

(Washington, D.C.) – The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act (H.R. 1338) to reauthorize and expand national service programs. The legislation includes an initiative championed by Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) to include projects designed to renew and rehabilitate National Parks as an activity under the newly established Clean Energy Corps. Additionally, the changes Holt made to the bill will work to enhance service and learning opportunities for National Park visitors, schools, and communities.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 275-149, and it now goes to the President for his signature.

“The national park system provides an invaluable resource to learn about our unique national, cultural and historical heritage,” Holt said. “Yet, these resources are tragically underused and underfunded. This initiative will help decrease a \$2.5 billion maintenance backlog and help expand and improve educational resources throughout the park system.”

The GIVE Act will more than triple the number of volunteers serving in this country, from the current 75,000 to 250,000. It will establish new service corps to help build a green and energy-efficient economy, enhance services for veterans when they return home, expand access to affordable health care, help increase student achievement, and more.

The bill will also increase the education reward these service participants receive in exchange for their contributions to \$5,350 for next year, the same as the maximum Pell Grant scholarship award. The education award would also be linked to match future boosts in the Pell Grant scholarship in order to keep up with rising college costs.

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