May 13, 2024

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on 
State and Foreign Operations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on 
State and Foreign Operations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham,

For 62 years, the United States’ the Peace Corps has given more than 240,000 Volunteers the opportunity to serve and promote global stability through community development and cultural diplomacy. These ambassadors of peace have dedicated billions of hours to generate lasting positive impacts on local communities’ prosperity and independence in countries around the world.

Since its inception, the Peace Corps has gathered consistent bipartisan support for the agency to expand the important work of sustainable development around the world. In keeping with this tradition, we request that you support the President’s Budget request of $479 million for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2025. This funding will better enable the Peace Corps to resume full-scale operations after suspending global operations due to the pandemic, improve volunteer safety and security, and increase the recruitment of skilled Volunteers.

As the first post-pandemic Volunteer cohorts return home from serving, the Peace Corps continues to work towards returning to pre-pandemic volunteer levels. Countries remain eager for the Peace Corps to return and relaunch programs. Over the last year alone, the Peace Corps has worked to reopen programs in countries such as El Salvador, Mozambique, and Palau. The agency will need new resources if they are to meet the increasing demand for Volunteers.

The Peace Corps represents one of the most cost-effective ways to promote the United States’ interests abroad while providing tangible benefit and engagement for host communities, as well as providing valuable international experience for American Volunteers. Once returning home, many Volunteers maintain their commitment to service by taking leadership roles in business, civil society, and government, with an estimated 7,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers working across the executive branch agencies today.
As the geopolitical stage continues to change, promoting the United States partnership through the Peace Corps national service agenda will help bring people together, bridge divides and build understanding between citizens around the world.

Thank you for considering our request and for your enduring support for the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,

Ben Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Kristen Gillibrand
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senate

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Peter Welch
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator
Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator
Laphonza Butler
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator