



Co-Sponsor and Pass the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act (Senate Legislation Pending)

On March 1, 2021, Representatives John Garamendi (D–CA) and Garret Graves (R–LA) introduced the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021 (H.R. 1456).

Last September, the House Foreign Affairs Committee – in a strong demonstration of bi-partisan support – approved H.R. 1456 by a vote of 44 to 4. The next step for H.R. 1456 is a vote and passage by the full House of Representatives.

A Senate version of this legislation is being prepared by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D–NJ).

We urge Senators to reach out to Senator Menendez to express interest in supporting Peace Corps Reauthorization legislation. Once introduced, co-sponsor and support expedited Senate passage of this legislation.

Pass Peace Corps Reauthorization Legislation This Year: Passage this year will bring meaningful reforms that will strengthen and improve the Peace Corps at a time when the next generation of volunteers are preparing to return to service overseas.

Health, Safety, and Security: Senate legislation is expected to extend the critical work of the congressionally mandated Sexual Assault Advisory Council through 2025; A long overdue increase in workers compensation for volunteers who come home with service related illness or injury is anticipated. Stronger whistleblower protections are anticipated.

Honoring and Supporting Service: Senate legislation would outline steps to expedite service opportunities for volunteers who were brought home because of the COVID-19 pandemic; The offer of paid, post service health insurance for returning volunteers would be increased from 30 to 60 days. The legislation is expected to increase the length of non-competitive eligibility for federal employment for returning volunteers.

More: Senate legislation is expected to re-establish a high profile National Advisory Council. The legislation would have the Peace Corps establish new volunteer opportunities that promote internet technology-adoption in developing countries and engage tech-savvy Americans.