



U.S. Public Service Academy

1225 I Street NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-712-9121
www.uspublicserviceacademy.org

Letter Writing Tips

Here are some tips for how to write an effective letter urging your senator or representative to support the U.S. Public Service Academy Act.

- **Be personal & polite:** Explain who you are and why you are writing the letter. Make sure the representative knows that you are a voting constituent – include your name and address, and make references to your state or hometown in the body of your letter.

- **Be short & specific:** Clearly explain why you want the representative to support the U.S. Public Service Academy Act. Keep your letter relatively short. Pick two or three arguments that are important to you and emphasize those. Some arguments you might consider:

- The U.S. Public Service Academy fills an important need in American society.
- The Academy will help America attract its best and brightest into public service.
- The Academy has broad bipartisan appeal – this is an American idea.
- Young Americans deserve to have one federal service academy that gives them the opportunity to serve in areas outside the military.
- The Academy is a worthwhile investment in our future public leadership.



- **Be neat & clear:** Write legibly and make sure you tell them *exactly* what you want them to do – they should vote for or co-sponsor the U.S. Public Service Academy Act (the bill does not yet have a number for the 110th Congress because it has not been re-introduced yet). If you want a personal response, make sure to ask for one.

Addressing Members of Congress

When addressing your letters, make sure to follow this pattern:

To Your Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

To Your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

Sample Letter

The following is an example of the kind of letter you could write. Please do not cut and past – personal letters are so much more important.

DATE

The Honorable XXXXX
XXXXX Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator XXXXX:

As a STATE resident and voter, I am writing to encourage you to support the U.S. Public Service Academy Act, S. 3958. This bill, which was introduced in September by Senators Clinton and Specter, authorizes the creation of the U.S. Public Service Academy. I think it is an important bill, and I urge you to become a co-sponsor when it is re-introduced in the new Congress.

America needs the U.S. Public Service Academy. Our country faces serious domestic and international problems in the twenty-first century, and we need more young people to go into public service as teachers, police officers, foreign language specialists, civil servants, and other important public jobs. The Academy will provide a consistent flow of highly-qualified, service-oriented young leaders. We here in STATE could use these graduates, particularly in our poorer areas where it is hard to attract college graduates.

Young people want to serve our country, but many of them want to serve in a civilian capacity. The military academies are great, but not everyone wants to (or is physically able to) go to one. Many high school students, particularly girls, would leap at the chance to go to a U.S. Public Service Academy. It would be our first national college devoted to service outside of the military, and it would attract our best and brightest. Many STATE students enter college wanting to serve our country, but they cannot afford to pursue public service after graduation because they have accumulated too much debt. The Academy will give service-minded students the opportunity to serve our country without enduring financial hardship.

The U.S. Public Service Academy Act is an opportunity for you to be a leader in the movement to strengthen our nation's public leadership. I urge you to support the bill by becoming a co-sponsor when the bill is re-introduced in the new Congress.

Sincerely,

U.S. Public Service Academy FAQs

In a nutshell, what is the U.S. Public Service Academy?

The U.S. Public Service Academy will be an undergraduate institution devoted to developing civilian leaders. Modeled on the military academies, the Academy will offer four years of tuition-free education in exchange for five years of civilian service following graduation.

Has the U.S. Public Service Academy bill been introduced in Congress?

The United States Public Service Academy Act of 2006 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on Sept. 27, 2006. It is co-sponsored by Sens. Arlen Specter (R-NY), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Representatives Tom Davis (R-VA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), and Jim Moran (D-VA). Co-sponsors plan to re-introduce the bill in February 2007.

How many students will the Academy serve?

The Academy will serve roughly 5,100 high-achieving students from across the United States and the world.

How will students be admitted?

Spots for nearly 1,300 incoming freshmen will be allocated by state, following a congressional nomination process similar to that used for admission to the military academies. Nominees would compete against other nominees from their state, thus ensuring that each state will be proportionally represented in the student body.

What kind of curriculum will Academy students follow?

The Academy will offer a unique curriculum that combines a broad-based liberal arts education with an emphasis on public service and leadership development. The combination of rigorous academic work with hands-on learning experiences will give our students the moral character, academic training, and leadership experience they need to serve the American people honorably and effectively.

What kinds of jobs would Academy graduates do during their five-year service requirement?

Academy graduates will spend five years serving their nation by working as teachers, police officers, foreign language specialists, and other critical public service jobs at the local, state, national and even international levels.

What if an Academy graduate wants to pursue graduate education?

The Academy will follow the lead of the military academies and subsidize students' graduate education in return for an extended service commitment. For every year of subsidized graduate education, students must add an additional two years to their service commitment. Thus, an Academy graduate who pursues a four-year medical degree will be responsible for serving the nation for a total of thirteen years following their graduation from medical school – the required five years, plus eight additional years.

Where will the Academy be located?

That decision ultimately will be up to Congress, but we feel that one site that makes logical sense is Washington, D.C. Our nation's capital has tremendous opportunities for Academy students – internships where students would be able to get hands-on experience in public service; partnerships with government agencies that could provide speakers and visiting professors for Academy classes; easy access to research materials and subjects; and other concrete resources that would be hard to duplicate elsewhere. Washington also would be a magnet for top faculty.

How much money will it cost?

About 70 cents per American per year. For less than the cost of bus fare, we can build a lasting institution sends a clear message to our young people – public service matters, and it matters enough that we have built a national public university dedicated to it.

Who came up with the idea for a U.S. Public Service Academy?

The Academy is the brainchild of two Teach For America veterans, Chris Myers Asch and Shawn Raymond. After having taught in the Mississippi Delta in the mid 1990s, Asch and Raymond teamed up to create a non-profit educational organization for at-risk teenagers, the Sunflower County Freedom Project. Now, they have set their sights on helping America give its young people more opportunities to serve their country in a meaningful way.

Why do we need to do this now?

We need to build a Public Service Academy for several reasons:

- 1) First, recent events have inspired a younger generation and imbued many young people with a sense of civic engagement not seen in decades. More than 2/3 of the 2005 collegiate freshman class expressed a desire to serve others, according to the Higher Education Research Institute, the highest rate in a generation, and interest in opportunities like Teach for America, City Year, USA Freedom Corps, and religious mission trips has increased dramatically since 2001. But according to the Project on Student Debt, the average college student graduates \$20,000 in debt, which makes public service careers difficult to pursue.
- 2) Second, we face a critical and growing shortage of public servants – as baby boomers retire, we will need more teachers, more cops, more air traffic controllers, more everything. The Partnership for Public Service warns of a looming “Federal brain drain” as 44 percent of the Federal work force becomes eligible to retire in the next five years. More than two million teachers will be needed in the next 10 years, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Eight in 10 police agencies nationwide cannot find enough qualified candidates to fill empty positions.
- 3) Finally, we currently have no national undergraduate institution dedicated to developing civilian leaders and meeting our nation’s critical needs. We offer our young people outstanding, federally-funded opportunities to go to college and serve their country in the military, but none to serve as a civilian.

How is this campaign being funded?

This campaign is driven by the power of an idea, not the power of money. We have no lobbyists, no campaign staff, no high-priced office. We are funded by individual donors from across the nation.

How realistic is this politically?

The Academy is not a Republican idea, it is not a Democratic idea, it is an American idea. We believe that all Americans can agree that no matter the size, no matter the policy, our public institutions should work for the American people. With courageous leaders from both sides of the political aisle, we can create a lasting institution that will stand as a monument to visionary leadership. Americans are a can-do people, and we can build this Academy.

Who is involved with this campaign?

People who believe that national service matters and want to make America a better, stronger, safer place to live. We have a growing bipartisan board of advisors, as well as an expanding network of volunteers from all across the country. Join us!

