

I worked with a charter school in Roseburg for a year through an Americorps program. It was one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities of my life. I loved the students, the project, and my fellow Americorps members. But because the Segal education award counted as taxable income, I was boosted up to a higher tax bracket at the end of my service. Americorps members do not make a lot of money, and that education award isn't something we ever truly see. Personally, I used the award to put a dent in my student loan debt after graduating from a 4 year university. Being taxed in a higher bracket despite only using that money for educational debt meant that I was in a very tricky situation.

I believe in the power of education and I believe strongly in the power of the Americorps service opportunities. I do not believe that taxing the educational award as income is beneficial to either of those goals, placing an unnecessary burden on people who are joining this program to give back to their communities.