IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KIRK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To endorse expansion of the Peace Corps to 14,000 volunteers by 2007, to authorize appropriations for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2003 through 2007, 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 Expan-

5 sion Act of 2002”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In his State of the Union address on January 29, 2002, President George W. Bush called for doubling the number of Peace Corps volunteers to 14,000 by the end of fiscal year 2007.

(2) The Peace Corps currently is operating in 70 countries with 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers and an annual budget of approximately $275,000,000.

(3) Section 2(b) of the Peace Corps Act states that “it is the policy of the United States and a purpose of the Peace Corps to maintain . . . a volunteer corps of at least 10,000 individuals”, and in 1999 legislation was enacted authorizing the appropriation of funds sufficient to achieve this goal by the end of fiscal year 2003.

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

(5) Since its establishment, the Peace Corps has operated in 135 countries with a total of approximately 165,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

(6) After more than 40 years of operation, the Peace Corps remains the world’s premier international service organization dedicated to promoting grassroots development.
(7) The Peace Corps remains committed to sending well-trained and well-supported volunteers overseas to promote peace, friendship, and grassroots development.

SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Congress declares its support for the goal announced by President Bush of doubling the number of Peace Corps volunteers to 14,000 by 2007.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2003 THROUGH 2007 TO CARRY OUT THE PEACE CORPS ACT.

Section 3(b)(1) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502(b)(1)) is amended to striking “and $365,000,000 fiscal year 2003” and inserting “$320,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, $362,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, $404,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, $446,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, and $488,000,000 for fiscal year 2007”.