



## 2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 87

October 1, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives BOWEN, BROSTOFF, CROWLEY and STUCK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** celebrating the substantial impact of AmeriCorps in Wisconsin  
2             communities on the occasion of its 25th anniversary and declaring October 11,  
3             2019, as Wisconsin AmeriCorps Day.

4             Whereas, the spirit of service has defined our nation and strengthened the  
5     bonds of community for nearly 250 years; and

6             Whereas, the creation of the Corporation for National and Community Service  
7     and the founding of AmeriCorps in 1994 built upon the legacy of citizen service  
8     demonstrated by Volunteers In Service To America, the Civilian Conservation Corps,  
9     Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, and RSVP; and

10            Whereas, 2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of the first class of AmeriCorps  
11     members, who pledged to “get things done” and make a difference for communities  
12     throughout the nation; and

13            Whereas, AmeriCorps members serve in more than 21,000 locations across the  
14     country, and in more than 400 locations in Wisconsin, bolstering the civic,

1 neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are vital to the nation's economic  
2 and social well-being; and

3 Whereas, more than 1,300 AmeriCorps members of all ages and backgrounds  
4 serve each year in Wisconsin, providing vital support to communities and improving  
5 the quality of life in our state; and

6 Whereas, more than one million AmeriCorps members since 1994 have  
7 provided more than 1.4 billion hours of service across the United States, with more  
8 than 26,000 Wisconsin residents having served approximately 40 million hours to  
9 benefit local communities; and

10 Whereas, Serve Wisconsin, the Wisconsin National and Community Service  
11 Board, has administered federal grants for over 75 AmeriCorps programs over the  
12 past 25 years, granting over \$80 million in federal funding to support the mission of  
13 AmeriCorps and its impact on the citizens of Wisconsin; and

14 Whereas, service in AmeriCorps has enabled Wisconsin residents to earn Segal  
15 AmeriCorps Education Awards of over \$101 million, providing access to higher  
16 education that will pay dividends for the state of Wisconsin for decades into the  
17 future; and

18 Whereas, AmeriCorps service brings tangible benefits to the communities  
19 being served as well as to those providing the service in Wisconsin through  
20 supporting educational programming and expanding opportunities for students,  
21 helping people live healthier lives through expanding access to care and combatting  
22 issues of addiction, completing projects to protect the environment and expand  
23 access to parks and wildlife areas, expanding economic opportunity, helping  
24 non-profit organizations expand their services to communities, and supporting  
25 veterans and military families; and

1           Whereas, AmeriCorps members play a critical role in the response to disasters  
2 throughout the nation, helping communities recover following hurricanes,  
3 tornadoes, flooding, and forest fires, including assisting in multiple disaster recovery  
4 projects to assist local Wisconsin communities; and

5           Whereas, national service through AmeriCorps builds character and connects  
6 men and women to service that highlights the responsibilities of citizenship,  
7 leadership, and civic involvement; and

8           Whereas, AmeriCorps and national service programs and initiatives create  
9 understanding that unites our citizens and bridges gaps across races, generations,  
10 social classes, and geographic boundaries; and

11           Whereas, AmeriCorps members demonstrate commitment, dedication, and  
12 patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, and remain engaged in  
13 our communities after their terms of service as volunteers, public servants, and civic  
14 leaders in disproportionately high levels; and

15           Whereas, the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps in Wisconsin will be celebrated  
16 at the opening ceremony and swearing in of 25th class of Wisconsin AmeriCorps  
17 members at the Milwaukee County Zoo, with presentations by Wisconsin  
18 AmeriCorps and national service alumni Congresswoman Gwen Moore and four  
19 members of the Wisconsin General Assembly; now, therefore, be it

20           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
21 Legislature, does hereby recognize the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps and the  
22 substantial impact the service of its members have on the people of Wisconsin,  
23 encouraging residents to celebrate this achievement by acknowledging members and  
24 programs, thanking those who serve, and joining them in finding ways to give back  
25 to our communities; and, be it further

