Delaware Senator Chris Coons
Democrat (@ChrisCoons)

218 Russell Senate Office Building
202-224-5042

Delaware Current Volunteers: 18
(Delaware Volunteers in 1967: 40)
Delaware Volunteers Since 1961: 552

Began Service in the Senate: 2010

State Offices: Dover; Wilmington

Committee Assignments: Appropriations, Foreign Relations; Judiciary; Small Business; Ethics

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Coons plays an important role in determining how much funding is allocated for various federal programs. He is also a member of State/Foreign Operations Subcommittee, which has direct jurisdiction over Peace Corps funding. Senator Coons also sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, which has jurisdiction over most Peace Corps legislation. He also serves on the sub-committee that considers Peace Corps matters.

Key Staff: Alexandra Davis (Foreign Policy Issues)

Meeting History with the Peace Corps Community (* Denotes Constituent Meeting):
- DC Meetings With Lawmaker: 2011*
- DC Meetings With Staff: 2011 - 2018, 2019*
- District Office Meetings: None

NPCA’s 2013 Wofford Global Citizen Award winner, Dr. Mohammud Said of Kenya, met with staff of Senator Coons in 2013.

From the Website (www.coons.senate.gov):
Chris is a graduate of Amherst College with a B.A. in Chemistry and Political Science, and earned his law degree from Yale Law School and a Master's in Ethics from Yale Divinity School. Chris also studied at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

(concerning foreign aid): Senator Coons strongly supports U.S. investments to address food security and global health crises, and has held hearings highlighting the importance of these priorities. He strongly supports foreign assistance as a means of promoting U.S. development goals abroad, ensuring stability and preventing costlier military interventions down the line, as well as assisting those most in need.
(Senator Chris Coons)

On the Issues

Peace Corps Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding:
  2010, 2012: NO
  2014, 2016-2019: YES

International Affairs Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters supporting robust international affairs funding
  2017, 2018: YES

Other

Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act (S.2320) - Legislation opposed by NPCA
- 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor

Sam Farr/Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (S. 2286)
(signed into law in 2018)
- 115th Congress (2017-18): CO-SPONSOR

Peace Corps Equity Act of 2014 (S. 2291)
- 113th Congress (2013-14): CO-SPONSOR

Peace Corps Commemorative Legislation (S. 230)
(Signed into law 2014)
- 112th Congress (2011-12): CO-SPONSOR
- 113th Congress (2013-14): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation

Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011
(Signed into law in 2011)
- 112th Congress (2011-12): CO-SPONSOR
- Senator Coons also signed a 2014 letter to federal authorities urging more involvement in the investigation of the death of Peace Corps Volunteer Kate Puzey

Peace Corps Improvement and Expansion Act
(Not signed into law)
- 111th Congress (2009-10): N/A
Delaware Senator Thomas Carper
Democrat (@SenatorCarper)

513 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-2441

Delaware Current Volunteers: 18
(Delaware Volunteers in 1967: 40)
Delaware Volunteers Since 1961: 552

Began Service in the Senate: 2001

State Offices: Dover; Georgetown; Wilmington

Committee Assignments: Environment and Public Works; Finance; Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Key Staff: Abby Shenkle (Foreign Policy Issues)

Meeting History with the Peace Corps Community (* Denotes Constituent Meeting):
- DC Meetings With Lawmaker: 2019*
- DC Meetings With Staff: 2007, 2009-2011, 2018
- District Office Meetings: None

From the Website (www.carper.senate.gov):

Born in West Virginia and raised in Virginia, Senator Tom Carper attended The Ohio State University on a Navy R.O.T.C. scholarship, graduating in 1968 with a B.A. in economics. He went on to complete five years of service as a naval flight officer, serve three tours of duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and continued to serve in the Naval Reserve as a P-3 aircraft mission commander until retiring with the rank of captain in 1991 after 23 years of military service. With the war winding down in Southeast Asia, Tom Carper moved to Delaware in 1973 where he earned his M.B.A. at the University of Delaware.