Senate Addresses

You will notice that some of the new senators simply have "U.S. Capitol" as their address. They will not have permanent offices until March 2007. Don't worry – your letter will get there! Addresses for individual congressmen may be found on: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Last	First	State	Party	Address	Phone (area code 202)	Fax (area code 202)
Akaka	Daniel	HI	D	141 HART	224- 6361	224-2126
Alexander	Lamar	TN	R	302 HART	224- 4944	228-3398
Allard	Wayne	CO	R	521 DIRKSEN	224- 5941	224-6471
Baucus	Max	MT	D	511 DIRKSEN	224- 2651	224-4700
Bayh	Evan	IN	D	463 RUSSELL	224- 5623	228-1377
Bennett	Robert	UT	R	431 DIRKSEN	224- 5444	228-1168
Biden	Joseph	DE	D	201 RUSSELL	224- 5042	224-0139
Bingaman	Jeff	NM	D	703 HART	224- 5521	224-2852
Bond	Christopher	MO	R	274 RUSSELL	224- 5721	224-8149
Boxer	Barbara	CA	D	112 HART	224- 3553	415-956-6701
Brown	Sherrod	OH	D	SRC 5 RUSSELL	224-2315	224-6519
Brownback	Sam	KS	R	303 HART	224- 6521	228-1265
Bunning	Jim	KY	R	316 HART	224- 4343	228-1373
Burr	Richard	NC	R	217 RUSSELL	224- 3154	228-2981
Byrd	Robert	WV	D	311 HART	224- 3954	228-0002
Cantwell	Maria	WA	D	717 HART	224- 3441	228-0514
Cardin	Ben	MD	D	U.S. Capitol	224-4524	224-1651
Carper	Thomas	DE	D	513 HART	224- 2441	228-2190
Casey	Robert	PA	D	B40-C DIRKSEN	224-6324	228-0604
Chambliss	Saxby	GA	R	416 RUSSELL	224- 3521	224-0103
Clinton	Hillary	NY	D	476 RUSSELL	224- 4451	228-0282
Coburn	Thomas	OK	R	172 RUSSELL	224- 5754	224-6008
Cochran	Thad	MS	R	113 DIRKSEN	224- 5054	224-9450
Coleman	Norm	MN	R	320 RUSSELL	224- 5641	224-1152
Collins	Susan	ME	R	461 DIRKSEN	224- 2523	224-2693
Conrad	Kent	ND	D	530 HART	224- 2043	224-7776
Corker	Bob	TN	R	U.S. Capitol	224-3344	228-1264
Cornyn	John	TX	R	517 HART	224- 2934	228-2856
Craig	Larry	ID	R	520 HART	224- 2752	228-1067
Crapo	Larry	ID	R	239 DIRKSEN	224- 6142	228-1375
DeMint	Jim	SC	R	340 RUSSELL	224- 6121	228-5143

Dodd	Christopher	CT	D	448 RUSSELL	224- 2823	224-1083
Dole	Elizabeth	NC	R	555 DIRKSEN	224- 6342	224-1100
Domenici	Pete	NM	R	328 HART	224- 6621	228-3261
Dorgan	Byron	ND	D	322 HART	224- 2551	224-2551
Durbin	Richard	IL	D	332 DIRKSEN	224- 2551	228-0400
Ensign	John	NV	R	356 RUSSELL	224- 6244	228-2193
Enzi	Michael	WY	R	379a RUSSELL	224- 3424	228-0359
Feingold	Russell	WI	D	506 HART	224- 5323	224-2725
Feinstein	Diane	CA	D	331 HART	224- 3841	228-3954
Graham	Lindsey	SC	R	290 RUSSELL	224- 5972	224-3808
Grassley	Chuck	IA	R	135 HART	224- 3744	224-6020
Gregg	Judd	NH	R	393 RUSSELL	224- 3324	224-4952
Hagel	Chuck	NE	R	248 RUSSELL	224- 4224	224-5213
Harkin	Tom	IA	D	731 HART	224- 3254	224-9369
Hatch	Orrin	UT	R	104 HART	224- 5251	224-6331
Hutchison	Kay Bailey	TX	R	284 RUSSELL	224- 5922	224-0776
Inhofe	James	OK	R	453 RUSSELL	224- 4721	228-0380
Inouye	Daniel	HI	D	722 HART	224- 3934	224-6747
Isakson	Johnny	GA	R	120 RUSSELL	224- 3643	228-0724
Johnson	Tim	SD	D	136 HART	224- 5842	228-5765
Kennedy	Edward	MA	D	317 RUSSELL	224- 4543	224-2417
Kerry	John	MA	D	304 RUSSELL	224- 2742	224-8525
Klobuchar	Amy	MN	D	SRC-4 RUSSELL	224-3244	228-2186
Kohl	Herb	WI	D	330 HART	224- 5653	224-9787
Kyl	Jon	AZ	R	730 HART	224- 4521	224-2207
Landrieu	Mary	LA	D	724 HART	224- 5824	224-9735
Lautenberg	Frank	NJ	D	324 HART	224- 3224	228-4054
Leahy	Patrick	VT	D	433 RUSSELL	224- 4242	224-3479
Levin	Carl	MI	D	269 RUSSELL	224- 6221	224-1388
Lieberman	Joe	CT	D	706 HART	224- 4041	224-9750
Lincoln	Blanche	AR	D	355 DIRKSEN	224- 4843	228-1371
Lott	Trent	MS	R	487 RUSSELL	224- 6253	224-2262
Lugar	Richard	IN	R	306 HART	224- 4814	228-0360
Martinez	Mel	FL	R	317 HART	224- 3041	228-5171
McCain	John	AZ	R	241 RUSSELL	224- 2235	228-2862
McCaskill	Claire	MO	D	U.S. SENATE	224-6154	228-1518

