

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, MILLIGAN AND SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES  
WILFORD CARTER, COX, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GREEN,  
JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JONES, JORDAN, LYONS, MARCELLE,  
NEWELL AND PIERRE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to fully fund the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and its programs, including the LaVetCorps in FY 2021.

WHEREAS, the President's 2021 federal budget proposal eliminates 99% of the funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service which would remove funding for Louisiana's LaVetCorps program and similar programs across the states of Washington and Rhode Island, in addition to, all other AmeriCorps programs across this state, including Teach for America, VISTA, City Year, and Foster Grandparents; and

WHEREAS, the LDVA, in partnership with the Office of Governor, Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), University of Louisiana System, LSU System, and Southern University System operates thirty LaVetCorps program veteran resource centers on campuses across the state, encompassing all four Louisiana public college systems and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the LaVetCorps is to empower veterans, families, and campus communities to help veterans returning from active duty military service to successfully transition home to college and their local community; and

WHEREAS, the centers assisted more than eight thousand student veterans in successfully transitioning from active duty to complete their college curriculum and return home; and

WHEREAS, at each LaVetCorps veteran resource center, an LDVA-trained LaVetCorps navigator, who is also an AmeriCorps service member, serves as a peer

mentor/counselor to student veterans in transition, works to increase student veterans' access to their earned federal and state benefits, works to build a vibrant on-campus veteran community, provides training and support to college faculty, staff, and administration to increase awareness of student veterans' needs and veteran culture, and organize community service projects benefitting both on- and off-campus veterans; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the LaVetCorps program is significant, providing practical assistance in life-changing ways as in the current year, LaVetCorps navigators have served more than two thousand veterans and military-connected students, with more than one hundred of these referrals directly connecting to earned federal VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, LaVetCorps navigators have provided direct assistance through the LDVA and outside community agencies that has prevented evictions, prevented unnecessary student debt and provided critical immediate support for veteran students in crisis; and

WHEREAS, LaVetCorps has raised military awareness on campuses statewide while providing peer mentoring and has been responsible for organizing more than two hundred volunteers in various community service projects around the state; and

WHEREAS, LaVetCorps is viewed by higher education officials as an essential investment in veteran students and navigators provide a critical level of support to recruit, retain, and support veterans in their academic and personal journeys.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to fully fund the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and its programs in FY 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES