Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy
Democrat @SenatorLeahy

437 Russell Senate Office Building
202-224-4242

Vermont Current Volunteers: 51
(Vermont Volunteers in 1966: 64)
Vermont Volunteers Since 1961: 1,629

Began Service in the Senate: 1975

State Offices: Burlington, Montpelier

Committee Assignments: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Appropriations; Judiciary; Rules and Administration

As the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Leahy plays an important role in determining how much funding is allocated for various federal programs. Senator Leahy is also Ranking Member of the very important State/Foreign Operations Subcommittee, which has direct jurisdiction over Peace Corps funding.

Key Staff: Tim Rieser (Foreign Policy Issues)

Meeting History with the Peace Corps Community (* Denotes Constituent Meeting):
- DC Meetings With Lawmaker: 2013, 2019
- District Office Meetings: None

In June 2019, Senator Leahy met with Luis Argueta of Guatemala, winner of NPCA’s Harris Wofford Global Leadership Award. Luis’ wife Jennifer previously worked for Senator Leahy.

From the Website (www.leahy.senate.gov):
Leahy was born in Montpelier and grew up across from the Statehouse. A graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester (1961), he received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center (1964). He served for eight years as State's Attorney in Chittenden County where he gained a national reputation for his law enforcement activities and was selected as one of three outstanding prosecutors in the United States in 1974.

(concerning foreign affairs): Leahy believes that as the wealthiest, most powerful nation in history the U.S. has wide ranging interests and responsibilities around the globe -- from promoting trade and investment to combating terrorism, reducing poverty, protecting the environment, supporting human rights, and broadening understanding between Americans and people of different cultures, religions, races and ethnicities.

www.peacecorpsconnect.org Updated February 2020
(Senator Patrick Leahy)  
On the Issues  

Peace Corps Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding:
  It is important to note that because these letters were addressed to Senator Leahy as Subcommittee Chairman, he would not be expected to sign.
  2006-2019: NO

International Affairs Funding

- Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters supporting robust international affairs funding
  2017, 2018: NO

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): CO-SPONSOR

Peace Corps Commemorative Legislation (S. 230)  
(Signed into law 2014)
  - 112th Congress (2011-12): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
  - 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): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
  - Senator Leahy also signed a 2014 letter urging U.S. law enforcement to assist with the Kate Puzey murder investigation.

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

In earlier deliberations on Peace Corps funding for the 2013 fiscal year, Senator Leahy recommended returning Peace Corps funding to $400 million, above the recommendations of the President and the House.

www.peacecorpsconnect.org  Updated February 2020
Senator Bernard Sanders
Independent @SenSanders

332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
202-224-5141

Vermont Current Volunteers: 51
(Vermont Volunteers in 1966: 64)
Vermont Volunteers Since 1961: 1,629

Began Service in the Senate: 2007

State Offices: Burlington, St. Johnsbury

Committee Assignments: Budget; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Veterans’ Affairs

Senator Sanders is the Ranking Minority Member on the Budget Committee, which puts forth a budget blueprint each year for federal spending, including proposed funding levels for international affairs programs.

Key Staff: Matthew Duss (Foreign Policy Issues)

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

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

He is the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history. Born in 1941 in Brooklyn, Bernie was the younger of two sons in a modest-income family. After graduation from the University of Chicago in 1964, he moved to Vermont. Early in his career, Sanders was director of the American People’s Historical Society. Elected Mayor of Burlington by 10 votes in 1981, he served four terms. Before his 1990 election as Vermont's at-large member in Congress, Sanders lectured at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and at Hamilton College in upstate New York.

www.peacecorpsconnect.org   Updated February 2020
(Senator Bernard Sanders)

On the Issues

Peace Corps Funding

● Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding
  2010: NO

International Affairs Funding

● Signed Senate “Dear Colleague” Letters supporting robust international affairs funding
  2017: NO
  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): CO-SPONSOR

Peace Corps Commemorative Legislation (S. 230)

(Signed into law 2014)

● 112th Congress (2011-12): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
● 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): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
● Senator Sanders also signed a 2014 letter urging U.S. law enforcement to assist with the Kate Puzey murder investigation

Peace Corps Improvement and Expansion Act

(Not signed into law)

● 111th Congress (2009-10): CO-SPONSOR
Vermont Representative Peter Welch
Democrat—At Large @PeterWelch

2187 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-4115

Vermont Current Volunteers: 51
(Vermont Volunteers in 1966: 64)
Vermont Volunteers Since 1961: 1,629

Began Service in the House of Representatives: 2007

District Offices: Burlington

Committee Assignments: Energy and Commerce; Government Reform

Key Staff: Patrick Satalin (Foreign Policy Issues)

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

From the Website (www.welch.house.gov):

Peter was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1947. He graduated magna cum laude from the College of the Holy Cross in 1969. After working for a year in Chicago fighting housing discrimination as one of the first Robert F. Kennedy Fellows, Peter enrolled in law school at the University of California, Berkeley and graduated in 1973.
(Representative Peter Welch)

On the Issues

Peace Corps Funding
- Signed House “Dear Colleague” Letters on Peace Corps Funding:
- Co-Sponsored Peace Corps Funding Legislation:
  2008: NO 2009: 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
- 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not join
- 114th Congress (2015-16): Did not join
- 113th Congress (2013-14): MEMBER

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): Not currently a co-sponsor
- 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor
- 114th Congress (2015-16): Did not co-sponsor
- 113th Congress (2013-14): CO-SPONSOR

Peace Corps Stamp Act (HR 325)
- 116th Congress (2019-2020): Not currently a co-sponsor
- 115th Congress (2017-18): Did not co-sponsor
- 2013-2016: Did not co-sponsor

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

Peace Corps Equity Act of 2014 (HR 4578)

Peace Corps Commemorative Legislation (HR 915)
(Signed into law in 2014)
- 111th Congress (2009-10): Part of unanimous vote that passed the legislation
- 112th Congress (2011-12): CO-SPONSOR
- 113th Congress (2013-14): CO-SPONSOR
- 1/13/14 House Vote to Support Commemorative (passed 387 – 7) YES

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