

The Cincinnati Enquirer
Letter to the Editor

Today, the Senate will vote on the Serve America Act, bipartisan legislation that would invest in national service programs, such as Public Allies Cincinnati, an AmeriCorps program operated by BRIDGES. Citizens in our city and across this country are signing up to serve at unprecedented rates – nationally, applications for AmeriCorps are already up 208% from last year. Through the efforts and idealism of these young, civic-minded Allies working in our community, we have witnessed first-hand the unquestioned value of their contributions to our local nonprofits and to the thousands of clients they serve. The increased interest in service is a glimmer of hope during these dire economic times, and we should invest in it. The Serve America Act, which passed in the House last week and has the President’s full support, expands opportunities for citizens to make a difference toward meeting our nation’s most urgent challenges. Senator Brown has gone on record in favor of this legislation and Senator Voinovich is likely to support it as well, based on a vote earlier this week. A YES vote on the Serve America Act is a vote not only for national service, but for much needed services right here in our city.

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