(concerning foreign aid): “Foreign aid remains one of the most effective and important aspects of our foreign policy. While I believe that everything must be on the table when it comes to deficit reduction, it is important to note that international affairs expenditures like foreign aid account for less than one percent of the federal budget.”
(Senator Thomas Carper)

On the Issues

Peace Corps Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding:
  - 2006-10, 2014, 2016: NO
  - 2012, 2017-2019: YES

International Affairs Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters supporting robust international affairs funding
  - 2017, 2018: YES

Other

Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act (S.2320) - Legislation opposed by NPCA
- 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor

  Sam Farr/Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (S. 2286)
  (signed into law in 2018)
- 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor

  Peace Corps Equity Act of 2014 (S. 2291)
- 113th Congress (2013-14): Did not co-sponsor

  Peace Corps Commemorative Legislation (S. 230)
  (Signed into law 2014)
- 112th Congress (2011-12): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
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  Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011
  (Signed into law in 2011)
- 112th Congress (2011-12): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation

  Peace Corps Improvement and Expansion Act
  (Not signed into law)
- 111th Congress (2009-10): Did not co-sponsor

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Delaware Representative
Lisa Blunt Rochester

Democrat—At Large (@RepBRochester)
1519 Longworth House Office Building
202-225-4165

Delaware Current Volunteers: 24
(Delaware Volunteers in 1967: 40)
Delaware Volunteers Since 1961: 552

Began Service in the House of Representatives: 2017

District Offices: Wilmington

Committee Assignments: Energy and Commerce

Key Staff: Kevin Diamond (Foreign Policy Issues)

Meeting History with the Peace Corps Community (* Denotes Constituent Meeting):
- DC Meetings With Lawmaker: None
- DC Meetings With Staff: 2017, 2018, 2019*
- District Office Meetings: None

From the Website (http://bluntrochester.house.gov/biography/):
A caseworker for then-Congressman Tom Carper, Lisa helped people during challenging times with their Social Security benefits, disability insurance claims, IRS disputes and housing needs. She served in the cabinets of two governors as the first female African-American Secretary of Labor and first African-American Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services…She also served as the CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League.

Lisa grew up in Wilmington, graduated from Padua Academy, and worked her first job at the McDonald’s on Market Street. She majored in International Relations as an undergraduate at Fairleigh Dickinson University and later earned a Master’s in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware. Lisa believes our national security requires a strong understanding of the rest of the world. She has helped women enter the workforce in the Middle East, provided vaccines to children in Africa, and co-authored a book while living in China with her late husband Charles. Her book, THRIVE: 34 Women, 19 Countries, One Goal, profiles women who reinvented themselves while living in a foreign country.

Lisa is the proud mother of Alyssa, age 27, and Alex, age 30, both of whom graduated from Delaware’s public schools. Education and college affordability are important to her.

www.peacecorpsconnect.org Updated February 2020
(Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester)

On the Issues

Peace Corps Funding
● Signed House “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding:
  2017: NO
  2019: YES
● 6/18/19 House vote on Walker Amendment, which included eliminating FY2020 Peace Corps Funding: NO (Final vote was 110 Yes, 315 No...Walker amendment was not passed)

Peace Corps Caucus
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a member
● 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not join
● 114th Congress (2015-16): N/A

Peace Corps Reauthorization Legislation (HR 3456)
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor

Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act (HR 1411)
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): CO-SPONSOR
● 115th Congress (2017-18): CO-SPONSOR
● 114th Congress (2015-16): N/A

Peace Corps Stamp Act (HR 325)
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor
● 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor
● 114th Congress (2015-16) N/A

Public Service Federal Eligibility Protection Act of 2017 (HR 1442 in previous Congress)
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor
● 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor

INSPIRE Act (Promoting Peace Corps and other forms of national service) (TBD)
● 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor
● 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor

Other

Sam Farr/Nick Castle Peace Corps Enhancement Act (HR 2259)
(Signed into law in 2018)
● 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor
● 114th Congress (2015-16): N/A

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