

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9766

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand participation by underrepresented populations in service programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand participation by underrepresented populations in service programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Building Community
5 in America Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN SERVICE PRO-**
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 2(b) of the National and
4 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501(b)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (18), by striking “; and” and
7 inserting a semicolon;

8 (2) in paragraph (19), by striking the period at
9 the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(20) expand participation in national and com-
12 munity service among populations underrepresented
13 in service programs, including young adults under-
14 represented in mentoring, coaching, youth develop-
15 ment, and other community-building activities.”.

16 (b) PRIORITY.—

17 (1) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT
18 OF 1990.—The National and Community Service Act
19 of 1990 is amended—

20 (A) in section 122(f) (42 U.S.C. 12572(f)),
21 by adding at the end the following:

22 “(5) REQUIRED PRIORITY.—The national serv-
23 ice priorities under paragraph (1) shall include a
24 priority for programs that prioritize the recruitment
25 and training of underrepresented participants, in-
26 cluding men, for activities including—

1 “(A) youth coaching or mentoring activi-
 2 ties;

3 “(B) school attendance or after-school sup-
 4 port activities;

5 “(C) activities in a national service posi-
 6 tion as part of a conservation corps;

7 “(D) disaster response activities;

8 “(E) public safety, violence interruption, or
 9 reentry support activities; or

10 “(F) skilled-trades, apprenticeships, or
 11 workforce-linked services.”; and

12 (B) in section 157 (42 U.S.C. 12617), by
 13 adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) PRIORITY.—In developing project proposals
 15 under subsection (b)(1) and selecting projects to be per-
 16 formed under subsection (c)(1), there shall be a priority
 17 for projects that prioritize the recruitment and training
 18 of underrepresented participants, including men, for any
 19 of the activities described in section 122(f)(5).”.

20 (2) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF
 21 1973.—Section 103 of the Domestic Volunteer Serv-
 22 ice Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953) is amended by
 23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(j) In the assignment of volunteers under this sec-
 25 tion, the Director shall give priority to projects or pro-

1 grams that prioritize the recruitment and training of
2 underrepresented participants, including men, for any of
3 the activities described in section 122(f)(5) of the National
4 and Community Service Act of 1990.”.

