

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4622, by Representative Farrell

1 WHEREAS, Serve Washington leads our state's long tradition of
2 citizen involvement by providing opportunities for Washingtonians of
3 all ages to improve their communities through AmeriCorps national
4 service and volunteerism; and

5 WHEREAS, 900,000 AmeriCorps members have served our country since
6 AmeriCorps' inception in 1994, including 35,000 from Washington; and

7 WHEREAS, This year AmeriCorps will provide the opportunity for
8 75,000 citizens across the nation, including 2,650 in Washington, to
9 give back to their communities, state, and country; and

10 WHEREAS, This year AmeriCorps members are serving at more than
11 1,000 locations throughout Washington State to improve the lives of
12 our most vulnerable citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the past twenty years, AmeriCorps members in
14 Washington have contributed 52 million hours of service to address
15 unmet community needs; and

16 WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members are strengthening our educational
17 system by helping students succeed in school and gain the skills
18 necessary to get 21st century jobs; protecting our environment by
19 building trails, restoring parks, and protecting watersheds; helping
20 communities prepare, respond, and recover from natural and man-made
21 disasters; and providing support to military families and veterans as
22 they readjust to civilian life; and

23 WHEREAS, The AmeriCorps national service experience has a
24 powerful impact on the lives of its members, who gain new and useful
25 skills, advance their education, and become more connected to their
26 communities; and

27 WHEREAS, A longitudinal study has shown that AmeriCorps alumni
28 are more likely to be civically engaged; to go into public service
29 careers such as teaching, public safety, nonprofit management, and
30 military service; and to volunteer in their communities; and

31 WHEREAS, In exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps
32 members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, equal to the maximum
33 Pell Grant, to help pay for college or pay back student loans; and

