

**BENNIE G. THOMPSON**  
SECOND DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
RANKING MEMBER

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2466 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2402  
(202) 225-5876  
(202) 225-5898: FAX

E-Mail: [benniethompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:benniethompson@mail.house.gov)  
Home Page: <http://benniethompson.house.gov>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2402**

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL GAMING CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS  
HOUSE EDUCATION CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL RICE CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL CANCER CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL HBCU CAUCUS

April 24, 2025

The Honorable George Flaggs, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Vicksburg  
1401 Walnut Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Dear Mayor Flaggs:

Thank you for your letter regarding the decision by President Trump and Elon Musk to direct the Department of Government Efficiency (DODGE) to remove AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members from the Vicksburg campus.

The AmeriCorps program has long been a critical asset to our nation. It provides invaluable service to communities in need and helps shape the next generation of civic-minded leaders. The Vicksburg campus, in particular, has played an essential role in advancing this mission through years of meaningful service and dedication.

Let me be clear; this decision is unacceptable. It is yet another example of this administration's failure to respect and uphold the federal government's commitment to public service, community support, and the young Americans who step forward to answer the call. Abruptly ending the service term for those nearing completion is not only disruptive but disrespectful. It disregards their sacrifice, their time, and the meaningful work they have carried out in communities across the country, including in Vicksburg and surrounding communities.

It is unfortunate that Republican members of Congress have yet to push back on Donald Trump's executive orders targeting many worthy programs like AmeriCorps. The program was funded, but the Trump administration chose to stop the program, although Congress had already appropriated funds until September of this year. As you know, many programs, including USAID, Voice of America, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, are being targeted just like the AmeriCorps program. I have consistently supported AmeriCorps and remain committed to defending its mission and legacy. Whether due to political intimidation or an unwillingness to challenge their party's leadership, their silence has real consequences. When elected officials allow intimidation to dictate their actions, the country suffers.

Should the Republican leadership bring forward an up or down vote to reinstate this program, I will gladly support it. Our communities deserve leadership that puts people first. The people of Mississippi know what service means. We will not forget what these young people have given, and I will do everything in my power to ensure they are treated with the respect they have earned.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress