



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 2014

I am pleased to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

Our Nation is built on the belief that if we work together, we can create a better future for all. Service has always been central to America's story, and few people have understood this as well as the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

With unwavering passion for public and community service, Senator Kennedy often noted that Americans want to serve—all we have to do is ask. Putting partnership before partisanship, he and Senator Orrin Hatch championed this landmark legislation. And it was an honor for me to sign the Serve America Act—the boldest expansion of opportunities to serve our communities and our country since the creation of AmeriCorps—into law during the first 100 days of my Presidency.

In the 5 years since its passing, the Serve America Act has reminded us that the greatest resource we have is the limitless energy and ingenuity of our citizens. It has helped engaged citizens prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow, lift up families and neighborhoods on the road to economic recovery, and give back to veterans and military families who have sacrificed so much on our behalf. Whether assisting communities rebuilding after natural disasters, promoting health and well-being, or preserving our precious natural resources, programs supported by this law have improved countless lives and made America stronger.

The Serve America Act reflects the enduring idea that those who love their country can change it, and we have only started to see its impact. As we mark this anniversary, let us recommit to fulfilling its promise and doing our part to create a brighter tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.