ADVOCACY
District Office Toolkit
Dear NPCA Advocate,

This booklet is designed to provide you with information and materials you can review and use as you prepare for your Capitol Hill or district office meetings.

Materials you can use if you are preparing for a Senate meeting can be found first. That is followed by materials you can use if preparing for a meeting with a member of the House of Representatives.

Finally, there is an appendix which includes links and documents that will provide a comprehensive package of background information.

Please note that overview and talking point documents are for background, and not for distribution or inclusion in the leave behind packets.

Thank you!

Jonathan Pearson
NPCA Advocacy Director
Table of Contents

SENATE MEETINGS

LEAVE BEHIND MATERIALS  4

BACKGROUND INFORMATION  11

HOUSE MEETINGS

LEAVE BEHIND MATERIALS  17

BACKGROUND INFORMATION  30

PEACE CORPS FUNDING  31

PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION BILL  33

RESPECT FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT  36

MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN THE PEACE CORPS ACT  39

APPENDIX  42
Leave Behind Materials for Senate Meetings

PEACE CORPS FUNDING

LETTER FROM FORMER PEACE CORPS DIRECTORS OPPOSING S.2320
THE PEACE CORPS MISSION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT
PEACE CORPS’ DOMESTIC DIVIDEND

Peace Corps service is more than volunteering overseas for two years. We refer to our alumni not as “former” volunteers, but rather “Returned Peace Corps Volunteers” (RPCVs). That’s because the spirit of service, collaboration, and community building remains. Whether individually or as part of a National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) affiliate group, RPCVs are serving communities by tutoring children, helping new Americans assimilate, cleaning the environment, and inspiring new generations of Peace Corps Volunteers, all at no cost to the taxpayer. It is estimated that in 2019, RPCVs donated more than two million hours of community service.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Education remains a significant part of Peace Corps service, with more than 40 percent of current Volunteers serving in the education sector. One in three enters the field of education upon return to the United States, including the 2018 National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning.

Fifteen percent of RPCVs work in health care after service, including conducting groundbreaking work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, attending one of 73 health-related graduate programs working in partnership with Peace Corps, or mobilizing to combat international pandemics (such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak).

More than 30 percent of returning Volunteers work with non-profit organizations. Hundreds of RPCVs join the foreign service; serve in the diplomatic corps, and implement policies and programs at the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development.

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RPCVs and former staff live in every congressional district. Many are members of more than 180 NPCA affiliate organizations that support current Peace Corps Volunteer projects, fundraise, and donate to other domestic and international charities at an estimated rate of more than $500,000 a year.

“Based on data from Peace Corps, “A Call to Peace,” and other National Peace Corps Association surveys.

Questions? Contact advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org
www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org

“Service makes citizens. In every generation, Americans who have undertaken national service—in the military or in a civilian capacity—have emerged more connected to their generation and more invested in their country. Service compels young people out of their comfort zones and cultivates in them a sense of duty and civic responsibility.”

Statement from Stanley A. McChrystal, Robert M. Gates, Condoleezza Rice, Stephen J. Hadley, and John M. Bridgeland
National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Hearing
June 17, 2019
PEACE CORPS REPRESENTS THE BEST OF AMERICAN VALUES

Peace Corps embodies America’s practical idealism through service and outreach in the furthest corners of the world. Over 7,300 Peace Corps Volunteers are serving as cultural ambassadors of American goodwill in over 60 countries worldwide. Peace Corps Volunteers immerse themselves in the local language and culture of the countries they serve, earning the trust of local decision makers and institutions. When they return after two years of service, they bring home unique skill sets that allow them to contribute to their communities and to our global economy.

WHERE VOLUNTEERS SERVE

Peace Corps partners with communities abroad to develop sustainable solutions for the world’s most pressing challenges.

USA GLOBAL LEADERSHIP APPROVAL RATING

America and the world need Peace Corps now.

MILLIONS

PEACE CORPS DESERVES A RAISE!

With five years of flat funding at $410.5 million, Peace Corps’ effective purchasing power (adjusted for inflation) has decreased by nearly $40 million.

Sectors Where Volunteers Serve

EDUCATION 42% ENVIRONMENT 7%
COMMUNITY 8% PEACE CORPS RESPONSE 2%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 8%
AGRICULTURE 9%
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT 12%
HEALTH 20%

PECOS CORPS RESPOSE 2%
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To date, more than 240,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 142 countries.

Peace Corps Goals

Help communities around the world improve their quality of life at the grassroots level.

Help these communities better understand America and Americans.

Help Americans better understand the world by bringing Volunteer experiences home to the United States.

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MILLIONS
$440 $450 $460 $470 $480 $490
FY16 FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20

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PEACE CORPS DESERVES A RAISE!

*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

AGE
Average: 26
Volunteers over age 50: 3.2%

GENDER
Female: 65%
Male: 35%

CURRENTLY SERVING
Volunteers & Trainees: 7,334

CURRENT COUNTRIES SERVED
61

*Based on Peace Corps data as of September 30, 2019.*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Sectors Where Volunteers Serve

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE 2%
ENVIRONMENT 7%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 8%
AGRICULTURE 9%
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT 12%
HEALTH 20%
EDUCATION 42%

His Majesty King Letsie III, Kingdom of Lesotho, April 2019

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Loret Miller Ruppe, Peace Corps’ 12th Director, Appointed by President Reagan, Peace Corps’ 35th Anniversary, 1996

*2019 Gallup World Poll of 130 countries.

2014 2016 2018

48% 30% 31%
StandUpForPeace

Statement from Stanley A. McChrystal, Robert M. Gates, Condoleezza Rice, Stephen J. Hadley, and John M. Bridgeland

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Hearing

June 17, 2019

Peace Corps:
Good for the World
Good for the United States

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@PCorpsConnect
@PeaceCorpsConnect

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January 7, 2020

Chairman James Risch  
Ranking Member Bob Menendez
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez,

As former directors of Peace Corps, we are writing to respectfully request that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reject the bill S.2320, which would end the Peace Corps as an independent agency. That would place at risk the 7400 Volunteers working in some 60 countries around the world and their mission of international cooperation and volunteer service.

