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Congresswoman Doris Matsui Attends Presidential Signing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act

Legislation Co-Sponsored by Rep. Matsui Invests in New Era of Community Service at a Critical Time

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Washington, D.C. – Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-05) attended the official signing ceremony by President Barack Obama of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act today, formerly known as the GIVE Act, which she co-sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives. President Obama held the signing ceremony at the SEED School in Washington, DC, a boarding school for inner-city students who have problems at home and in the classroom. The Serve America Act will more than triple the size of the AmeriCorps program over eight years, and provides other opportunities for volunteering.

“This week we celebrate National Volunteer Week with the signing of the Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009, reaffirming our commitment to community service. As a Co-Chair of the National Service Caucus and a co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation, it was important to me to help move this bill through Congress and to the President’s desk. The reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the first in 15 years, takes programs and infrastructure that have touched so many lives, and builds off of its foundation to greatly increase the quantity and improve the quality of service that we as a nation work to provide.

“The Serve America Act supports programs like the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), which provides disaster relief, emergency response, infrastructure improvement, environmental and energy conservation, and urban and rural development each day in the Sacramento area, and throughout the country. The President and Senator Kennedy have inspired millions to serve, and we must seize upon this desire to serve our nation, especially during such trying times. With so many children to tutor, houses to build, roads to repair,

mouths to feed, and lives to inspire, we cannot wait another moment. The spirit of service has been renewed during a time of economic challenge, and it is time for our government to foster a continued dedication to our country's prosperity through national service.”

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