

# S. 284, CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT



**BACKGROUND:** The Congressional Award Program recognizes young Americans ages 14–23 who set and achieve self-designed goals in four key areas:

1. VOLUNTARY SERVICE
2. PERSONAL GROWTH
3. EXPLORATION
4. PHYSICAL FITNESS

- Awards are given based on effort, goal-setting, and achievement.
- Since its inception, the program has empowered over 500,000 young Americans nationwide and is the highest honor Congress bestows on youth. Just last year participants earned nearly 7,000 awards and logged more than 600,000 hours of community service.

**THE PROBLEM:** Today, only about one in five young people regularly volunteer through community or civic programs, and just around one in eight participate in formal service-learning or leadership activities.

- Without reauthorization, the Congressional Award Program—a structured, nationally recognized platform for setting goals, developing skills, and engaging in their communities—could disappear, leaving even fewer opportunities for youth to build leadership and personal achievement.

**THE SOLUTION:** S. 284 reauthorizes the Congressional Award Program, ensuring continued support and recognition for participants.

- The legislation maintains the program’s focus on volunteerism, personal growth, exploration, and physical fitness, encouraging young people to challenge themselves and contribute to their communities.
- Reauthorizing the program lets Congress keep honoring young people’s hard work and encourages them to set goals, grow their skills, and give back to their communities.

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The *Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act* ensures that young Americans have a national platform to set goals, achieve personal growth, and make a difference in their communities—celebrating effort, leadership, and civic engagement.