The independence of the Peace Corps has been carefully protected by Presidents, Secretaries of State and Congresses for the past 58 years. Part of the reason was to insure that Volunteers would not be confused with those carrying out day to day US foreign and security policies. Turning the Peace Corps into a bureau of the Department of State would void that independence. The long-term strategic value of Volunteer service is to contribute to development in other countries, foster greater awareness of the United States through their partnership with citizens of other countries and broaden our country’s understanding of other peoples when Volunteers return home.

Volunteers reflect US values, the character of our citizens and the nation’s strategic commitments to peace and mutual respect. Their invaluable achievements in international understanding have largely been possible because of the Peace Corps’ independence under 11 Presidents. It is noteworthy that the Peace Corps came into being under President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and its independence was re-affirmed by the law signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981.

It is why every Secretary of State has sent cables to every Ambassador directing them to respect and value that independence. The 1983 cable from President Reagan’s Secretary of State, George Shultz, was one example. He wrote, “to be effective (Peace Corps) must remain substantially separate from the formal day-to-day conduct and concerns of foreign policy because of its unique people-to-people character. In 2007, Secretary Rice wrote “The Peace Corps’ role and its need for separation from day-to-day activities of the mission are not comparable to those of other U.S. government agencies.” And in 1961, Secretary Rusk wrote “The Peace Corps is not an instrument of foreign policy because to make it so would rob it of its contribution to foreign policy.”
All of us, as former Directors of the Peace Corps under Democratic and Republican presidents, have met foreign ministers and heads of state, journalists and members of parliament, doctors and teachers, in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union who have said “I was impacted by a Peace Corps Volunteer.” They then named the Volunteer. Then we would have a conversation about the power of the Peace Corps to bridge divides and empower people.

Volunteers today are working with their counterparts, teaching in schools, working in health clinics, bringing modern information technology to help farmers and small business and conveying our belief in the mutual benefit of international cooperation. Peace Corps continues to receive more requests for Volunteers than it can satisfy and more requests to join the Peace Corps than it can accommodate with existing funding. The international perception of the Peace Corps' independence and non-political nature is imperative to its continued success.

We are deeply concerned that the current legislative proposal S.2320, by ending that independence would place both Volunteers and the Corps itself at grave risk.

Joseph Blatchford
(Appointed by President Nixon)
(1969-1971)

Mark L. Schneider
(Appointed by President Clinton)
(1999-2001)

Nick Craw
(Appointed by President Nixon)
(1973-1974)

Gaddi H. Vasquez
(Appointed by President George W. Bush)
(2002-2006)

Richard F. Celeste
(Appointed by President Carter)
(1979-1981)

Ronald A. Tschetter
(Appointed by President George W. Bush)
(2006-2009)

Carol Bellamy
(Appointed by President Clinton)
(1993-1995)

Aaron S. Williams
(Appointed by President Obama)
(2009-2012)

Mark D. Gearan
(Appointed by President Clinton)
(1995-1999)

Carrie Hessler-Radelet
(Appointed by President Obama)
Background Materials for Senate Meetings
PEACE CORPS FUNDING

Senate

Our Request

- Ask your Senators to sign the annual Peace Corps funding Dear Colleague letter (expected in March)
- Ask your Senators to list Peace Corps as a priority in their personal appropriations request (this request can be made through March)
- Ask your Senators to support $450 million for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2021 (ongoing).
- Additionally, ask your Senators to restore deep cuts proposed by the White House, and support at least $60 billion to support the State Department and all of our international affairs programs.

Background

- On February 10, 2020, President Trump issued his Fiscal Year 2021 budget to Congress. That budget requested $401.2 million for Peace Corps, a cut of just over $9 million.
- While this proposed reduction represents only a two percent cut, it comes at a time when Peace Corps has had flat funding (currently $410.5 million) for the past five years.
- At the same time, the president has proposed cuts of 22% to our entire international affairs budget.
- While urging support for all Senators is important, it is particularly necessary to emphasize this request to Senators who serve on the Appropriations Committee, and especially important to make the case to Senators on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations (which makes recommendations on Peace Corps and other international affairs programs).
- Fiscal Year 2021 could prove to be particularly difficult, as Congress earlier approved a budget deal that established spending “caps” on all discretionary spending. Under these caps, there would be very little additional funding for the many programs included under the International Affairs Budget.
- All Senators can submit their spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2021 to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- As in the past, Senators should have the opportunity to sign a “Dear Colleague” letter that will urge “robust funding” for the Peace Corps. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are expected to circulate this letter sometime in March.
PEACE CORPS FUNDING

Key Talking Points

• **Peace Corps Needs a Raise**: Peace Corps has faced flat funding for five consecutive years. In Fiscal Year 2016, funding increased to $410 million dollars. In the current fiscal year (FY 2020) funding stands at $410.5 million. When those figures are adjusted for inflation, the effective purchasing power has been diminished by between $30 million and $40 million.

• **Peace Corps Faces a Drop in Volunteers**: In its Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Budget Justification, Peace Corps projected its budget could support approximately 7,500 volunteers and trainees in the field. An annual census conducted September 30, 2019 found approximately 7,300 volunteers and trainees in the field. However, in its latest (FY 2021) Congressional Budget Justification, the agency is now projecting “more than 6,700” volunteers and trainees in the field.

• **Projected Cuts in Peace Corps Budget**: Compared with Fiscal Year 2019 actual expenditures, Peace Corps is requesting reductions in the Office of Volunteer Recruitment (nearly $2 million), the Office of Safety and Security (just over $1 million), and compensation to the U.S. Labor Department for disability payments and medical costs for returning Peace Corps Volunteers and staff (nearly $2 million). There’s also a proposed $18 million in reductions proposed for Volunteer Operations Support Services, incorporating a number of general operations, including the Office of Strategic Information, Research and Planning, the Office of Strategic Partnerships and the Office of the Third Goal.

