



Pass the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act!

Please become a co-sponsor of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act

Please make sure this bi-partisan legislation is passed this year!

Background

- Last year in the House of Representatives, the bi-partisan Peace Corps Reauthorization Act – introduced by Representatives John Garamendi (D-CA) and Garret Graves (R-LA) – passed the House on September 19, 2022 by a vote of 290 to 125.
- Last year In the Senate, similar legislation was introduced on June 23, 2022 by Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and James Risch (R-ID), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Eight Democrats and seven Republicans co-sponsored the legislation, which passed out of the Foreign Relations Committee on a unanimous vote.
- On March 1, 2023, Peace Corps Reauthorization legislation – H.R. 1273 – was reintroduced by Representatives Garamendi and Graves. The reintroduction of similar legislation in the Senate is expected soon.
- It has been nearly 25 years since comprehensive legislation to reauthorize the Peace Corps has been passed. **This is the year to pass this timely legislation.**

Content of the Legislation

The Peace Corps Reauthorization Act includes a wide range of important provisions, including:

- **Extension of Sexual Assault Advisory Council:** The important ongoing work of the congressionally mandated Peace Corps Sexual Assault Advisory Council would be extended through 2027. Without passage, the council would expire this year.
- **Enhanced Whistleblower Protections:** The legislation outlines recommended procedures and policies to protect Volunteers from acts of reprisal or retaliation.
- **Increased Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE):** The legislation would protect the full NCE benefit for RPCVs should they be unable to work due to service-related illness or injury upon their return, or if there is a federal government shutdown or hiring freeze. The standard length of NCE would also be extended from one year to two years.
- **Pacific Region Presence:** Within one year of passage, the legislation requires the Peace Corps to provide a strategy to reasonably and safely increase the number of volunteers in the Pacific region.
- **Staff Suspension Without Pay:** The legislation includes a provision allowing the Peace Corps Director to suspend (without pay) any employee determined to have engaged in serious misconduct. An appeal process is outlined in the bill for a suspended employee.