OPERATING EXPENSES

(including transfer of funds)

The conference agreement includes $798,065,000 for the operating expenses of the programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) instead of $768,905,000 as proposed by the House and $804,489,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes bill language specifying funding amounts for domestic volunteer service programs and national and community service programs as proposed by the House. The Senate did not specify funding levels in the bill. The detailed table at the end of this joint statement reflects the activity distribution agreed to by the conferees.

As proposed by the House, the conference agreement includes bill language allowing one percent of grant funds also to be used for electronic management of the grants cycle. The Senate did not propose similar bill language.

Domestic Volunteer Service Programs

The conference agreement includes $313,054,000 for the Domestic Volunteer Service Programs as proposed by ~~the~~ both the House and Senate.

The conference agreement includes bill language that none of the funds provided for program operating expenses may be used to provide

stipends or monetary incentives to program participants or volunteer leaders who exceed the income guidelines in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. Both the House and Senate bills proposed similar language.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate that all prior year unobligated balances from the "Domestic Volunteer Service Programs, Operating Expenses" account shall be transferred to and merged with this appropriation. The House bill did not propose similar language.

National and Community Service Programs

The conference agreement includes $485,011,000 for the National Community Service Programs, instead of $455,851,000 as proposed by the House and $491,435,000 as proposed by the Senate.

National Service Trust

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes bill language designating that not less than $126,121,000, to remain available until expended, shall be transferred to the National Service Trust for educational awards instead of $122,521,000 as proposed by the House and not less than $117,720,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes bill language, as proposed by the House, designating that not more than $55,000,000 of grants under the National Service Trust may be used to administer, reimburse, or support national service programs instead of $65,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

AmeriCorps Grants

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes $261,371,000 for AmeriCorps Grants instead of $255,625,000 as proposed by the House and $275,775,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes bill language, similar to Senate report language, allowing the transfer of any deobligated funds from closed out AmeriCorps grants to the National Service Trust. The House did not propose similar language.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate setting aside funding for grants under the National Service Trust program for activities under the AmeriCorps Education Awards Program. The House bill did not propose similar language.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate that up to $4,000,000 shall be to support national service

scholarships for high school students performing community service. The House did not propose similar language.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate that of the amount provided for educational awards, $7,000,000 shall be held in reserve as defined by the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act. The House did not propose similar language.

Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes $19,229,000 for Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities instead of $13,000,000 as proposed by the House and $10,550,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within this amount, the conference agreement includes the following: $500,000 for Martin Luther King grants; $5,000,000 for Disability grants; $850,000 for the Service-Learning Clearinghouse and Exchange; and $4,879,000 for National Service Outreach and Innovation activities.

Also within the total for Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities, the conference agreement includes $8,000,000 for merit-based competitive grants for supporting and expanding volunteerism and expects that previous partnership grantees, such as the Points of Light Foundation and America's Promise, will be eligible to compete for these grants. The ~~Committee~~ (conferees

recommends that consideration be given to national programs that build alignment among youth-serving organizations and other sectors to promote coordination of services for disadvantaged youth to achieve better outcomes.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate setting aside not more than $10,466,000 for quality and innovation activities. The House did not propose similar language.

National Civilian Community Corps

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes $24,205,000 for the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) instead of $11,620,000 as proposed by the House and $31,789,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement does not include language proposed by the Senate designating funding for the Civilian Community Corps in the bill. The House did not propose similar language.

The conference agreement includes bill language, as proposed by the Senate, that of the amount provided for the Civilian Community Corps, no less than $5,000,000 shall be for the acquisition, renovation, equipping, and startup costs for campuses – one located in Vinton, Iowa and the other in Vicksburg, Mississippi. As proposed by the Senate, these center sites should be restored based on CNCS' 2005 geographic assessment and its more

specific site evaluation in October 2006. The conferees expect, as proposed by the Senate, that an NCCC class will be operating out of each facility by the end of fiscal year 2008. The House did not propose similar language.

Learn and Serve America

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes $38,125,000 for Learn and Serve America instead of $37,125,000 as proposed by the House and $39,125,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the House designating funding for service-learning programs to remain available until September 30, 2009. The Senate bill did not include similar language.

State Commission Administrative Grants

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the conference agreement includes $12,000,000, as proposed by the House, for State Commission Administrative Grants instead of $12,516,000 as proposed by the Senate.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

SC

The conference agreement includes $68,964,000 for the Corporation for National and Community Service salaries and expenses, as proposed by the House, instead of $69,520,000 as proposed by the Senate.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SC

The conference agreement includes $6,900,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as proposed by the Senate instead of $5,512,000 as proposed by the House. The conferees concur with language proposed by the Senate directing the OIG to continue reviewing the management of the National Service Trust and to continue reviewing the annual Trust reports and to notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the accuracy of the reports.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SC

CHANGES THROUGH RULEMAKING

SC

The conference agreement includes language that CNCS shall make any changes to program requirements, service delivery, or policy only through public notice and comment rulemaking to include service delivery changes in the administration and/or governance of national service programs. Both the House and Senate proposed similar language.

PROFESSIONAL CORPS

SC

The conference agreement includes language proposed by the House allowing professional corps programs to apply for a certain waiver to allow applicants to apply through State formula. The Senate did not propose similar language.

DONATED SERVICES

The conference agreement includes language proposed by the House to allow CNCS to solicit and accept compensated and commercial services of organizations and individuals (other than participants) to assist in carrying out the duties of CNCS under the national service laws and that such an individual shall be subject to the same protections and limitations as volunteers. The Senate did not propose similar language.

COMBINED MATCHING OF GRANTS

The conference agreement includes language proposed by the House specifying that AmeriCorps programs receiving grants under the National Service Trust program shall meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first three years that they receive funding and thereafter shall meet certain requirements as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to the operating costs match requirement. The Senate did not propose similar language.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY

The conference agreement does not include language proposed by the Senate to permit CNCS to transfer not to exceed one percent of any discretionary funds between activities identified under this heading in the statement accompanying this Act. The House did not propose similar language.

INSERT 180A

SC

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

C+SC

Within the total provided for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the conference agreement includes $650,000 for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service's Labor-Management Grants Program as proposed by the House, instead of $400,000 as proposed by the Senate.

SC

OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

C+SC

The conference agreement provides $277,131,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services instead of $264,812,000 as proposed by the House and $265,680,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees concur with language included in the House report that gives the Institute of Museum and Library Services the authority and resources to carry out the mission of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The Senate report did not include similar language. The conference agreement also includes language allowing funds to be made available for