

Washington, DC - Today, the House of Representatives passed by a vote of 321-105 the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act (HR 1388), creating four new national service corps and reinvigorating the National and Community Service Act of 1990. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on the vote.

"In challenging times, Americans have always pulled together and rededicated ourselves to face and overcome every obstacle in our path and to do so together. By passing the GIVE Act, the federal government has provided a support structure to help.

"Community service organizations across the country are in need of volunteers who can provide social services while also earning money to help pay for college. This is a winning situation for everyone, and reflects the noblest aspects of our national character."

Among its many provisions, HR 1388 would expand the AmeriCorps programs by creating an Education Corps, to provide tutoring and academic support; a Healthy Futures Corps, to assist health care providers; a Clean Energy Corps, focused on energy efficiency and green power projects; and a Veterans Corps, to support our veterans and their families. The act would increase the total number of volunteer positions supported to 250,000 from the current 75,000 slots and dedicate September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. It would also establish a National Service Reserve Corps of experienced volunteers who can be deployed as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief efforts.

###