S.L.C.

Committee Amendment Proposed by

MR. DODD

Viz:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE IX—PEACE CORPS CHARTER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 902. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

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

(2) The Peace Corps has sought to fulfill three goals, as follows:

(A) To help people in developing nations meet basic needs.

(B) To promote understanding of America’s values and ideals abroad.

(C) To promote an understanding of other peoples by Americans.
(3) The three goals, which are codified in the Peace Corps Act, have guided the Peace Corps and its volunteers over the years, and worked in concert to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government.

(4) Since its establishment, approximately 165,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 135 countries.

(5) After more than 40 years of operation, the Peace Corps remains the world’s premier international service organization dedicated to promoting grassroots development.

(6) The Peace Corps remains committed to sending well trained and well supported Peace Corps volunteers overseas to promote peace, friendship, and international understanding.

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

(8) The Peace Corps is an independent agency, and therefore no Peace Corps personnel or volunteers should be used to accomplish any goal other than the goals established by the Peace Corps Act.
(9) The Crisis Corps has been an effective tool in harnessing the skills and talents for returned Peace Corps volunteers and should be expanded to utilize to the maximum extent the talent pool of returned Peace Corps volunteers.

(10) There is deep misunderstanding and misinformation about American values and ideals in many parts of the world, particularly those with substantial Muslim populations, and a greater Peace Corps presence in such places could foster greater understanding and tolerance.

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

(12) President George W. Bush has called for the doubling of the number of Peace Corps volunteers in service.

(13) Any expansion of the Peace Corps must not jeopardize the quality of the Peace Corps volunteer experience, and therefore can only be accomplished by an appropriate increase in field and headquarters support staff.

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

(15) A streamlined, bipartisan National Peace
Corps Advisory Council composed of distinguished
returned Peace Corps volunteers and other individ-
uals, with diverse backgrounds and expertise, can be
a source of ideas and suggestions that may be useful
to the Director of the Peace Corps in discharging
the Director’s duties and responsibilities.

SEC. 903. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) Director.—The term “Director” means
the Director of the Peace Corps.

(2) Peace Corps Volunteer.—The term
“Peace Corps volunteer” means a volunteer or a vol-
unteer leader under the Peace Corps Act.

(3) Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.—
The term “returned Peace Corps volunteer” means
a person who has been certified by the Director as
having served satisfactorily as a Peace Corps volun-
teer.
SEC. 904. STRENGTHENED INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEACE CORPS.

(a) Recruitment of Volunteers.—Section 2A of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501–1) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “As the Peace Corps is an independent agency, all recruiting of volunteers shall be undertaken primarily by the Peace Corps.”.

(b) Details and Assignments.—Section 5(g) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(g)) is amended by inserting after “Provided, That” the following: “such detail or assignment does not contradict the standing of Peace Corps volunteers as being independent: Provided further, That”.

SEC. 905. REPORTS AND CONSULTATIONS.

(a) Annual Reports; Consultations on New Initiatives.—The Peace Corps Act is amended by striking the heading for section 11 (22 U.S.C. 2510) and all that follows through the end of such section and inserting the following:

“SEC. 11. ANNUAL REPORTS; CONSULTATIONS ON NEW INITIATIVES.

“(a) Annual Reports.—The Director shall transmit to Congress, at least once in each fiscal year, a report on operations under this Act. Each report shall contain—
“(1) a description of efforts undertaken to improve coordination of activities of the Peace Corps with activities of international voluntary service organizations, such as the United Nations volunteer program, and of host country voluntary service organizations, including—

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

“(B) recommendations for improving coordination of development projects between the Peace Corps and any such international or host country voluntary service organizations;

“(2) a description of—

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

“(B) the rationale for undertaking such new initiatives;
“(C) an estimate of the cost of such initiatives; and

“(D) any impact such initiatives may have on the safety of volunteers; and

“(3) a description of standard security procedures for any country in which the Peace Corps operates programs or is considering doing so, as well as any special security procedures contemplated because of changed circumstances in specific countries, and assessing whether security conditions would be enhanced—

“(A) by colocating volunteers with international or local nongovernmental organizations; or

“(B) with the placement of multiple volunteers in one location.

“(b) Consultations on New Initiatives.—The Director of the Peace Corps should consult with the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives with respect to any major new initiatives not previously discussed in the latest annual report submitted to Congress under subsection (a) or in budget presentations. Whenever possible, such consultations should take
place prior to the initiation of such initiatives, but in any
event as soon as is practicable thereafter.”.

(b) One-Time Report on Student Loan Forgiveness Programs.—Not later than 30 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing—

(1) a description of the student loan forgiveness
programs currently available to Peace Corps volunteers upon completion of their service;

(2) a comparison of such programs with other
Government-sponsored student loan forgiveness programs; and

(3) recommendations for any additional student
loan forgiveness programs that could attract more
applicants from more low- and middle-income applicants facing high student loan obligations.

SEC. 906. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS.

