

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

[Date]

Dear [Senator/Representative _____]:

I am writing to **encourage you to co-sponsor H.R. 6160, the Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2008**, an important piece of legislation which will better enable the federal government to recruit a new generation of leaders and to fill mission-critical positions in areas such as engineering, the sciences, foreign languages, and public health.

As you know, our federal government faces an unprecedented workforce crisis as experienced workers begin to retire and the pipeline of talent available to replace them continues to thin. According to a study by the Partnership for Public Service, federal agencies will need to fill 193,000 mission-critical positions by the end of 2009. The labor needs of the federal government are becoming more professional and specialized than ever before and an insufficient number of citizens are pursuing graduate-level study in high-need areas. As a result, 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.

Our work with jobseekers confirms additional Partnership research, which shows that students are highly interested in making a difference in society, but do not know much about how to get into federal service. At the same time, educational costs continue to rise and as a result even the best and brightest who are interested do not see federal service as a viable career choice. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, individuals completing master's degrees average \$32,900 in debt. Individuals earning doctorates and MBAs average \$41,500 and \$41,700 respectively in educational debt. Those studying to be lawyers incur an average of \$80,800 in debt, and those receiving MDs average \$125,800 in student loan debt. We must find new ways to strengthen the pipeline by providing financial support and making it easier for a new generation to enter into public service

The Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2008 would do just that. The Act would establish a nonprofit Roosevelt Scholars Foundation, named after the father of modern civil service Theodore Roosevelt. The Foundation would administer the application, selection and ongoing support aspects of a new government-wide Roosevelt Scholarship to fund graduate-level study in exchange for a federal service commitment in targeted mission-critical occupational areas. The Foundation and scholarship program would help restore prestige to federal service by raising awareness about federal opportunities more broadly and rebranding the government as a place where the best and brightest go to make a difference.

I strongly urge you to co-sponsor this significant legislation. For more information about the Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2008, and to sign on as a co-sponsor, please contact **Kate Roetzer** with **Representative David Price** (kate.roetzer@mail.house.gov) or **Katie Bruns** with **Representative Christopher Shays** (kathryn.bruns@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

[XXXXXX]