• **Share Your Story**: While it is critical to be brief, it is always good to share with lawmakers or staff part of your personal Peace Corps story. Was there a particular success story from your service? How does Peace Corps make a difference around the world? Or, how did Peace Corps enrich or impact your professional development, commitment to service?

• **Domestic Dividend**: Peace Corps is much more than two years of service overseas. Share a story about how you or your affiliate group continues to provide services to the international and domestic community. NPCA conservatively estimates that in 2019, RPCV affiliate groups donated well over $500,000, while individual RPCVs provided more than two million hours of volunteer service.

• **Pennies for Peace**: During your meetings present the lawmaker/staff with three pennies. Explain that the per capita cost in the United States to operate the Peace Corps under its current budget amounts to just a little more than two cents a week per person (2.4 cents per person). And, if Peace Corps funding were increased to $450 million, the per capita cost would be slightly less than three cents a week (2.7 cents per person).

• **Acknowledge the Challenge**: If during your meeting there are references to tight budgets and the caps on discretionary spending, acknowledge that Congress faces budgeting challenges. At the same time, remind them that regardless of those circumstances, five years of flat Peace Corps funding is having a downward impact, that $450 million for FY 2021 is warranted, and at the very least, Peace Corps should be a priority for some type of modest but meaningful funding increase.
Background Materials

Oppose S.2320

THE PEACE CORPS MISSION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT
SENATE BILL 2320

The Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act

Our Request

Express strong opposition to S. 2320 and ask your Senators to not co-sponsor, and not support this legislation.

Background

- The Peace Corps was created as an independent agency within the State Department, but was merged with other domestic volunteer programs into a new agency (ACTION) in 1971, largely for partisan reasons by President Richard Nixon.

- Peace Corps was pulled out of ACTION in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter and regained full independence outside of the State Department by an act of Congress in 1982. It has remained a fully independent agency ever since.

- Introduced July 30, 2019 by Senator Rick Scott (R-FL), S.2320 would make the Peace Corps a subordinate agency within the State Department under the direction of the Secretary of State.

- Section 2A (c) of the legislation states: “The budget of the Peace Corps shall be incorporated into the overall budget of the Department of State, with the Secretary of State authorized to expend amounts appropriated to the Peace Corps.”

- Section 2A (d) of the legislation states: “Not later than September 30, 2020 the Peace Corps shall terminate any Peace Corps programs operating in China.” (On February 5, 2020 Peace Corps announced the closure of the China program, citing the coronavirus and a recent “decision to phase out and graduate the (China) program.”

- Section 2A (e) of the legislation states: “The Peace Corps may not operate in any country that is hostile to the national security interests of the United States, as determined by the Secretary of State.”

- On January 7, 2020, NPCA sent a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman James Risch (R-ID) and Ranking Member Robert Menendez (D-NJ) signed by ten former Peace Corps Directors opposing S. 2320.

- As of February 15, 2020, S. 2320 had no co-sponsors.
KEY TALKING POINTS

The Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act (S.2320)

- **Peace Corps Directors Oppose Legislation:** During your Senate meetings, share the letter (found below) opposing S.2320, signed by ten former Peace Corps Directors. This is a bipartisan group of former directors, who were appointed by Presidents Nixon, Carter, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama. (The only living past director not to sign the letter is Elaine Chao, who currently serves in the Trump Administration).

- **Keeping Peace Corps Free of Partisan Policies:** The U.S. State Department is often perceived abroad as an organization with political agendas that can change depending on who is occupying the White House. The Peace Corps is not. By making the Peace Corps a subordinate agency within the State Department, we risk losing Peace Corps’ hard won reputation for non-political trustworthiness around the world. Peace Corps Volunteers cannot do their jobs without the trust and partnerships of Host Country Nationals.

- **Budgetary Control:** Having the budget of the Peace Corps incorporated into the overall budget of the State Department further threatens Peace Corps’ ability to operate its program in a manner that it sees fit.

- **Bureaucracy:** Making Peace Corps a part of the State Department, raises the prospects for an increase in the number of bureaucratic obstacles needed to make small or large changes within the agency.

- **State Department Morale:** Recent instability and low morale at the State Department makes this proposal to incorporate the Peace Corps as a subordinate agency appear even less appealing.

- **Dean Rusk Quote:** A 1961 quote from Secretary of State Dean Rusk rings as true today as it did at Peace Corps’ founding. “The Peace Corps is not an instrument of foreign policy because to make it so would rob it of its contribution to foreign policy.”

- **Past Secretary Cables:** Past Secretaries of State have regularly sent a cable to all embassies asserting Peace Corps’ independence. For example in 2007, Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice wrote, “The Peace Corps’ role and its need for separation from day-to-day activities of the mission are not comparable to those of other U.S. government agencies.”

- **China Program Closure:** NPCA seeks not to micromanage the day-to-day operational activities of the Peace Corps. Because of this, we accept and respect the agency decision to close the China program. Similarly, we believe all country decisions pertaining to openings and closures should be left to the expertise of Peace Corps officials. This is one key reason we oppose S.2320.
Leave Behind Materials for House Meetings

PEACE CORPS FUNDING

SUPPORT H.R.3456 - THE PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SUPPORT H.R.1411 - THE RESPECT FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT

COMMENTS FROM THE PEACE CORPS COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF H.R.1411

DRAFT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
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USA GLOBAL LEADERSHIP APPROVAL RATING

America and the world need Peace Corps now.

Sectors Where Volunteers Serve

- Environment: 7%
- Peace Corps Response: 2%
- Education: 42%
- Health: 20%
- Agriculture: 9%
- Youth in Development: 12%
- Community Economic Development: 8%

*Based on Peace Corps data as of September 30, 2019.* Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

His Majesty King Letsie III, Kingdom of Lesotho, April 2019

[Peace Corps’] approach is one of putting people first that emphasizes the needs of the country and the need to learn about and respect the culture of the people...This knowledge can only contribute to greater mutual understanding and global peace.”

