October 17, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC  20500

Dear President Trump,

As leaders of 124 affiliate groups of National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), representing more than 68,000 individuals from across our nation, we respectfully ask you to support a funding increase for the Peace Corps in your fiscal year 2021 budget submission to Congress.

This past January, the interim report of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service stated “We have learned that national service suffers from...significant barriers to access for many young Americans who might otherwise have a desire to serve.”

The current statistics for the Peace Corps provide evidence of this concern. While approximately 3,700 volunteer positions become available each year, Peace Corps receives roughly five times that number of applicants. This past May, Peace Corps’ announcement of plans to launch a new program in Montenegro is demonstrative of the ongoing demand for more volunteers in countries new to Peace Corps, or of successful partnerships with countries wishing to expand Peace Corps programs.

At work in more than 60 countries around the world, our nation’s Peace Corps Volunteers address critical needs facing the global community, which in turn contributes to our own national security, while also providing a steady flow of highly skilled returned Volunteers dedicated to ongoing service and civic engagement.

Working in hot spots like Central America and Ukraine, these future leaders in all sectors of American society are subtly addressing the context behind our most heated headlines. From the horrendous conditions that push people to leave their homelands in search of a better life, to the health issues that transcend international borders, Peace Corps Volunteers seek out solutions to problems abroad before they become problems at home.

Earlier this year, you launched the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, through which Peace Corps Volunteers are at work promoting women’s empowerment and economic opportunity. Other initiatives in youth development, education, agriculture and the environment are central to the Peace Corps’ commitment to creating sustainable solutions to pressing global needs.
From Fiscal Year 2016 through Fiscal Year 2019, Peace Corps appropriations have been stagnant at roughly $410 million. When adjusted for inflation, the agency's effective operating budget has been reduced by $20 million. At the same time, we must do more to honor Peace Corps service. The modest costs associated with the passage of the Sam Farr/Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act (which you signed into law last October) must be sustained and carried through. There is also unfinished business to attend to, as many volunteers who come home from their Peace Corps assignments with service related illness or injuries still struggle to secure the health needs and/or adequate disability support they so rightfully deserve.

Mr. President, it has been disappointing that, for the first time in more than 40 years, the first three budgets you have submitted to Congress have all proposed cuts in Peace Corps funding. As you conclude your first term, we respectfully ask you to reconsider this position, and offer strong support for the nearly 7,500 individuals who are proudly serving their country as Peace Corps Volunteers.

We thank you for considering this request, and look forward to learning of your Peace Corps budget request to Congress early next year.

Sincerely,

Sarah Porter  
President  
New York City Peace Corps Association  
New York, NY

Eben Carey  
President  
Atlanta Area Peace Corps Association  
Atlanta, GA

Joyce Guest  
Treasurer  
Alaska RPCVs  
Anchorage, AK

Elise Simons  
President  
Boston Area RPCVs  
Boston, MA

Gloria Levin  
President  
Amigos de Bolivia y Peru  
Glen Echo, MD

Patrick Westhoff  
President  
Central Missouri RPCVs  
Colombia, MO

Alan Boyd  
Past President  
Athens RPCVs  
Athens, OH

Barbara Reid  
Group Leader  
Central Oklahoma RPCVs  
Oklahoma City, OK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Strozeski</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Charlotte Area Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Aaron Weaver</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Chicago Area Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayle Linkletter</td>
<td>Group Leader</td>
<td>Cincinnati Area Returned Volunteers</td>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia A. Wand</td>
<td>President - Board of Directors</td>
<td>Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience</td>
<td>Oregon City, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Leonard</td>
<td>Advocacy Coordinator</td>
<td>Connecticut RPCVs</td>
<td>Guilford, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Lee</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Frank</td>
<td>Board President</td>
<td>First Coast RPCVs</td>
<td>Jacksonville, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Richards</td>
<td>President &amp; Board Chairman</td>
<td>Friends and RPCVs of Guyana</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Agnello</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Afghanistan</td>
<td>Orchard Park, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Labrador</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Albania</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Spurling</td>
<td>Acting President</td>
<td>Friends of Botswana</td>
<td>Alexandria, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Plopper</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Friends of Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Chester, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arleen Cheston</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Colombia</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maricarmen Smith-Martinez</td>
<td>NPCA Liaison</td>
<td>Friends of Costa Rica</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Busby</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Ecuador</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luigi Zeccardo</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Fiji</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
David Fields
President
Friends of Ghana
Alexandria, VA

Margaret Rice
Treasurer
Friends of Guatemala
Washington, DC

Anne Redmond Sites
Secretary
Friends of Guinea
Washington, DC

BenJee Cascio
President
Friends of Jamaica Peace Corps Association
Washington, DC

