(Your name, address, city or use agency or personal letterhead)

Date

Honorable

Illinois \_\_\_\_\_\_District Congressman

(get address from web site)

Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

 As you may be aware, this week is National AmeriCorps Week. It is a weeklong event designed by the Corporation for National and Community Service to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for the powerful impact their work has had, and thank community partners from the grassroots to the national level for all that they've done in making AmeriCorps successful.

I am an AmeriCorps member at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and reside in the \_\_\_\_\_ Congressional District.  I began my service in (cite the month) and it has been a great experience for me and my host site.

As you already know, AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country’s critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

As a full time AmeriCorps member, I've been involved with (name of agency) adult volunteer literacy program. We use trained volunteer tutors to help adult students improve their reading and writing skills, and/or learn English as a Second Language. All tutoring services are free. We are funded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Through my Americorps service, I have tutored (insert #) students, through both small group and one-on-one tutoring instruction, for a total of \_\_\_ hours. I tutor both Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language students. I have also recruited \_\_\_ new tutors for our program. (Cite anything else you do or have done.)

Through Americorps, I have received training in (cite training received or eliminate).

I believe being involved in Adult Education has opened my eyes to the silent problem of low literacy in this country. I never realized how many adults are lacking in the basic literacy skills necessary to succeed in life. I have also learned how important Adult Education programs are to the success of our country. As long as our citizens do not speak English and do not have the adequate literacy skills, there will be poverty and underemployment. Low-literacy adults with children are likely to pass on their illiteracy to their children, continuing the cycle.

We cannot solve all of our literacy problems through the traditional K – 12 educational system. Many immigrants have not attended our schools, and many native English speakers have not been served in such traditional settings.

I see many adults struggle with literacy in our program and realize how important our tutoring services are. We really make a difference in many adults’ lives and are a vital resource to the community.

 Thank you, Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for your support of AmeriCorps on Capitol Hill and for encouraging service and volunteerism in our communities.  I hope we can count on your continuing support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

VOCAL AmeriCorps Member