Loret Miller Ruppe, Peace Corps’ 10th Director, Appointed by President Reagan, Peace Corps’ 35th Anniversary, 1996

We took Peace Corps out of the pit of politics and made it non-partisan. It must always signify Americans pulling together for peace.”
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WASHINGTON, D.C.
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA
SOUTHEASTERN ASIA & AUSTRALIA
MIDDLE EAST
AFRICA
NORTHERN EUROPE
SOUTH ASIA
ASIA & NORTH AMERICA
PACIFIC ISLANDS

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With five years of flat funding at $410.5 million, Peace Corps’ effective purchasing power (adjusted for inflation) has decreased by nearly $40 million.

USA GLOBAL LEADERSHIP APPROVAL RATING

America and the world need Peace Corps now.


48% 30% 31%

*2019 Gallup World Poll of 130 countries.

[Peace Corps’] approach is one of putting people first that emphasizes the needs of the country and the need to learn about and respect the culture of the people...This knowledge can only contribute to greater mutual understanding and global peace.”

His Majesty King Letsie III, Kingdom of Lesotho, April 2019

To date, more than 240,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 142 countries.

Peace Corps Goals

Help communities around the world improve their quality of life at the grassroots level.

Help these communities better understand America and Americans.

Help Americans better understand the world by bringing Volunteer experiences home to the United States.

Peace Corps embodies America’s practical idealism through service and outreach in the furthest corners of the world. Over 7,300 Peace Corps Volunteers are serving as cultural ambassadors of American goodwill in over 60 countries worldwide. Peace Corps Volunteers immerse themselves in the local language and culture of the countries they serve, earning the trust of local decision makers and institutions. When they return after two years of service, they bring home unique skill sets that allow them to contribute to their communities and to our global economy.

WHERE VOLUNTEERS SERVE

Peace Corps partners with communities abroad to develop sustainable solutions for the world’s most pressing challenges.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA
SOUTHEASTERN ASIA & AUSTRALIA
MIDDLE EAST
AFRICA
NORTHERN EUROPE
SOUTH ASIA
ASIA & NORTH AMERICA
PACIFIC ISLANDS

*Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

PEACE CORPS DESERVES A RAISE!

With five years of flat funding at $410.5 million, Peace Corps’ effective purchasing power (adjusted for inflation) has decreased by nearly $40 million.

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America and the world need Peace Corps now.


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[Peace Corps’] approach is one of putting people first that emphasizes the needs of the country and the need to learn about and respect the culture of the people...This knowledge can only contribute to greater mutual understanding and global peace.”

His Majesty King Letsie III, Kingdom of Lesotho, April 2019
Peace Corps service is more than volunteering overseas for two years. We refer to our alumni not as “former” volunteers, but rather “Returned Peace Corps Volunteers” (RPCVs). That’s because the spirit of service, collaboration, and community building remains. Whether individually or as part of a National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) affiliate group, RPCVs are serving communities by tutoring children, helping new Americans assimilate, cleaning the environment, and inspiring new generations of Peace Corps Volunteers, all at no cost to the taxpayer. It is estimated that in 2019, RPCVs donated more than two million hours of community service.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

**EDUCATION**

Education remains a significant part of Peace Corps service, with more than 40 percent of current Volunteers serving in the education sector. One in three enters the field of education upon return to the United States, including the 2018 National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning.

**HEALTH**

Fifteen percent of RPCVs work in health care after service, including conducting groundbreaking work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, attending one of 73 health-related graduate programs working in partnership with Peace Corps, or mobilizing to combat international pandemics (such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak).

**DIPLOMACY & DEVELOPMENT**

More than 30 percent of returning Volunteers work with non-profit organizations. Hundreds of RPCVs join the foreign service; serve in the diplomatic corps, and implement policies and programs at the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development.

**BUSINESS**

Peace Corps Volunteers are independent, self starting, resourceful, and creative. Nearly 15 percent of returning Volunteers enter the field of business. RPCV-founded businesses include Netflix, TUMI Luggage, Madécasse Chocolate, Zico Beverages, and Live Lingua language immersion online school.

**PHILANTHROPY**

RPCVs and former staff live in every congressional district. Many are members of more than 180 NPCA affiliate organizations that support current Peace Corps Volunteer projects, fundraise, and donate to other domestic and international charities at an estimated rate of more than $500,000 a year.

“Based on data from Peace Corps, “A Call to Peace,” and other National Peace Corps Association surveys.

Service makes citizens. In every generation, Americans who have undertaken national service—in the military or in a civilian capacity—have emerged more connected to their generation and more invested in their country. Service compels young people out of their comfort zones and cultivates in them a sense of duty and civic responsibility.”

Statement from Stanley A. McChrystal, Robert M. Gates, Condoleezza Rice, Stephen J. Hadley, and John M. Bridgeland

National Commission on Military, National and Public Service Hearing

June 17, 2019
SUPPORT AND IMPROVE THE PEACE CORPS

Co-Sponsor H.R.3456
The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019

Key Provisions of H.R. 3456

- **Funding**: Authorizes $450 million in yearly funding for Peace Corps
- **Secures Federal Employment Benefit**: Extends Peace Corps Volunteers’ 12-month hiring preference for most federal job openings during any federal hiring freeze, government shutdown, or while a volunteer receives disability payments for any illness/injury during their Peace Corps service. This Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) benefit is one of the few offered to returning volunteers.
- **Supporting Disabled Returning Volunteers (RPCVs)**: Increases the federal workers’ compensation rate for all Peace Corps Volunteers injured or disabled during their service from a GS-7 to GS-11 level, increasing disability pay from roughly $1,700/month by approximately $800.
- **Incorporates H.R.1411**: Includes the Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act, which would allow Peace Corps Volunteers to place the Peace Corps logo at their final resting place.
- **Promoting Technology in Development**: Encourages Peace Corps to establish new volunteer opportunities that promote internet technology adoption in developing countries and engage tech-savvy American volunteers.

