

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 250

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Peace Corps Charter
5 for the 21st Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Peace Corps was established in 1961 to
2 promote world peace and friendship through the
3 service of American volunteers abroad.

4 (2) The three goals codified in the Peace Corps
5 Act, which have guided the Peace Corps and its vol-
6 unteers over the years, can work in concert to pro-
7 mote global acceptance of the principles of inter-
8 national peace and nonviolent coexistence among
9 peoples of diverse cultures and systems of govern-
10 ment.

11 (3) The Peace Corps has operated in 135 coun-
12 tries with 165,000 Peace Corps volunteers since its
13 establishment.

14 (4) The Peace Corps has sought to fulfill three
15 goals, as follows: to help people in developing nations
16 meet basic needs, to promote understanding of
17 America's values and ideals abroad, and to promote
18 an understanding of other peoples by Americans.

19 (5) After more than 40 years of operation, the
20 Peace Corps remains the world's premier inter-
21 national service organization dedicated to promoting
22 grassroots development.

23 (6) The Peace Corps remains committed to
24 sending well trained and well supported Peace Corps

1 volunteers overseas to promote peace, friendship,
2 and international understanding.

3 (7) The Peace Corps is an independent agency,
4 and therefore no Peace Corps personnel or volun-
5 teers should have any relationship with any United
6 States intelligence agency or be used to accomplish
7 any other goal than the goals established by the
8 Peace Corps Act.

9 (8) The Crisis Corps has been an effective tool
10 in harnessing the skills and talents for returned
11 Peace Corps volunteers and should be expanded to
12 utilize to the maximum extent the talent pool of re-
13 turned Peace Corps volunteers.

14 (9) The Peace Corps is currently operating with
15 an annual budget of \$275,000,000 in 70 countries,
16 with 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

17 (10) There is deep misunderstanding and mis-
18 information about American values and ideals in
19 many parts of the world, particularly those with sub-
20 stantial Muslim populations, and a greater Peace
21 Corps presence in such places could foster greater
22 understanding and tolerance.

23 (11) the Congress has declared that the Peace
24 Corps should be expanded to sponsor a minimum of
25 10,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

1 (12) President George W. Bush has called for
2 the doubling of the number of Peace Corps volun-
3 teers in service.

4 (13) Any expansion of the Peace Corps shall
5 not jeopardize the quality of the Peace Corps volun-
6 teer experience, and therefore can only be accom-
7 plished by an appropriate increase in field and head-
8 quarters support staff.

9 (14) In order to ensure that proposed expansion
10 of the Peace Corps preserves the integrity of the
11 program and the security of volunteers, the inte-
12 grated Planning and Budget System supported by
13 the Office of Planning and Policy Analysis should
14 continue its focus on strategic planning.

15 (15) A streamlined, bipartisan National Peace
16 Corps Advisory Council composed of distinguished
17 returned Peace Corps volunteers and other individ-
18 uals, with diverse backgrounds and expertise, can be
19 a source of ideas and suggestions that may be useful
20 to the Director of the Peace Corps as he discharges
21 his duties and responsibilities as head of the agency.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
25 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-

1 policy-making and intelligence collection: *Provided further*,
2 That”.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORTS AND CONSULTATIONS.**

4 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS; CONSULTATIONS ON NEW
5 INITIATIVES.—Section 11 of the Peace Corps Act (22
6 U.S.C. 2510) is amended by striking the section heading
7 and the text of section 11 and inserting the following:

8 **“SEC. 11. ANNUAL REPORTS; CONSULTATIONS ON NEW INI-**
9 **TIATIVES.**

10 “(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Director shall trans-
11 mit to the Congress, at least once in each fiscal year, a
12 report on operations under this Act. Each report shall con-
13 tain information—

14 “(1) describing efforts undertaken to improve
15 coordination of activities of the Peace Corps with ac-
16 tivities of international voluntary service organiza-
17 tions, such as the United Nations volunteer pro-
18 gram, and of host country voluntary service organi-
19 zations, including—

20 “(A) a description of the purpose and
21 scope of any development project which the
22 Peace Corps undertook during the preceding
23 fiscal year as a joint venture with any such
24 international or host country voluntary service
25 organizations; and

1 “(B) recommendations for improving co-
2 ordination of development projects between the
3 Peace Corps and any such international or host
4 country voluntary service organizations;

5 “(2) describing—

6 “(A) any major new initiatives that the
7 Peace Corps has under review for the upcoming
8 fiscal year, and any major initiatives that were
9 undertaken in the previous fiscal year that were
10 not included in prior reports to the Congress;

11 “(B) the rationale for undertaking such
12 new initiatives;

13 “(C) an estimate of the cost of such initia-
14 tives; and

15 “(D) the impact on the safety of volun-
16 teers;

17 “(3) describing in detail the Peace Corp’s plans
18 for doubling the number of volunteers from 2002
19 levels, including a 5-year budget plan for reaching
20 that goal; and

21 “(4) describing standard security procedures for
22 any country in which the Peace Corps operates pro-
23 grams or is considering doing so, as well as any spe-
24 cial security procedures contemplated because of
25 changed circumstances in specific countries, and as-

1 sessing whether security conditions would be en-
2 hanced—

3 “(A) by collocating volunteers with inter-
4 national or local nongovernmental organiza-
5 tions; or

6 “(B) with the placement of multiple volun-
7 teers in one location.

