

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1456, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1456

To amend the Peace Corps Act to reauthorize the Peace Corps, better support current and returned volunteers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. MENG, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CASE, and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act to reauthorize the Peace Corps, better support current and returned volunteers, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Authorization of appropriations; integration of information age Peace Corps volunteer opportunities.
- Sec. 3. Readjustment allowances; expedited re-enrollment and transition assistance.
- Sec. 4. Health care continuation for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 5. Access to antimalarial drugs and menstrual products for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 6. Codification of Executive Order 11103.
- Sec. 7. Volunteers providing virtual services for the Peace Corps.
- Sec. 8. Protection of Peace Corps volunteers against reprisal or retaliation.
- Sec. 9. Comprehensive illegal drug use policy with respect to Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 10. Peace Corps National Advisory Council.
- Sec. 11. Peace Corps volunteers serving within the United States at the request of another agency.
- Sec. 12. Use of official seal, emblem, and name of the Peace Corps.
- Sec. 13. Clarification regarding eligibility of United States nationals.
- Sec. 14. Memorandum of Agreement with Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State.
- Sec. 15. Reports to Congress.
- Sec. 16. Workers compensation for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 17. Technical and conforming edits.
- Sec. 18. Determination of budgetary effects.

3 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; INTEGRA-**
4 **TION OF INFORMATION AGE PEACE CORPS**
5 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.**

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

8 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking
9 “\$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, \$298,000,000
10 for fiscal year 2001, \$327,000,000 for fiscal year
11 2002, and \$365,000,000 for fiscal year 2003” and
12 inserting “\$430,500,000 for each of fiscal years
13 2023 and 2024”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (e); and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 section:

5 “(f) In recognition of the transformative power of
6 internet access in international development efforts, and,
7 as exemplified by its virtual service pilot initiative, the
8 Peace Corps shall be administered to—

9 “(1) give particular attention to the expansion
10 of those programs, projects, training, and other ac-
11 tivities that leverage the internet, as appropriate, for
12 development, education, and social and economic
13 mobility; and

14 “(2) develop positions for Peace Corps volun-
15 teers that include such programs, projects, training,
16 and other activities.”.

17 **SEC. 3. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES; EXPEDITED RE-EN-**
18 **ROLLMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.**

19 (a) VOLUNTEERS.—Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act
20 (22 U.S.C. 2504) is amended—

21 (1) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by in-
22 serting “, safety,” after “health”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the first sentence, by striking
25 “\$125” and inserting “\$375”;

1 (B) by striking “his” each place it appears
2 and inserting “the volunteer’s”; and

3 (C) by striking “he” and inserting “the
4 volunteer”;

5 (3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (p)
6 as subsections (d) through (o), respectively;

7 (4) by amending subsection (e), as so redesign-
8 nated—

9 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
10 “AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE” after “PRE-
11 SCRIPTION OF MEDICATIONS”; and

12 (B) by inserting “concerning the mental
13 health care provided to volunteers during their
14 service,” after “experts licensed in the field of
15 mental health,”;

16 (5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by
17 striking “subsequent”;

18 (6) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “he” and inserting “the Director”;

20 (7) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) by striking “subsection (e)” each
23 place it appears and inserting “subsection
24 (d)”;

1 (ii) by striking “he” and inserting
2 “the President”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “sub-
4 section (1)” and inserting “subsection (k)”;

5 (8) in subsection (n), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “his” each place it appears and inserting
7 “the volunteer’s”; and

8 (9) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 sections:

10 “(p) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-
11 tion, with respect to Peace Corps volunteers and trainees
12 whose service ended involuntarily as a result of an emer-
13 gency, suspension of operations, or otherwise through no
14 fault of the volunteer or trainee, the Director of the Peace
15 Corps shall—

16 “(1) waive such non-medical or non-security ap-
17 plication requirements as the Director may deter-
18 mine for the re-enrollment of each such volunteer
19 and trainee during the 2-year period beginning on
20 the date of such involuntary end of service;

21 “(2) prioritize the medical clearance for each
22 such volunteer and trainee to facilitate re-enroll-
23 ment; and

24 “(3) permit each such volunteer and trainee, to
25 the extent practicable and in consideration of the

1 needs of overseas posts and the suitability of the vol-
2 unteer or trainee to meet those needs, to resume the
3 activity of each such volunteer and trainee at the
4 time of the involuntary end of service.

5 “(q) The Director of the Peace Corps may authorize
6 separation allowances, in amounts determined by the Di-
7 rector, to Peace Corps volunteers and trainees whose serv-
8 ice ended involuntarily as a result of an emergency, sus-
9 pension of operations, or otherwise through no fault of the
10 volunteer or trainee.”.

11 (b) VOLUNTEER LEADERS.—Section 6 of the Peace
12 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2505) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$125” and
14 inserting “\$375”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (3)—

16 (A) by striking “he” and inserting “the
17 Director”; and

18 (B) by striking “in section 5(e)” each
19 place it appears and inserting “in section 5(d)”.

20 **SEC. 4. HEALTH CARE CONTINUATION FOR PEACE CORPS**
21 **VOLUNTEERS.**

22 Subsection (d) of section 5 of the Peace Corps Act
23 (22 U.S.C. 2504), as redesignated pursuant to section 4,
24 is amended to read as follows:

1 “(d)(1) Volunteers and trainees shall receive such
2 health care (including, if necessary, for volunteers and
3 trainees, services under section 8B) during their service,
4 as the Director of the Peace Corps may determine to be
5 necessary or appropriate.

6 “(2) Applicants for enrollment shall receive such
7 health examinations preparatory to their service, appli-
8 cants for enrollment who have accepted an invitation to
9 begin a period of training under section 8(a) shall receive,
10 preparatory to their service, such immunization, dental
11 care, and information on prescription options and poten-
12 tial interactions, as necessary and appropriate and in ac-
13 cordance with subsection (e).

14 “(3) Returned volunteers shall receive such health ex-
15 aminations within six months after termination of their
16 service, including services provided in accordance with sec-
17 tion 8B (except that the six-month limitation shall not
18 apply in the case of such services).

19 “(4) