

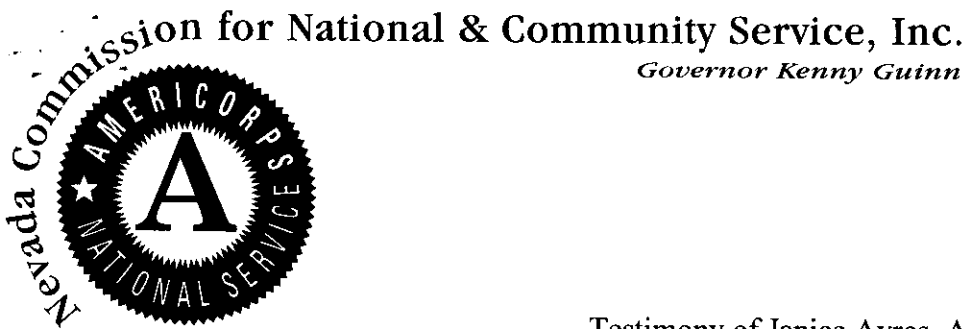
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Governor Kenny Guinn

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Testimony of Janice Ayres, AB 271  
March 26, 2003

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Good Morning and thank you.

I am Janice Ayres, Legislative Committee Chair and a member of the Governor's Commission for National & Community Service. I am an original appointee of Gov. Bob Miller since January, 1994, serving nearly nine years and seeing this program progress significantly.

With me is the Chair of the Commission, Robyn Clayton, and Executive Director, Shawn Lecker Pomaville, both of whom are available to answer any questions you may have of them.

Testifying with me today are AmeriCorps members Ronnie Fuller and Joe Huerta, as well as our YES Ambassador (Youth Engaged in Service), Andrew Heilman.

The Nevada Commission for National & Community Service is AmeriCorps – and more, in Nevada.

We secure funding that would not otherwise available to Nevada.

- We bring in nearly \$12 federal for every \$1 the State invests in our youth program.
- We are requesting \$300,000 – but urge that you not think of this as a cost to the state. Rather, think of it as the state losing \$3.5 million dollars in federal and other income over the next biennium, if the \$300,000 is not invested.
- In times of tight budgets, volunteers are our best resource to close the gap of under-funded programs.

Our 150 AmeriCorps members last year, generated another 2,406 volunteers statewide.

- These volunteers provided nearly 14,000 hours of service to Nevada.

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ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS  
DATE: 3/26/03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT F  
SUBMITTED BY: Janice Ayres



- At the allowed rate for a volunteer (Volunteer Service Sector) of \$16.05/hr., that translates to \$223,127 in services that benefited Nevadans. The program more than pays for itself.

We administer programs statewide, in 13 of our 17 counties, and in remote areas such as Jackpot and Beatty and Eureka.

A conservative estimate is that in this year alone, the lives of over 100,000 Nevadans will be effected in positive ways by an AmeriCorps participant.

- Last year,
  - Over 2,600 children were tutored;
  - Preschool was provided for 1,100 at-risk preschoolers;
  - Substance abuse and residential support services were provided for 750 homeless veterans;
  - 43 miles of riverbed were restored and 10,500 trees were planted.

The many needs that the AmeriCorps programs currently address with proven significant success will go unmet if these programs are eliminated – which will happen if not funded with matching state funds.

- Along with that, nearly 200 people associated with AmeriCorps will not have employment.
- Over \$720,000 in AmeriCorps Education Awards for up to 200 Nevadans a year, will be unavailable.
- The \$1.4 million dollars in AmeriCorps programming will go to other states.

But beyond all this, is the added value of the impact service and volunteerism have on our citizens. Here to tell you how service has changed their lives and the lives of those they serve, are some of our AmeriCorps members.