8 “(b) CONSULTATIONS ON NEW INITIATIVES.—The
9 Director of the Peace Corps should consult with the appro-
10 prium congressional committees with respect to any major
11 new initiatives not previously discussed in the latest an-
12 nual report submitted to the Congress under subsection
13 (a) or in budget presentations. Wherever possible, such
14 consultations should take place prior to the initiation of
15 such initiatives, but in any event as soon as practicable
16 thereafter.”.

17 (b) ONE TIME REPORT ON STUDENT LOAN FOR-
18 GIVENESS PROGRAMS.—Not later than 30 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall sub-
20 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
21 port—

22 (1) describing the student loan forgiveness pro-
23 grams currently available to Peace Corps volunteers
24 upon completion of their service;

1 (2) comparing such programs with other Gov-
2 ernment-sponsored student loan forgiveness pro-
3 grams; and

4 (3) recommending any additional student loan
5 forgiveness programs which could attract more ap-
6 plicants from more low and middle income appli-
7 cants facing high student loan obligations.

8 **SEC. 6. SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND PLACE-**
9 **MENT FOR COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERN-**
10 **MENTS ARE SEEKING TO FOSTER GREATER**
11 **UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR CITIZENS**
12 **AND THE UNITED STATES.**

13 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit
15 a report to the appropriate congressional committees de-
16 scribing the initiatives that the Peace Corps intends to
17 pursue with eligible countries where the presence of Peace
18 Corps volunteers would facilitate a greater understanding
19 that there exists a universe of commonly shared human
20 values and aspirations. Such report shall include—

21 (1) a description of the recruitment strategies
22 to be employed by the Peace Corps to recruit and
23 train volunteers with the appropriate language skills
24 and interest in serving in such countries; and

1 (2) a list of the countries that the Director has
2 determined should be priorities for special recruit-
3 ment and placement of Peace Corps volunteers.

4 (b) **USE OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUN-**
5 **TEERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
6 Director is authorized and strongly urged to utilize the
7 services of returned Peace Corps volunteers having lan-
8 guage and cultural expertise, including those returned
9 Peace Corps volunteers who may have served previously
10 in countries with substantial Muslim populations, in order
11 to open or reopen Peace Corps programs in such coun-
12 tries.

13 **SEC. 7. GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES INITIATIVE.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in cooperation with
15 international public health experts such as the Centers for
16 Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes
17 of Health, the World Health Organization, the Pan Amer-
18 ican Health Organization, and local public health officials
19 shall develop a program of training for all Peace Corps
20 volunteers in the areas of education, prevention, and treat-
21 ment of infectious diseases in order to ensure that all
22 Peace Corps volunteers make a contribution to the global
23 campaign against such diseases.

24 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) AIDS.—The term “AIDS” means the ac-
2 quired immune deficiency syndrome.

3 (2) HIV.—The term “HIV” means the human
4 immunodeficiency virus, the pathogen that causes
5 AIDS.

6 (3) HIV/AIDS.—The term “HIV/AIDS”
7 means, with respect to an individual, an individual
8 who is infected with HIV or living with AIDS.

9 (4) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The term “infec-
10 tious diseases” means HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and
11 malaria.

12 **SEC. 8. PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

13 Section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2511;
14 relating to the Peace Corps National Advisory Council)
15 is amended—

16 (1) by amending subsection (b)(2)(D) to read
17 as follows:

18 “(D) make recommendations for utilizing
19 the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-
20 teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace
21 Corps.”;

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

24 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
25 “fifteen” and inserting “seven”; and

1 (ii) by striking the second sentence
2 and inserting the following: “Four of the
3 members shall be former Peace Corps vol-
4 unteers, at least one of whom shall have
5 been a former staff member abroad or in
6 the Washington headquarters, and not
7 more than four of the members shall be
8 members of the same political party.”;

9 (B) by amending subparagraph (D) to
10 read as follows:

11 “(D) The members of the council shall be appointed
12 to 2-year terms.”;

13 (C) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
14 (H); and

15 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (C),
16 (D), (E), (F), (G), and (I) as subparagraphs
17 (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively;

18 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(g) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one of
21 the voting members of the Council as Chair, who shall
22 serve in that capacity for a period not to exceed two
23 years.”;

24 (4) by amending subsection (h) to read as fol-
25 lows:

1 “(h) MEETINGS.—The Council shall hold a regular
2 meeting during each calendar quarter at a date and time
3 to be determined by the Chair of the Council.”; and

4 (5) by amending subsection (i) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(i) REPORT.—Not later than July 30, 2003, and an-
7 nually thereafter, the Council shall submit a report to the
8 President and the Director of the Peace Corps describing
9 how the Council has carried out its functions under sub-
10 section (b)(2).”.

