



September 17, 2008

The Honorable David Price
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Christopher Shays
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Price and Shays:

We, the undersigned, would like to express our strong support for H.R. 6160, the Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2008. We commend you for introducing this important piece of legislation which, if enacted, will better enable the federal government to recruit a new generation of leaders to fill critical positions in federal service. Thank you for your leadership in this area. We believe the Roosevelt Scholars program will attract top students from our nation's leading universities to solve some of the most difficult challenges facing America and the world today. The benefits of this proposal include:

- **Roosevelt Scholars** builds upon a proven model of excellence from the military. The Roosevelt Scholars program brings a similar commitment to and investment in our civilian service. A combined two-fifths of U.S. military officers are products of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and receive federal support for education in exchange for their military service.
- **Roosevelt Scholars will help government attract mission-critical talent by financing graduate-level education in key fields.** The federal government's brain drain is underway. Roughly one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists and other highly specialized professionals will be leaving in the next five years. The market for highly skilled workers continues to tighten, and the federal government increasingly needs to compete with other sectors for the same, limited talent pool.
- **Roosevelt Scholars makes government service possible for more Americans.** Rising education costs are pricing our best-schooled citizens out of public service jobs. Tuition assistance is perhaps the most straightforward, proven instrument in the government's recruiting toolbox.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1808-2008 — 200 YEARS OF DISTINCTION

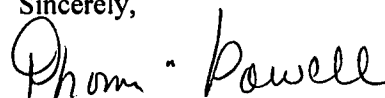
16300 OLD EMMITSBURG ROAD, EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND 21727

301.447.5600 FAX: 301.447.5634 president@msmary.edu

- **Roosevelt Scholars will complement existing efforts and structures that encourage young people to consider public service.** Roosevelt Scholars builds on other existing agency scholarship programs by presenting economies of scale and an opportunity for cross-agency information sharing and collaboration to identify and target the skills areas of greatest need. Furthermore, like other highly successful and prestigious fellowship models including the Truman, Rhodes, Goldwater, Marshall, and Fulbright, the Roosevelt Scholars model would leverage one of our nation's greatest resources - our unparalleled network of colleges and universities.
- **Roosevelt Scholars could help re-brand government service.** Ultimately, the Roosevelt Scholarship and the efforts of the Roosevelt Scholars Foundation will serve as a keystone along with other important efforts on the part of federal agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits to strengthen the government's pipeline of critical skills. Taken together, these efforts are important to drawing greater public attention to the importance of federal work and to restoring prestige to federal service.

Representatives Price and Shays, we applaud you for your leadership in introducing this legislation. We believe the Roosevelt Scholars initiative is an innovative program with exciting potential, and we urge Congress to promptly pass H.R. 6160, the Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2008.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Powell
President