

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 425

Celebrating Volunteers in Service to America on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Celebrating Volunteers in Service to America on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

Whereas Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) has made an extraordinary contribution to alleviating poverty and improving American society since the program began in 1965;

Whereas more than 175,000 individuals of all ages and from different walks of life have answered VISTA's call to devote a year of full-time service living and working in low-income communities to help eradicate poverty;

Whereas VISTA members have helped create many successful and sustainable community initiatives, including Head Start centers, credit unions, and neighborhood watch

groups, with VISTA alumni going on to serve in leadership positions in government, private, and nonprofit sectors throughout the United States;

Whereas VISTA, which became part of AmeriCorps in 1993 and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, annually engages more than 7,000 members in helping more than 1,000 local organizations build sustainable anti-poverty programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members improve the lives of the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation by fighting illiteracy, improving health services, reducing unemployment, increasing housing opportunities, reducing crime and recidivism, and expanding access to technology;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members develop programs, recruit community volunteers, generate resources, manage projects, and enhance the ability of nonprofit organizations to become and remain sustainable, thereby strengthening the nonprofit sector in low-income communities across the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members generate more than \$100,000,000 in cash and in-kind resources annually for organizations throughout the Nation, as well as recruit and manage more than 1,000,000 volunteers who provide 10,000,000 hours of community service for local organizations; and

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA acted swiftly to help implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), engaging more than 3,700 members in distressed communities to provide foreclosure prevention and financial counseling, expand college access, and

support health care and independent living services: Now,
therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the more than 175,000 men and
3 women who have served in VISTA for their dedica-
4 tion and commitment to the fight against poverty;

5 (2) recognizes VISTA members for leveraging
6 human, financial, and material resources to increase
7 the ability of thousands of low-income areas across
8 the country to address challenges and improve their
9 communities; and

10 (3) encourages the continued commitment of
11 VISTA members to creating and expanding pro-
12 grams designed to bring individuals and commu-
13 nities out of poverty.

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