11 **SEC. 9. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES.**

12 The Peace Corps Act is amended—

13 (1) in section 5(c) (22 U.S.C. 2504(c)), by
14 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”; and

15 (2) in section 6(1) (22 U.S.C. 2505(1)), by
16 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”.

17 **SEC. 10. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF RETURNED PEACE**

18 **CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO PROMOTE THE**

19 **GOALS OF THE PEACE CORPS.**

20 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-
21 vide support for returned Peace Corps volunteers to de-
22 velop and carry out programs and projects to promote the
23 third purpose of the Peace Corps Act, as set forth in sec-
24 tion 2(a) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2501(a)), by promoting

1 a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the
2 American people.

3 (b) GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT CORPORA-
4 TIONS.—

5 (1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—To carry out the pur-
6 pose of this section, and subject to the availability
7 of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the
8 Corporation for National and Community Service
9 (referred to in this section as the “Corporation”)
10 shall award grants on a competitive basis to private
11 nonprofit corporations for the purpose of enabling
12 returned Peace Corps volunteers to use their knowl-
13 edge and expertise to develop and carry out the pro-
14 grams and projects described in subsection (a).

15 (2) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Such pro-
16 grams and projects may include—

17 (A) educational programs designed to en-
18 rich the knowledge and interest of elementary
19 school and secondary school students in the ge-
20 ography and cultures of other countries where
21 the volunteers have served;

22 (B) projects that involve partnerships with
23 local libraries to enhance community knowledge
24 about other peoples and countries; and

1 (C) audio-visual projects that utilize mate-
2 rials collected by the volunteers during their
3 service that would be of educational value to
4 communities.

5 (3) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible
6 to compete for grants under this section, a nonprofit
7 corporation shall have a board of directors composed
8 of returned Peace Corps volunteers with a back-
9 ground in community service, education, or health.
10 The nonprofit corporation shall meet all appropriate
11 Corporation management requirements, as deter-
12 mined by the Corporation.

13 (c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—Such grants shall be
14 made pursuant to a grant agreement between the Cor-
15 poration and the nonprofit corporation that requires
16 that—

17 (1) the grant funds will only be used to support
18 programs and projects described in subsection (a)
19 pursuant to proposals submitted by returned Peace
20 Corps volunteers (either individually or cooperatively
21 with other returned volunteers);

22 (2) the nonprofit corporation will give consider-
23 ation to funding individual programs or projects by
24 returned Peace Corps volunteers, in amounts of not
25 more than \$100,000, under this section;

1 (3) not more than 20 percent of the grant
2 funds made available to the nonprofit corporation
3 will be used for the salaries, overhead, or other ad-
4 ministrative expenses of the nonprofit corporation;

5 (4) the nonprofit corporation will not receive
6 grant funds for programs or projects under this sec-
7 tion for a third or subsequent year unless the non-
8 profit corporation makes available, to carry out the
9 programs or projects during that year, non-Federal
10 contributions—

11 (A) in an amount not less than \$2 for
12 every \$3 of Federal funds provided through the
13 grant; and

14 (B) provided directly or through donations
15 from private entities, in cash or in kind, fairly
16 evaluated, including plant, equipment, or serv-
17 ices; and

18 (5) the nonprofit corporation shall manage,
19 monitor, and submit reports to the Corporation on
20 each program or project for which the nonprofit cor-
21 poration receives a grant under this section.

22 (d) STATUS OF THE FUND.—Nothing in this section
23 shall be construed to make any nonprofit corporation sup-
24 ported under this section an agency or establishment of
25 the Federal Government or to make the members of the

1 board of directors or any officer or employee of such non-
2 profit corporation an officer or employee of the United
3 States.

4 (e) FACTORS IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In deter-
5 mining the number of nonprofit corporations to receive
6 grants under this section for any fiscal year, the Corpora-
7 tion—

8 (1) shall take into consideration the need to
9 minimize overhead costs that direct resources from
10 the funding of programs and projects; and

11 (2) shall seek to ensure a broad geographical
12 distribution of grants for programs and projects
13 under this section.

14 (f) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Grant recipients
15 under this section shall be subject to the appropriate over-
16 sight procedures of the Congress.

17 (g) FUNDING.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
19 appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000.
20 Such sum shall be in addition to funds made avail-
21 able to the Corporation under Federal law other
22 than this section.

23 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
24 suant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain
25 available until expended.

1 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 3(b)(1) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
3 2502(b)(1)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “2002, and” and inserting
5 “2002,”; and

6 (2) by inserting before the period the following:

7 “, \$465,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$500,000,000
8 for fiscal year 2005, \$560,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2006, and \$560,000,000 for fiscal year 2007”.

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