(a) Requirement.—The Director shall develop a
plan to increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers to
a number that is not less than twice the number of Peace Corps volunteers who were enrolled in the Peace Corps
on September 30, 2002.

(b) Report on Increasing the Number of Vol-
unteers.—
(1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing in detail the Director’s plan for increasing the number of Peace Corps volunteers as described in subsection (a), including a five-year budget plan for funding such increase in the number of volunteers.

(2) **SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.**—Not later than January 31 of each year in which the number of Peace Corps volunteers is less than twice the number of Peace Corps volunteers who were enrolled in the Peace Corps on September 30, 2002, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an update on the report described in paragraph (1).

**SEC. 907. SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT FOR COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE SEEKING TO FOSTER GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR CITIZENS AND THE UNITED STATES.**

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

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

(2) a list of the countries that the Director has determined should be priorities for special recruitment and placement of Peace Corps volunteers.

(b) USE OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director is authorized and strongly urged to utilize the services of returned Peace Corps volunteers having language and cultural expertise, including those returned Peace Corps volunteers who may have served previously in countries with substantial Muslim populations, in order to open or reopen Peace Corps programs in such countries.

SEC. 908. GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES INITIATIVE.

The Director, in cooperation with international public health experts such as experts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health
Organization, and local public health officials, shall de-
velop a program of training for all Peace Corps volunteers
in the areas of education, prevention, and treatment of
infectious diseases in order to ensure that all Peace Corps
volunteers make a contribution to the global campaign
against such diseases.

SEC. 909. PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2511) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2) by striking subpara-

graph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) make recommendations for utilizing the
expertise of returned Peace Corps volunteers in ful-
filling the goals of the Peace Corps.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

(B) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) The members of the Council shall be appointed for 2-year terms.”;

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

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

(3) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

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

(4) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

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

(5) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:
“(i) REPORT.—Not later than July 30 of each year, the Council shall submit a report to the President and the Director of the Peace Corps describing how the Council has carried out its functions under subsection (b)(2).”.

SEC. 910. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES.

(a) INCREASED RATES.—The Peace Corps Act is amended—

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

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

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first month that begins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 911. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THE PEACE CORPS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide support for returned Peace Corps volunteers to develop and carry out programs and projects to promote the third purpose of the Peace Corps Act, as set forth in section 2(a) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2501(a)), relating to promoting an understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people.
(b) Grants to Certain Nonprofit Corporations.—

(1) Grant Authority.—The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (hereafter in the section referred to as the “Corporation”) shall award grants on a competitive basis to private nonprofit corporations for the purpose of enabling returned Peace Corps volunteers to use their knowledge and expertise to develop programs and projects to carry out the purpose described in subsection (a).

(2) Programs and Projects.—The programs and projects that may receive grant funds under this section include—

(A) educational programs designed to enrich the knowledge and interest of elementary school and secondary school students in the geography and cultures of other countries where the volunteers have served;

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

(C) audio-visual projects that utilize materials collected by the volunteers during their
service that would be of educational value to communities.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a nonprofit corporation shall have a board of directors composed of returned Peace Corps volunteers with a background in community service, education, or health. The nonprofit corporation shall meet all management requirements that the Corporation determines appropriate and prescribes as conditions for eligibility for the grant.

(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—A grant under this section shall be made pursuant to a grant agreement between the Corporation and the nonprofit corporation that—

(1) requires grant funds be used only to support programs and projects to carry out the purpose described in subsection (a) through the funding of proposals submitted by returned Peace Corps volunteers (either individually or cooperatively with other returned volunteers);

(2) requires the nonprofit corporation to give preferential consideration to proposals submitted by returned Peace Corps volunteer that request less than $100,000 to carry out a program or project;

(3) requires that not more than 20 percent of the grant funds made available to the nonprofit cor-
poration be used for the salaries, overhead, or other administrative expenses of the nonprofit corporation;

(4) prohibits the nonprofit corporation from receiving grant funds for more than two years unless, beginning in the third year, the nonprofit corporation makes available, to carry out the programs or projects that receive grant funds during that year, non-Federal contributions—

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

(B) provided directly or through donations from private entities, in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services; and

(5) requires the nonprofit corporation to manage, monitor, and report to the Corporation on the progress of each program or project for which the nonprofit corporation provides funding from a grant under this section.

(d) STATUS OF THE FUND.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to make any nonprofit corporation supported under this section an agency or establishment of the Federal Government or to make any member of the board of directors or any officer or employee of such non-
profit corporation an officer or employee of the United States.

(c) FACTORS IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In determining the number of nonprofit corporations to receive grants under this section for any fiscal year, the Corporation shall—

(1) consider the need to minimize overhead costs and maximize resources available to fund programs and projects; and

(2) seek to ensure that programs and projects receiving grant funds are carried out across a broad geographical distribution.

(f) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Grant recipients under this section shall be subject to the appropriate oversight procedures of Congress.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other funds made available to the Corporation under any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Corporation to carry out this section, $10,000,000.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.
SEC. 912. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

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

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, $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”.