

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger,

As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support the House-passed funding level of \$410,500,000 for the Peace Corps, included in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill. This is equal to the level of funding appropriated in FY20.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps has had more than 240,000 Americans serve as Volunteers in 142 host countries, carrying out the Corps' mission to promote world peace and friendship. The work being done by Volunteers in sectors like education and youth development, health, agriculture, and community economic development, not only help build a more secure and prosperous world, it represents a vital component to American diplomacy and engagement abroad. Accounting for less than one percent of the United States' International Affairs Budget, the Peace Corps is also a cost-effective, high-impact program helping to promote American democratic values in developing countries around the world.

Due to COVID-19, the Peace Corps evacuated its 7,334 Volunteers in March 2020, marking the first time in its nearly 60-year history where no Volunteers are serving overseas. Fortunately, the agency plans to start redeploying Volunteers in January 2021, and as we continue to combat COVID-19, maintaining level funding for the Peace Corps will demonstrate U.S. leadership and commitment towards rebuilding a more resilient global community, and will be critical to the health, safety, and security of Volunteers. This funding will also help reduce any potential barriers to service, ensure the agency can continue to modernize to meet current challenges, and that America's history of service continues to be a priority.

Peace Corps Volunteers take an oath to serve our country, frequently enduring difficult, and demanding circumstances, and they deserve our full support. We urge you to reject calls to cut any funding and to reaffirm the value the Peace Corps—and each of its Volunteers—has brought to our country and the world by funding the agency at \$410,500,000 in FY21.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

David Trone  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress