Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives The Honorable Barbara Lee, Ranking Member Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

We respectfully request you provide \$495,000,000 for the Peace Corps in the forthcoming "Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act" for fiscal year 2024, consistent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2024.

This requested funding level would support resumption of in-country Peace Corps Volunteer activities around the world, representing a vital aspect of American diplomacy and engagement. More Americans want to serve than the Peace Corps has the funding to absorb. The ratio of annual applications to available Volunteer positions currently stands at over 4:1. Peace Corps Volunteers serve our country in remote, challenging environments. In recent years, the Peace Corps has taken steps to improve further the health, safety, and wellbeing of its Volunteers. Funding at \$495 million for fiscal year 2024 would ensure that this progress continues so Volunteers can continue to reinforce American ideals and support for developing nations.

Thank you for your leadership and past efforts to provide the Peace Corps with the resources needed to support the next generation of American leaders who volunteer abroad.

Sincerely,

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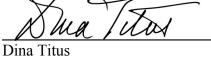
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