Carolyn Kari
Treasurer
Friends of Kenya
Washington, DC

Gerard A. Krzic
President
Friends of Korea
Washington, DC

Scott Rosenberg
President
Friends of Lesotho
Oakwood, OH

Sarah C. Morrison
President
Friends of Liberia
Alexandria, VA

Thaine H. Allison Jr.
Vice President - Programs
Friends of Malaysia
Pasadena, CA

Jonathan Pearson
Board Member
Friends of Micronesia
Takoma Park, MD

Lauren Javins
Co-Director
Friends of Mongolia
Washington, DC

Tim Resch
President
Friends of Morocco
Alexandria, VA

Shane Meckler
President
Friends of Mozambique
New York, NY

Daniel S. Donague
President
Friends of Nepal
Jamestown, RI

John Baird
President
Friends of Niger
Haverford, PA

Jim Clark
President
Friends of Nigeria
Burlington, NC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millard Mott</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Pakistan USA</td>
<td>Green Valley, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara Horowitz</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Friends of Peace Corps, the Gambia</td>
<td>Medford, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Murrah</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Sierra Leone</td>
<td>Social Circle, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kat Hendrix</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Thailand</td>
<td>Charleston, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Herman</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of the Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Bellevue, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Shopinski</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of the Eastern Caribbean</td>
<td>Grosse Pointe Park, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Havlovic</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Friends of Togo</td>
<td>Portage, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan W. Olson</td>
<td>Co-Leader</td>
<td>Friends of Uganda</td>
<td>Lebanon, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Hitchcock</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Greater Birmingham RPCVs</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Rice</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Green Mountain RPCVs</td>
<td>Burlington, VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn Reagan</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gulf Coast Council of RPCVs</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Hueth</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Idaho RPCVs</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliana Essen</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>Impact Corps</td>
<td>Laguna Beach, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Wishart</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Indy Peace Corps Community</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Dixon</td>
<td>Advocacy Coordinator</td>
<td>Inland-Northwest Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Spokane, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katy Hansen</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Iowa Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Iowa City, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Szalawiga</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kansas City Area Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Glasscock</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Kentucky Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manuel Colon  
National Coordinator  
LGBT RPCV Association  
Chicago, IL

Carley Lovorn  
Advocacy Coordinator  
Magnolia State RPCVs  
Jackson, MS

Nicole Lewis  
President  
Maine Peace Corps Association  
Cape Elizabeth, ME

Robert Eddins  
President  
Megobari Foundation  
Washington, DC

Richard Traner  
President - Board of Directors  
Milwaukee Peace Corps Association  
Milwaukee, WI

Magdalene Mbaga  
President  
Minnesota RPCVs  
Minneapolis, MN

Greg Polk  
State Coordinator  
New Mexico Peace Corps Association  
Corrales, NM

Katherine Porter  
President  
North Carolina Peace Corps Association  
Durham, NC

Malie Carolyn (Burgin) Gray  
Secretary  
Northern Alaska Peace Corps Friends  
Fairbanks, AK

Lila Holzman  
President  
Northern California Peace Corps Association  
San Francisco, CA

Jared Bartley  
Co-President  
Northern Ohio Returned Volunteer Association  
Cleveland, OH

Jean Wintemute  
President  
Northern Virginia RPCVs  
Reston, VA

Amy Brooks  
Facilitator  
North Texas Peace Corps Association  
Dallas, TX

Mary Broude  
Executive Council  
Orange County Peace Corps Association  
Tustin, CA

Steve Werner  
President  
Partnering For Peace – Friends of Peace Corps and Rotary  
Denver, CO

Anthony Agnello  
Founder & CEO  
Peace Corps Alliance for Intercultural Understanding  
Orchard Park, NY

Barbara Busch  
Coordinator  
Peace Corps Community for Refugees  
Washington, DC
Joe Shaffner
Chair
Peace Corps House
Washington, DC

Jeanette Gottlieb
President
Peace Corps Iran Association
Albany, NY

Julie Sifuentes
Director
Peace Corps Kids
Portland, OR

Ina Hysi
President
Peace Corps Panama Friends
Alexandria, VA

Jessica McAtamney
Communications Chair
Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association
Philadelphia, PA

Matthew Fuller
Co-President
Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association
Pittsburgh, PA

Phyllis Shelton
President
Portland Peace Corps Association
Portland, OR

Tamara Burman
Co-President
Rhode Island RPCVs
Wakefield, RI

Kevin Blossfield
President
RPCV Alliance for Ukraine
Washington, DC

Raechelle Baghirov
Administrator
RPCV Friends of Azerbaijan
Puyallup, WA

Evelyn Ganzglass
Coordinator
RPCV Oral History Archive Project
Washington, DC

John A. Thayer Jr.
Acting Chairman
RPCV Association of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Kate Schachter
Chair
RPCVs for Environmental Action
Madison, WI

Alexandra A. Smith
Chair
RPCVs of Buffalo
Springville, NY

Charles Hunt
President
RPCVs of Colorado
Denver, CO

Sandra Voge
Group Leader
RPCVs of Delaware Association
Wilmington, DE

Betty Bruquetas
President
RPCVs of Gulf Coast Florida
Sarasota, FL

Erica Ryder
Co-President
RPCVs of Hampton Roads
Virginia Beach, VA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Kovacs</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Cleveland</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Seattle Area Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Morros</td>
<td>Advocacy Chair</td>
<td>St. Louis Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joby Taylor</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Shriver Peaceworker Program</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan W. Olson</td>
<td>Co-Leader</td>
<td>South Central Pennsylvania Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Lebanon, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angie Williams-Chehmani</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Southeast Michigan RPCVs</td>
<td>Berkley, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky Lantz-Wagner</td>
<td>Group Leader</td>
<td>Southwest Ohio Returned Volunteers</td>
<td>Dayton, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Frick Keiser</td>
<td>Board Secretary</td>
<td>Tennessee RPCVs</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Harvey</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>West Cascade Peace Corps Association</td>
<td>Eugene, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Stickle</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Western North Carolina RPCVs</td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott King</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>West Virginia RPCVs</td>
<td>Charleston, WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Burchfield</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Western Montana RPCVs</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine Desmarais</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Women of Peace Corps Legacy</td>
<td>Greenbelt, MD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>