Peace Corps Deserves Our Support, Honor, and Respect

After five years of stagnation, it’s time to give the Peace Corps a much needed raise and strengthen the support and services for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. From protecting NCE status during government shutdowns, to boosting payments for Volunteers disabled during their service, and allowing RPCVs to place the Peace Corps logo at gravesites or in death notices.
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) on Disability Pay

For many years, the National Peace Corps Association affiliate group Health Justice for Peace Corps Volunteers (HJPCV) has served as a gathering point for RPCVs struggling with service-related illness or injuries. Here are several testimonies from HJPCV members who are recipients of disability at the current GS-7 level:

“Ten years ago, when I was 33 years old, I was permanently injured while serving in the U.S. Peace Corps. Because of my injuries I never married, had kids...and subsequently have no one to help me physically, emotionally, and/or financially.

I rely on approximately $1,900 FECA per month to pay for rent, car insurance, car payments, electricity, food, gas, water and garbage, and many visa bills. I am over $25,000 in credit card debt. I don’t travel, go to the movies, go out to dinner, or anything else deemed frivolous.

My own government whom I volunteered for in good faith has not been able to provide me with proper medical care and/or enough money to live on. This is and should be rectified. We have no real resources, no VA, no counselors. We are alone, sick, injured, in pain, and brutally poor. Please consider our pleas.”

Victoria Smith (Jamaica 2007 – 2008)

“The disability pay should absolutely be increased. I get about $1,800 a month, but $600 of that immediately goes to medical insurance, $200 for medications, $26 more for dental insurance, about $400 for credit card debt, $125 for gas, $84 for car insurance, $60 for cell phone, and $159 for a car payment.

That leaves me with about $140 for ALL other expenses for the month. Thankfully, my parents let me live with them, so I don’t have to worry about rent. If I didn’t have family I could live with, I would be homeless with no health insurance.”

Catherine Cottam
Asheville, NC

“I am writing to support an increase in Peace Corps Disability from GS7 to GS11...I never in my worst nightmare imagined that I would max out my earning potential at the age of 25. I have a Master’s Degree with international experience. If it weren’t for the painful disability that I acquired serving in the Peace Corps I would have had a great career. Instead, I have needed to depend on others to pay for expensive alternative medicine fees and other such expenses that come with disability.”

Elizabeth Reiling (Gabon 1985-87)
Pittsburgh, PA
Honor Peace Corps Service

Pass the Respect for Peace Corps Volunteer Act

Co-Sponsor H.R.1411

H.R. 1411 Summary

- Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ) introduced legislation that would amend the Peace Corps Act, and allow that “the official seal or emblem and the name ‘Peace Corps’ may be used on any death announcement, gravestone, plaque, or other grave marker of any person who served as a volunteer or as an officer or employee of the Peace Corps under such rules as may be prescribed by the Director.”

- The legislation currently has a bi-partisan group of 29 co-sponsors, including Representatives Garamendi (D-CA), Graves (R-LA), Kennedy (D-MA), Tipton (R-CO), Grijalva (D-AZ), Shimkus (R-IL), McCollum (D-MN), Rutherford (R-FL), Hastings (D-FL), and Mooney (WV).

Why Co-Sponsor This Legislation

- **Bipartisan Support**: A growing and bi-partisan group of lawmakers are expressing their support for passing this legislation.

- **No Fiscal Impact**: Previous congressional reviews of the legislation have found little if any fiscal impact from the legislation.

- **Honoring Peace Corps Service**: This legislation is a simple but meaningful way to recognize and honor individuals who served the nation as Peace Corps Volunteers.

*The text of H.R.1411 has also been included in comprehensive Peace Corps Reauthorization legislation (H.R.3456)*
All around our nation, members of the Peace Corps community have a simple request. Pass legislation (H.R. 1411; H.R. 3456) that will honor Peace Corps service by allowing the Peace Corps symbol to be used at gravesites or in death notices of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and former staff.

"After attending a service honoring the first two PCV's to die in service, this issue became even more real and meaningful to me. It would have meant so much to their families to be able to use the PC logo to commemorate their service and honor their sacrifice."

Victoria Riback Wilson
Uganda 1968-1970
Columbia, MO 65201

“My father and my brothers proudly served our country in the military. They taught me that freedom is not free and that the goal is peace. I proudly served in the Peace Corps, with the same sense of responsibility and the same goal. American needs to honor our peacemakers as well as its warriors; they are both vital.”

Patricia Anne Emmert
Afghanistan 1965-1967
Austin, TX 78741

“Everything I have done in my life has been great, but not as great and fantastic as my Peace Corps experience. Please note that having the seal of Peace Corps on my grave would be as wonderful to me, now, as to my family, after my death.”

Steven Derek Orr
Panama 1964-1966
Jacksonville, FL 32258

“Please thoughtfully consider this request from me and my fellow RPCVs. A simple gesture that will mean so much to our families. Don’t forget the service Peace Corps Volunteers provide to their country.”

Barb Sterling
Honduras 1978-1980
Golden, CO 80401

“As both a former Peace Corps Volunteer and overseas Peace Corps Staff, I believe that this legislation is extremely relevant to those of us who served our nation to achieve the goals of the Peace Corps. Let's honor the many thousands who have served, who now serve, and who will serve in the future, with this showing of acknowledgement and respect.”

Harvey Helfand
Palau 1966-1968; 1973-76
Albany, CA 94706
“My parents are buried at Ft. Snelling in Minneapolis. My father was a pastor and has the Christian Cross on his tombstone. Others have the symbol of their faith. An uncle, buried in another cemetery here in Minnesota, has the "CO 29" and Wings on his tombstone. Yet another Uncle is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Other members of my family have served in World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. I am very proud of them for their Military Service to our country. Recently a friend of mine who served in the Military, upon learning that I served in the Peace Corps, thanked me for my service. I was somewhat taken aback as I have only been thanked a handful of times since returning from service. When I asked my friend why he was thanking me, he told me that while he was serving overseas, he met Peace Corps Volunteers and learned of their work. He was impressed and appreciated the work that they did. I am very proud to have served my country as Volunteer in the Peace Corps. Please consider voting in favor of this initiative as I would like the opportunity to have the Peace Corps logo placed on my tombstone at the appropriate time.”

Robert S. Davis
Dominican Republic 1986-1989
Chaska, MN  55318

“I would certainly have this symbol on my grave site.”

Terry Paul Anderson
Ghana 1965-1967
Lawrenceburg, KY  40342

“I am so proud of my service with the Peace Corps and that experience will stay with me forever. Please allow the Peace Corps logo to be used in my death notice. Thank you.”

Linda S. Mull
Tanzania 2007-2008
Minot, ND  58703

“This would be so meaningful for so many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.”

Keri Alise Singh
Thailand 1994-1996
Burlington, CT  06013

“We Peace Corps Volunteers answered President Kennedy’s call to give to our country, not to ask from our country. This legislation would be a small acknowledgment of our commitment to this service.”

Aria Rita Ruks
Kyrgyzstan 2005-2007
Mesa, AZ  85201

“This would be a lovely gesture and honor for those that have served.”

Laurie Murray Dyer
Costa Rica 1993-1995
Leesburg, GA  31763
H. R. ______

To amend the Peace Corps Act to ensure access to menstrual hygiene products for Peace Corps volunteers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Meng introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _______________________

A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act to ensure access to menstrual hygiene products for Peace Corps volunteers, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act”.
SEC. 2. ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.

Section 5A of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504a) is amended—

(1) by transferring subsection (e) (relating to antimalarial drugs) to appear immediately after subsection (b) and redesignating such transferred subsection as the first subsection (c);

(2) in such first subsection (c), as so redesignated and transferred, by striking “The Director” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director”;

(3) in the second subsection (c) (relating to certain training), by—

(A) redesignating such second subsection (c) as paragraph (2); and

(B) moving such paragraph (2) two ems to the right;

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) (relating to review and evaluation) as subsection (e); and

(5) by inserting before such redesignated subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(d) ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
the Director of the Peace Corps shall establish a comprehensive policy to ensure Peace Corps volunteers who require menstrual hygiene products are able to access such products, either by increasing stipends for such volunteers to purchase such products or providing such volunteers with such products.

“(2) CONSIDERATION.—The policy required under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the availability of menstrual hygiene products for purchase locally, the price of such products, and cultural norms regarding menstruation.

“(3) COST.—If stipends are increased pursuant to the policy required under paragraph (1), the Director of the Peace Corps shall ensure that such increase covers fully the cost of menstrual hygiene products purchased by Peace Corps volunteers described in such paragraph.”
Background Materials for House Meetings

PEACE CORPS FUNDING

CO-SPONSOR H.R. 3456 - THE PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

CO-SPONSOR H.R. 1411 - THE RESPECT FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT

THE MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN THE PEACE CORPS ACT
PEACE CORPS FUNDING
House of Representatives

Our Request

- Ask your Representatives to sign the annual Peace Corps funding Dear Colleague letter (expected in March).
- Ask your Representatives to list Peace Corps as a priority in their personal appropriations request (this request can be made through March).
- Ask your Representatives to support $450 million for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2021 (ongoing).
- Additionally, ask your Representatives to restore deep cuts proposed by the White House, and support at least $60 billion to support the State Department and all of our international affairs programs.

Background

- On February 10, 2020, President Trump issued his Fiscal Year 2021 budget to Congress. That budget requested $401.2 million for Peace Corps, a cut of just over $9 million.
- While this proposed reduction represents only a two percent cut, it comes at a time when Peace Corps has had flat funding (currently $410.5 million) for the past five years.
- At the same time, the President has proposed cuts of 22% to our entire international affairs budget.
- While urging support for all Representatives is important, it is particularly necessary to emphasize this request to House members who serve on the Appropriations Committee, and especially important to make the case to Representatives on the Appropriations Subcommittee for State/Foreign Operations (which makes recommendations on Peace Corps and other international affairs programs).
- Fiscal Year 2021 could prove to be particularly difficult, as Congress earlier approved a budget deal that established spending “caps” on all discretionary spending. Under these caps, there would be very little additional funding for the many programs included under the International Affairs Budget.
- All House Representatives can submit their spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2021 to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- As in the past, Representatives should have the opportunity to sign a “Dear Colleague” letter that will urge “robust funding” for the Peace Corps. The Co-Chairs of the House Peace Corps Caucus are expected to circulate this letter sometime in March.
PEACE CORPS FUNDING

Key Talking Points

• **Peace Corps Needs a Raise**: Peace Corps has faced flat funding for five consecutive years. In Fiscal Year 2016, funding increased to $410 million dollars. In the current fiscal year (FY 2020) funding stands at $410.5 million. When those figures are adjusted for inflation, the effective purchasing power has been diminished by between $30 million and $40 million.

• **Peace Corps Faces a Drop in Volunteers**: In its Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Budget Justification, Peace Corps projected its budget could support approximately 7,500 volunteers and trainees in the field. An annual census conducted September 30, 2019 found approximately 7,300 volunteers and trainees in the field. However, in its latest (FY 2021) Congressional Budget Justification, the agency is now projecting “more than 6,700” volunteers and trainees in the field.

• **Share Your Story**: While it is critical to be brief, it is always good to share with lawmakers or staff part of your personal Peace Corps story. Was there a particular success story from your service? How does Peace Corps make a difference around the world? Or, how did Peace Corps enrich or impact your professional development, commitment to service, etc.?

• **Domestic Dividend**: Peace Corps is much more than two years of service overseas. Share a story about how you or your affiliate group continues to provide services to the international and domestic community. NPCA conservatively estimates that in 2019, RPCV affiliate groups donated well over $500,000, while individual RPCVs provided more than two million hours of volunteer service.

• **Walker Amendment**: If your House member voted in favor of the “Walker Amendment” back in June, 2019 (see appendix) which in part called for eliminating all current funding for Peace Corps, express disappointment with that vote and urge future support for Peace Corps funding.

• **Pennies for Peace**: As a possible visual aid, during your meetings present the lawmaker/staff with three pennies. Explain that the per capita cost in the United States to operate the Peace Corps under its current budget amounts to just a little more than two cents a week per person (2.4 cents per person). And, if Peace Corps funding were increased to $450 million, the per capita cost would be slightly less than three cents a week (2.7 cents per person)

• **Acknowledge the Challenge**: If during your meeting there are references to tight budgets and the caps on discretionary spending, acknowledge that Congress faces budgeting challenges. At the same time, remind them that regardless of those circumstances, five years of flat Peace Corps funding is having a downward impact, that $450 million for FY 2021 is warranted, and at the very least, Peace Corps should be a priority for some type of modest but meaningful funding increase.
The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act

“Now more than ever, Congress must support the Peace Corps’ mission and realize President Kennedy’s vision of generations of young Americans ready to serve their nation and make the world a better place. Our reauthorization bill does exactly that, and I thank my fellow Peace Corps Caucus co-chairs and Congressional colleagues for their support as original cosponsors.”

Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA)
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer - Ethiopia 1966-68
Lead Sponsor of H.R.3456
June 25, 2019
H.R.3456
The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019

Our Request
Please become a co-sponsor of H.R.3456 and help win final passage of the legislation.

Background

- This bipartisan bill is sponsored by the Co-Chair of the Peace Corps Caucus, Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA; RPCV Ethiopia). The lead Republican sponsor is Peace Corps Caucus Co-Chair Garrett Graves (R-LA).

- An authorization is a congressional power that gives an agency or program the legal right to exist. Most government programs that Congress appropriates money for must first be approved by Congress in a separate piece of legislation known as an “authorizing bill.” Authorizing bills describe the direction a program should take and create the legal authority for the program to operate. The original Peace Corps authorization bill was passed in September 1961. Peace Corps has not been reauthorized since 1999.

- While Peace Corps has not been reauthorized, over the past decade, Congress has passed important Peace Corps reform legislation including the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act (passed in 2011) and the Sam Farr/Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act (passed in 2018).

- H.R.3456 continues this progress. Congressman Garamendi has stated he wants this legislation to focus on supporting serving and returned Peace Corps volunteers.

- H.R.3456 proposes $450 million in yearly funding for the Peace Corps, an increase over the flat $410 million funding level provided by Congress in recent years.

- H.R.3456 directs Peace Corps to establish new volunteer opportunities that promote Internet technology-adoption in developing countries and engage tech-savvy Americans.

- H.R.3456 would re-establish a National Advisory Council to bring more exposure to the agency and its work.


- H.R.3456 pauses Peace Corps Volunteers’ 12-month hiring preference for most federal job openings during any federal hiring freeze, government shutdown, or while a volunteer receives federal worker’s compensation benefits for any injury during their Peace Corps service.

- H.R.3456 increases the federal workers’ compensation rate for Peace Corps Volunteers injured or disabled during their service from a GS-7 to a GS-11 level. At the current rate, many volunteers seriously struggle to live independently and cover basic expenses.

- As of February 15, 2020, H.R.3456 has 47 co-sponsors (42 D; 5 R). The five Republican co-sponsors are Representatives Graves (R-LA), Cook (R-CA), Rutherford (R-FL), Cole (R-OK), and Radewagen (R-AS).
The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019

- **Respect and Support Peace Corps**: The work of the Peace Corps deserves our respect and support. This legislation contains a number of key provisions that recognize and honor those who serve our nation by serving in Peace Corps.

- **Funding**: Over the past five years, flat Peace Corps funding has resulted in Peace Corps losing its effective purchasing power by roughly $40 million. This legislation recommends $450 million in funding for Peace Corps, bringing the agency more in line with its funding level achieved five years ago.

- **Respect Act Included**: Another key provision is the inclusion of the Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act, allowing the use of the Peace Corps logo at gravesites and in death notices of those who served in the Peace Corps (see the H.R.1411 summary for more details).

- **Disability Pay - Overview**: A long standing need for improvement involves increasing the pay rate for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who are disabled due to illness or injuries stemming from their Peace Corps service. By raising the pay scale based on the current GS-7 level to GS-11, monthly disability pay would increase from approximately $1,800 to more than $2,500.

- **Disability Pay Impacts**: The last figures available (2015) indicated there were approximately 400 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers receiving short- or long-term disability payments. At the time, the Congressional Budget Office estimated this increase would cost an additional one to two million dollars.

- **Congress Decides Disability Fiscal Impact**: Because Peace Corps is required to reimburse the U.S. Labor Department for all disability payments to RPCVs, those reimbursements come from the budget that Congress approves for the agency. Thus, there is no fiscal impact on the Labor Department, and the added costs to provide much needed support to disabled RPCVs results in increased costs only if Congress allows it through its Peace Corps appropriation.

- **Enhanced Non-Competitive Eligibility**: One of the few post-service benefits Returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive is one year of non-competitive eligibility for federal hiring. H.R.3456 supports RPCVs in getting their full one-year opportunity by “stopping the clock” on eligibility should there be a federal hiring freeze or government shutdown. The legislation also delays the one year of eligibility for RPCVs who come home with a service related disability that prevents them from working.
The Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act

“People who served in the U.S. Peace Corps (RPCVs) risked their health, and sometimes their lives, to promote peaceful cultural exchange and economic development in countries where they served. The Peace Corps has been determined to be one of the most effective ways to promote goodwill and peace between the U.S. and Peace Corps countries. Yet, RPCVs are not considered veterans with its consequent benefits. The very least that Congress can do is to allow recognition of Peace Corps service in obituaries, memorial statements, and through display of Peace Corps logos on grave-markers of RPCVs.”

Suzanne Marks
Togo 1983-1985
Doraville, GA 30340
H.R.1411
The Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act

Our Request
Please become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1411 and help win final passage of this legislation.

Background
- If you Google a branch of the military service and the words “grave markers,” you will see opportunities for families to purchase a symbol to mark the service of a loved one. If you Google “Peace Corps grave markers,” you will find that a similar opportunity does not exist.
- Since 2013, Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ) has introduced simple, two-page legislation that would amend the Peace Corps Act and allow the Peace Corps logo to be used in obituaries and at gravesites for serving and returned Peace Corps Volunteers and former staff.
- Because the Peace Corps Act does not currently list this as an allowed use, it is viewed as being against the law, with violators being subject to a fine and/or jail term. The provision on use of the Peace Corps logo was enacted in 1963 due to incidents where the name and logo of Peace Corps were being improperly used.
- Congressman Sires’ legislation has regularly received bi-partisan support, with 25 to 35 co-sponsors in previous sessions of Congress. The current version of the legislation (H.R.1411) has 29 co-sponsors as of February 15, 2020.
- Additionally, the language of the Respect Act is included in comprehensive Peace Corps legislation (H.R.3456) introduced by RPCV Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA).
- There is currently no Senate companion legislation to H.R.1411.

