

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your interest in ensuring that the Corporation for National and Community Service properly fulfills its mission of supporting service and volunteering while maintaining appropriate accountability and oversight as a Federal agency. We are Members of the Corporation's Board of Directors, a bi-partisan group of Presidential appointees appointed by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate. Our Board has an oversight role for the agency and we owe an obligation to the President, Congress and taxpayers to make sure that the organization performs effectively.

As Special Government Employees, we volunteer our services on a part-time, intermittent basis, but we can assure you we are fully committed to a high-functioning agency that strives for responsible stewardship over the valuable Federal funds appropriated by Congress to support national and community service. To do this, we rely heavily on the Office of Inspector General to provide leadership, expertise, and resources in making sure the Corporation is managed properly. We have benefitted from the good work of the Office of Inspector General over the years and through several changes in Inspectors General.

Over an extended period of time, we observed how Gerald Walpin's effectiveness as Inspector General significantly diminished. Without an IG who can focus time and energy on areas of greatest risk, we are hampered in effectively discharging our responsibilities to you and your colleagues. Our concerns became paramount after an event in May involving the full Board of Directors that caused us collectively to question Mr. Walpin's ongoing ability to carry out his duties. As a result, the entire Board unanimously asked our Chair to convey our concerns to the White House. We support the President's decision to remove Mr. Walpin.

We need a strong, credible, and respected Inspector General who will help give the Congress and the American people confidence that their taxpayer dollars are being used properly to support national and community service, and we look forward to reestablishing an effective working relationship with a new Inspector General.

We are sending this to you in your capacity as Senator. The committees with oversight are the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and we are sending copies to the attention of the Chairs and ranking members of those committees because this is a matter of interest to them.



1201 New York Avenue N.W. ★ Washington, DC 20525
202-606-5000 ★ www.nationalservice.org

Senior Corps ★ AmeriCorps ★ Learn and Serve America


USA
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The President's Call to Service

Sincerely,



Alan D. Solomont, Chair



Stephen Goldsmith, Vice Chair

/s/

Hyepin Im

/s/

James Palmer

/s/

Stan Soloway

/s/

Eric J. Tanenblatt

/s/

Laysha Ward

cc: The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
The Honorable Susan M. Collins