HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4622, by Representative Farrell

WHEREAS, Serve Washington leads our state's long tradition of citizen involvement by providing opportunities for Washingtonians of all ages to improve their communities through AmeriCorps national service and volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, 900,000 AmeriCorps members have served our country since AmeriCorps' inception in 1994, including 35,000 from Washington; and

WHEREAS, This year AmeriCorps will provide the opportunity for 75,000 citizens across the nation, including 2,650 in Washington, to give back to their communities, state, and country; and

WHEREAS, This year AmeriCorps members are serving at more than 1,000 locations throughout Washington State to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, Over the past twenty years, AmeriCorps members in Washington have contributed 52 million hours of service to address unmet community needs; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members are strengthening our educational system by helping students succeed in school and gain the skills necessary to get 21st century jobs; protecting our environment by building trails, restoring parks, and protecting watersheds; helping communities prepare, respond, and recover from natural and man-made disasters; and providing support to military families and veterans as they readjust to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The AmeriCorps national service experience has a powerful impact on the lives of its members, who gain new and useful skills, advance their education, and become more connected to their communities; and

WHEREAS, A longitudinal study has shown that AmeriCorps alumni are more likely to be civically engaged; to go into public service careers such as teaching, public safety, nonprofit management, and military service; and to volunteer in their communities; and

WHEREAS, In exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, equal to the maximum Pell Grant, to help pay for college or pay back student loans; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members from Washington have earned more than $122,380,000 in education awards since 1994; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps acts as a powerful catalyst and force multiplier for community volunteering by recruiting, training, and supervising thousands of additional community volunteers for the organizations where they serve; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has proclaimed March 9, 2015, through March 13, 2015, as AmeriCorps Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the observation of AmeriCorps Week, salute AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of

Resolution 4622 adopted by the House of Representatives

March 12, 2015

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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk