

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5176

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a climate resiliency service corps to help communities withstand and respond to changes in the Earth’s climate with respect to natural disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a climate resiliency service corps to help communities withstand and respond to changes in the Earth’s climate with respect to natural disasters, 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 “Climate Resiliency
5 Service Corps Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Every region of the United States is con-
4 fronting the effects of climate change and related
5 natural disasters, including extreme heat and
6 droughts, heavy rains and flooding, hurricanes and
7 tornadoes, acidification of the oceans and sea level
8 rise, wildfires, and mudslides, among other effects.

9 (2) These changes affect the health, agriculture,
10 food supply, infrastructure, energy supply, water
11 quality and water supply, and have the potential to
12 reduce the standard of living and quality of life in
13 the United States.

14 (3) The Fourth National Climate Assessment
15 estimates that low-income communities will be dis-
16 proportionately impacted by climate change through
17 higher rates of adverse health conditions, greater ex-
18 posure to environmental hazards, and more severe
19 impacts and longer recovery from natural disasters.

20 (4) The Fourth National Climate Assessment
21 estimates that—

22 (A) climate change will shrink the Amer-
23 ican economy by up to 10 percent by the year
24 2100 and will result in losses up to
25 \$141,000,000,000 from heat-related deaths,
26 \$118,000,000,000 from sea level rise, and

1 \$32,000,000,000 from infrastructure damage;
2 and

3 (B) proactive adaptation initiatives yield
4 benefits in excess of their costs in both the near
5 term and long term.

6 (5) The frequency and severity of natural disas-
7 ters taking place each year is steadily and signifi-
8 cantly increasing. In 1970, there were 78 registered
9 natural disasters. In 2017, there were 335 natural
10 disasters, impacting approximately 96,000,000 peo-
11 ple and costing the United States more than
12 \$306,000,000,000.

13 (6) Service and Conservation Corps, which are
14 descended from the Civilian Conservation Corps of
15 the 1930s, are trained for and have experience with
16 the four stages of disaster: mitigation, preparedness,
17 response, and recovery.

18 **SEC. 3. CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE CORPS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 122(a) of the National
20 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572)
21 is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
23 paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

24 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(4) CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE CORPS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The recipient may
3 carry out national service projects through a
4 Climate Resiliency Service Corps that improves
5 community adaptation, mitigation, prepared-
6 ness, response, and recovery from natural dis-
7 aster and other trends related to climate change
8 through activities such as those described in
9 subparagraph (B) and improves performance on
10 the indicators described in subparagraph (C).

11 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A Climate Resil-
13 iency Service Corps described in this para-
14 graph may carry out activities, including—

15 “(I) mitigating the effects of dis-
16 asters and other trends related to cli-
17 mate change, including—

18 “(aa) assessing community
19 resilience;

20 “(bb) collecting, monitoring,
21 and analyzing data related to cli-
22 mate change and disasters;

23 “(cc) developing a plan to
24 improve community resilience

1 through resilient infrastructure;
2 and

3 “(dd) building and main-
4 taining resilient infrastructure,
5 including—

6 “(AA) preserving, pro-
7 tecting, and restoring habi-
8 tat;

9 “(BB) stabilizing shore-
10 lines;

11 “(CC) removing inva-
12 sive species and planting na-
13 tive species of trees, plants
14 and groundcover;

15 “(DD) constructing bio-
16 swales and water bars;

17 “(EE) improving drain-
18 age systems through use of
19 permeable surfaces and rain
20 gardens;

21 “(FF) removing haz-
22 ardous fuels;

23 “(GG) conducting pre-
24 scribed burns;

1 “(HH) establishing de-
2 fensible space;

3 “(II) retrofitting build-
4 ings; and

5 “(JJ) planting urban
6 forestry, trees, and land-
7 scapes;

8 “(II) preparing communities for
9 disaster, including—

10 “(aa) organizing community-
11 based resiliency coalitions and
12 working groups;

13 “(bb) providing disaster pre-
14 paredness or community emer-
15 gency response team training to
16 community-based organizations
17 and residents; and

18 “(cc) providing education on
19 climate change, disaster, and re-
20 silience at community-based or-
21 ganizations and schools;

22 “(III) responding to disasters, in-
23 cluding—

1 “(aa) establishing and man-
2 aging volunteers, distribution
3 centers, and shelters;

4 “(bb) supporting disaster re-
5 sponse activities and centers, in-
6 cluding fire camps;

7 “(cc) clearing fallen trees
8 and branches;

9 “(dd) boarding up windows
10 and doors and tarping roofs; and

11 “(ee) mucking and gutting
12 homes and buildings;

13 “(IV) recovering from disasters,
14 including—

15 “(aa) clearing debris;

16 “(bb) repairing and rebuild-
17 ing homes and buildings;

18 “(cc) replanting native trees
19 and plants;

20 “(dd) restoring habitat; and

21 “(ee) stabilizing shoreline
22 and hillsides;

23 “(V) addressing other unmet cli-
24 mate change needs as the Corporation
25 may designate.