McConnell	Mitch	KY	R	361a RUSSELL	224- 2541	224-2499
Menendez	Robert	NJ	D	U.S. SENATE	224-4744	228-2197
Mikulski	Barbara	MD	D	503 HART	224- 4654	224-8858
Murkowski	Lisa	AK	R	709 HART	224- 6665	224-5301
Murray	Patty	WA	D	173 RUSSELL	224- 2621	224-0238
Nelson	Ben	NE	D	720 HART	224-6551	228-0012
Nelson	Bill	FL	D	716 HART	224- 5274	228-2183
Obama	Barack	IL	D	713 HART	224- 2854	228-5417
Pryor	Mark	AR	D	257 DIRKSEN	224- 2353	228-0908
Reed	Jack	RI	D	728 HART	224- 4642	224-4680
Reid	Harry	NV	D	528 HART	224- 3542	224-7327
Roberts	Pat	KS	R	109 HART	224- 4774	224-3514
Rockefeller	John	WV	D	531 HART	224- 6472	224-7665
Salazar	Ken	CO	D	702 HART	224- 5852	228-5036
Sanders	Bernie	VT	I	U.S. SENATE	224-5141	228-0776
Schumer	Charles	NY	D	313 HART	224- 6542	228-3027
Sessions	Jeff	AL	R	335 RUSSELL	224- 4124	224-3149
Shelby	Richard	AL	R	110 HART	224- 5744	224-3416
Smith	Gordon	OR	R	404 RUSSELL	224- 3753	228-3997
Snowe	Olympia	ME	R	154 RUSSELL	224- 5344	224-1946
Specter	Arlen	PA	R	711 HART	224- 4254	228-1229
Stabenow	Debbie	MI	D	133 HART	224- 4822	228-0325
Stevens	Ted	AK	R	522 HART	224- 3004	224-2354
Sununu	John	NH	R	111 RUSSELL	224- 2841	228-4131
Tester	Jon	MT	D	U.S. SENATE	224-2644	224-8594
Thomas	Craig	WY	R	307 DIRKSEN	224- 6441	224-1724
Thune	John	SD	R	383 RUSSELL	224- 2321	228-5429
Vitter	David	LA	R	516 HART	224- 4623	228-5061
Voinovich	George	OH	R	524 HART	224- 3353	228-1382
Warner	John	VA	R	225 RUSSELL	224- 2023	224-6295
Webb	James	VA	D	U.S. SENATE	224-4024	224-5342
Whitehouse	Sheldon	RI	D	U.S. SENATE	224-2921	228-2853
Wyden	Ron	OR	D	230 DIRKSEN	224- 5244	228-2717