
12 scribed in items (aa) through (dd) of  
13 subclause (I), unless—

14 (aa) the individual is serving  
15 in a national service program;

16 (bb) the individual has opted  
17 out of receiving such notifications  
18 under subclause (I)(cc); or

19 (cc) the individual reaches  
20 30 years of age.

21 (ii) REGISTRATION.—Determine how  
22 the Corporation will enable eligible individ-  
23 uals to register for a specific national serv-  
24 ice program for not less than 1 year of  
25 service, and ensure that such registration

1 process is the most effective process for the  
2 purpose of registering for such a program.

3 (2) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Task force shall—

4 (A) develop a 10-year strategic implemen-  
5 tation plan to fully implement the 21st Century  
6 National Service Program described in para-  
7 graph (1)(A), including concrete timelines and  
8 milestones for an effective and phased imple-  
9 mentation (which shall include beginning the  
10 notification under paragraph (1)(B)(i) not later  
11 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
12 Act, to the greatest extent practicable); and

13 (B) publish on the website of the Corpora-  
14 tion the information described in subparagraph  
15 (A).

16 (3) TASK FORCES.—The Task force shall carry  
17 out the following sub-task forces to assist in devel-  
18 oping the program described in paragraph (1)(A):

19 (A) A sub-task force headed by the Chair-  
20 person of the Task force on expanding national  
21 service opportunities to ensure that any indi-  
22 vidual who applies to serve is guaranteed an op-  
23 portunity to do so.

1 (B) A sub-task force headed by the Direc-  
2 tor of the Selective Service System on notifying  
3 eligible individuals.

4 (C) A sub-task force headed by the Sec-  
5 retary of Education on expanding bridge-year  
6 service learning programs.

7 (D) A sub-task force headed by the Sec-  
8 retary of Defense on transitioning servicemem-  
9 bers to civilian life through national service.

10 (E) A sub-task force headed by the Direc-  
11 tor of the Peace Corps on integrating interna-  
12 tional service opportunities.

13 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task force shall be  
15 composed of the following members:

16 (A) The Secretary of Education (or the  
17 Secretary's designee).

18 (B) The Director of the Selective Service  
19 System (or the Director's designee).

20 (C) The Director of the Peace Corps (or  
21 the Director's designee).

22 (D) The Secretary of Defense (or the Sec-  
23 retary's designee).

24 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the  
25 Task force shall be the Chief Executive Officer of

1 the Corporation for National and Community Serv-  
2 ice.

3 (3) STAFF.—With the approval of the Task  
4 force, the Chairperson may appoint additional per-  
5 sonnel (who may be from public or private sectors)  
6 as the Chairperson considers appropriate.

7 (d) TERMINATION.—The Task force shall terminate  
8 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

10 (1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible  
11 individual” means an individual who—

12 (A) is a citizen, national of the United  
13 States, or a lawful permanent resident aliens of  
14 the United States; and

15 (B) is between the ages of 18 and 30, in-  
16 clusive.

17 (2) NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM.—The term  
18 “national service program” is a voluntary civilian  
19 national service program authorized under the Na-  
20 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
21 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) or the Domestic Volunteer  
22 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.).



1 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL SERVICE COLLEGE COMPACT PILOT**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Corporation for National  
4 and Community Service shall establish a national service  
5 college compact—

6 (1) with not fewer than 2 States, not later than  
7 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

8 (2) with not fewer than 5 States, not later than  
9 5 years after such date of enactment.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF COMPACT.—A national service  
11 compact is an agreement between the Corporation and a  
12 State under which—

13 (1) eligible individuals who desire to attend a  
14 public institution of higher education in the State  
15 will be able to use an educational award under sub-  
16 section (d) to attend a 2- or 4-year program of in-  
17 struction, or a career or technical education pro-  
18 gram, at such a public institution of higher edu-  
19 cation, at no additional charge to the individuals;  
20 and

21 (2) the Corporation and the State determine  
22 the timeframe by which eligible individuals shall suc-  
23 cessfully complete the activities under paragraphs  
24 (1) and (2) of subsection (c) in order to qualify to  
25 use an educational award in accordance with para-

1 graph (1) of this subsection, and avoid repayment of  
2 such educational award or other penalties.

3 (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this sec-  
4 tion, the term “eligible individual” means an individual  
5 described in section 146(a) of the National and Commu-  
6 nity Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12602(a)) who, as a condition  
7 of receiving an educational award under subsection (d)—

8 (1) successfully completes, or agrees to com-  
9 plete, two required terms of full-time national service  
10 in an approved national service position for purposes  
11 of eligibility for two educational awards under sec-  
12 tion 147(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)); and

13 (2) successfully completes, or agrees to com-  
14 plete, not less than one calendar year of employment  
15 with a Federal, State, or local government entity, or  
16 a nonprofit organization.

17 (d) INCREASED EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive an educational  
19 award under this section, an eligible individual shall  
20 be selected by the Corporation and a State with  
21 which the Corporation has a national service com-  
22 pact under this section to receive such award for the  
23 purpose of attending a public institution of higher  
24 education in the State in accordance with the terms  
25 of the compact.

1           (2) CALCULATION.—An eligible individual se-  
2 lected under paragraph (1) shall receive an edu-  
3 cational award under this section that is equal to the  
4 total value of the educational service awards under  
5 section 147(a) of the National and Community Serv-  
6 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)) that the individual is  
7 eligible to receive for the two successfully completed  
8 (or agreed to be completed) terms of full-time na-  
9 tional service, as described in subsection (c)(1) of  
10 this section, except that in calculating the value of  
11 each such award, such section 147(a) (42 U.S.C.  
12 12603(a)) shall be applied by inserting “twice” be-  
13 fore “the maximum amount of a Federal Pell  
14 Grant”.

15           (3) LIMITATION.—Not more than a total of  
16 250,000 individuals may receive an educational  
17 award under this section.

18           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19           (1) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The  
20 term “career and technical education” has the  
21 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D.  
22 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of  
23 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

24           (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

3 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-  
4 ing given the term in section 101 of the National  
5 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
6 12511).

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