

By: Representative Ennett

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 9-15, 2025, AS AMERICORPS WEEK.

Subtitle

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AMERICORPS WEEK.

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character and has the unique ability to bring people of all backgrounds together in common cause to meet the nation's most pressing challenges; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one (31) years ago, Congress established AmeriCorps, formerly the Corporation for National and Community Service, to unite national service programs under one (1) agency, create service opportunities that strengthen communities, and expand pathways to education, careers, and civic participation for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for two hundred thousand (200,000) Americans each year to serve their country through an intensive commitment to service at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country; and

WHEREAS, national service in AmeriCorps represents a robust public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages nonfederal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars, resulting in thirty seven million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$37,700,000) in AmeriCorps education scholarships earned by Arkansans since 1994; and



WHEREAS, in Arkansas, more than three thousand one hundred (3,100) AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers of varying ages and backgrounds helped to meet local needs at more than three hundred (300) locations in the state by responding to disasters, mentoring children and youth, supporting veterans and military families, fighting the opioid epidemic, restoring the environment, addressing food insecurity, and helping secure jobs and housing; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers encourage collaboration and partnerships, leveraging millions of volunteers in service and acquiring the support of businesses, foundations, and other local partners to increase the effectiveness of their initiatives; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs strengthen bridge-building skills by bringing people together from different backgrounds, generations, and geographic locations to address critical issues facing the country, forging relationships, cultivating mutual respect, and helping to build resilient and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps enriches the lives of its members, building habits that create engaged citizens who are active participants in civic matters affecting their communities long after their service terms are completed; and

WHEREAS, volunteering prepares AmeriCorps members for future careers and improves the mental well-being of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and their commitment to service reflects the dedication and patriotism of those who serve; and

WHEREAS, through their service, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers develop valuable work skills, earn money for continuing education, improve the lives of their families, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement in Arkansas as a whole; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week is an opportunity to recognize the dedication and commitment of two hundred thousand (200,000) AmeriCorps members and

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who serve each year and the more than one million three hundred thousand (1,300,000) AmeriCorps alumni and millions of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers and their community partners, and to encourage more Americans to follow in their footsteps in service,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize March 9-15, 2025, as AmeriCorps Week in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the leadership of AmeriCorps in Arkansas by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.