



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 26, 2008

Mr. Chris Myers Asch
U.S. Public Service Academy
1225 I "Eye" Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Asch:

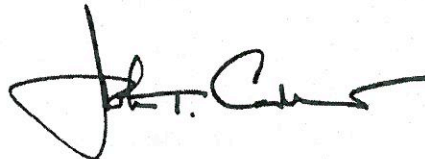
I write to offer my endorsement and support for the creation of the U.S. Public Service Academy. The proposed academy will strengthen our nation by providing a training ground for talented, service-minded citizens who will be well-prepared to assume civic leadership positions at the state, national, and global levels.

Public service and community engagement are essential elements of work and life at the University of Virginia and elsewhere in American universities. U.Va. ranks first among medium-sized colleges and universities in the number of student volunteers entering the Peace Corps after graduation. Each week, more than 3,300 of our students contribute time and energy in service programs organized through Madison House, our student volunteer center. Next fall, we will open the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy to provide state-of-the-art training in leadership and policy analysis and to foster research on issues of public concern, such as poverty and health care. We encourage these programs and activities because our nation needs bright, educated public servants. The proposed U.S. Public Service Academy will help meet that demand.

I am encouraged that the proposed plan for the U.S. Public Service Academy provides tuition-free education. This will enable graduating students to pursue careers in service without the burdens associated with loan debt.

I urge Congress to pass the U.S. Public Service Academy Act (S. 960 and H.R. 1671). The U.S. Public Service Academy will educate and inspire civilian leaders who are committed to devoting their lives to public service. All of us will benefit from this good work.

Sincerely,



John T. Casteen III
President

JTC:jdb