1 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—In addition to
2 the requirements for participants under
3 section 137, in carrying out national serv-
4 ice projects under this paragraph, the re-
5 cipient shall, to the extent practicable—

6 “(I) select as participants indi-
7 viduals who are at least 16 but not
8 more than 25 years of age (including
9 out of-school youth and other dis-
10 advantaged youth (such as individuals
11 who are aging out of foster care, indi-
12 viduals who have limited English pro-
13 ficiency, homeless individuals, and in-
14 dividuals with disabilities)), and vet-
15 erans who have not reached the age of
16 36, at the time of beginning the term
17 of service; and

18 “(II) provide each participant
19 with team-based, highly structured,
20 and adult-supervised work experience,
21 education, career guidance, and coun-
22 seling, and employment training, sup-
23 port services, and mentoring.

24 “(C) CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE CORPS
25 INDICATORS.—The indicators for a Climate Re-

1 siliency Service Corps program described in this
2 paragraph are—

3 “(i) the number of acres, miles,
4 homes, buildings or infrastructure projects
5 built, improved, or treated for improved re-
6 silience and adaptation;

7 “(ii) the number of individuals edu-
8 cated about and prepared for disasters and
9 other trends related to climate change;

10 “(iii) the number of individuals as-
11 sisted, including those rescued, evacuated,
12 or provided shelter;

13 “(iv) the number of tons of debris col-
14 lected;

15 “(v) the number of homes or buildings
16 treated, including those boarded up,
17 tarped, mucked, or gutted during disaster
18 response;

19 “(vi) the number of acres, homes, or
20 buildings restored during disaster recovery;

21 “(vii) the number of trees and plants
22 planted;

23 “(viii) the number of infrastructure
24 projects undertaken to improve resilience
25 against future natural disasters;

1 “(ix) the number of economically dis-
2 advantaged individuals with access to job
3 training and other skill enhancement;

4 “(x) the number of economically dis-
5 advantaged individuals with access to in-
6 formation about job placement services;

7 “(xi) the number of individuals receiv-
8 ing education or training in environ-
9 mentally conscious practices;

10 “(xii) any additional indicator relating
11 to natural disaster and other trends that
12 the Corporation establishes, in consultation
13 (as appropriate), with the Secretaries of
14 the Departments of the Interior, Agri-
15 culture, Commerce, and Defense, the Di-
16 rector of the Federal Emergency Manage-
17 ment Agency, and the Administrator of the
18 Environmental Protection Agency; and

19 “(xiii) any additional local indicator
20 applicable to a particular recipient and on
21 which an improvement in performance is
22 needed related to climate change.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 122 of the
24 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.

1 12572), as amended by subsection (a), is further amend-
2 ed—

- 3 (1) in paragraph (b)(3), by striking “or (5)”
4 and inserting “(5), or (6)”; and
- 5 (2) in paragraph (c)(1), by striking “(5)” and
6 inserting “(6)”.

7 **SEC. 4. CLIMATE RESILIENCY AMERICORPS VISTA.**

8 Section 103(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act
9 of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)) is amended—

- 10 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the
11 end;
- 12 (2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “; and”; and
- 14 (3) after subsection (13), by adding the fol-
15 lowing:
16 “(14) in addressing the capacity of low-income
17 communities to implement projects that increase re-
18 silience to shocks and stressors resulting from cli-
19 mate change.”.

20 **SEC. 5. NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING AUTHORITY.**

21 A qualified corpsmember under section 122 of the
22 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
23 12572) shall be eligible for appointment in the competitive
24 service in the same manner as a Peace Corps volunteer
25 as prescribed in Executive Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504

- 1 note, relating to Providing for the Appointment of Former
- 2 Peace Corps Volunteers to the Civilian Career Services).