Here is the entire text of the legislation:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act”.

SEC. 2. USE OF OFFICIAL SEAL, EMBLEM, AND NAME OF THE PEACE CORPS.
Subsection (b) of section 19 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2518) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that the official seal or emblem and the name ‘Peace Corps’ may be used on any death announcement, gravestone, plaque, or other grave marker of any person who served as a volunteer or as an officer or employee of the Peace Corps under such rules as may be prescribed by the Director”; and
(2) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence, by inserting “or in accordance with the exception specified in paragraph (1),” before “shall be fined"
THE RESPECT FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT

Key Talking Points

• **Please Honor Peace Corps Service and the Peace Corps Community**: More than 250,000 individuals have served our nation as Peace Corps Volunteers and/or Peace Corps staff. They deserve to be honored for their service, and this should include the opportunity to have their service recognized with the use of the Peace Corps' logo.

• **Bi-Partisan Legislation**: Representatives Albio Sires (D-NJ) and Garrett Graves (R-LA) introduced this legislation. H.R.1411 has 29 co-sponsors (22 D; 7 R). Republican co-sponsors are Representatives Graves (LA), King (IA), Mooney (WV), Rutherford (FL), Shimkus (IL), Tipton (CO), and Van Drew (NJ).

• **No Fiscal Impact**: There are no meaningful fiscal impacts* from this provision. Several years ago a Congressional Budget Office “scoring” of the legislation indicated the only potential cost to the taxpayer would come from lost revenue that would result from fining violators. This is common-sense legislation that deserves to be passed.

• **Prevent Family Frustrations at a Time for Comfort and Support**: There have already been instances where family members of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have reached out to the agency only to learn during their time of mourning that they cannot use the Peace Corps logo in death notices or at grave sites (several years ago, Peace Corps estimated these requests came in roughly once a month). Let’s pass this legislation so grieving family members don’t have to face this frustration.

• **Community Support**: In a message prepared for Congress, more than 1,000 members of the Peace Corps community from across the country have urged support for passage of this legislation (NOTE: Two pages of representative comments can be found on the following pages, and can be used as a leave-behind document).

• **Now is the Time to Pass this Legislation**: Given that tens of thousands of individuals who served in the Peace Corps are in their 70s and 80s, a growing number of RPCVs are dying on a daily basis. As these numbers grow, so will the number of requests for this recognition.
The Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act

“To amend the Peace Corps Act to ensure access to menstrual hygiene products for Peace Corps volunteers, and for other purposes.”
HOUSE BILL
The Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act

Our Request
Please become a co-sponsor of this legislation once it is introduced.

Background
- Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) expects to introduce this legislation in February or March of 2020.
- Peace Corps notes “There is nothing more important to Peace Corps than the health, safety, and security of every single volunteer.”
- During congressional travel overseas to Peace Corps sites and conversations with some Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, concerns have arisen about women’s access to menstrual products in certain countries.
- Some Peace Corps Medical Officers and staff have reportedly created strategies to ensure that volunteers are able to access menstrual hygiene products without paying a significant amount of money. However, this is not a consistent policy. Other volunteers are left to purchase the products out of pocket, or from the same stipend that is given to their fellow PCVs.
- Under the proposed legislation, within six months of passage, the Peace Corps director would be required to enact a comprehensive policy that makes available free menstrual products to PCVs or universally increases stipends for those PCVs who require them.
THE MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN THE PEACE CORPS ACT

Key Talking Points

- **Volunteer Health is Paramount**: Peace Corps regularly notes “There is nothing more important to Peace Corps than the health, safety, and security of every single volunteer.”

- **Access Uneven**: Reports to congressional staff from volunteers in the field and from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers indicate there is uneven access to menstrual hygiene products while in service, based on either the country of service or the region in-country where volunteers serve.

- **Young Women in the Majority**: According to Peace Corps statistics as of September 30, 2019, nearly two out of three currently serving volunteers in 60 countries are female, while more than 90% of volunteers are under the age of 50.

- **The Right Thing to Do**: While there may be some (relatively modest) fiscal impact on this legislation, we need to make sure the basic health needs of female volunteers are met, regardless of where they serve.
Appendix

S.2320 - The Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act

H.R.3456 - The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2019
http://bit.ly/hr3456reauthorization

H.R.3456 - Co-Sponsors
http://bit.ly/hr3456cosponsors

H.R.1411 - The Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act
http://bit.ly/hr1411respectact

H.R.1411 - Co-Sponsors

House Reps who voted in favor of the Walker Amendment
Page 43

FY 2019 Home States of All Peace Corps Volunteers
Page 44
The "Walker Amendment"
H.R.2740 Roll Call #35

June 18, 2019 - Walker of North Carolina Part B - Amendment No.89

This amendment (which in part would have eliminated FY2020 funding for the Peace Corps) was defeated by a vote of 315-110, with 13 members not voting. Below is the list of the 110 Republicans who voted in favor of the amendment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allen</th>
<th>Gosar</th>
<th>Nunes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gooden</td>
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FY 2019 HOME STATES OF ALL PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Counts of Peace Corps Volunteers, trainees, and PCR Volunteers from all funding sources as of September 30, 2019. This analysis includes U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. Not included are 104 Volunteers who have an overseas home address.

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<th>STATE / TERRITORY</th>
<th>CURRENTLY SERVING</th>
<th>TOTAL SINCE 1961¹</th>
<th>STATE / TERRITORY</th>
<th>CURRENTLY SERVING</th>
<th>TOTAL SINCE 1961</th>
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¹ Includes FY 2018 data corrections.

SOURCE: THE PEACE CORPS’ CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION 2021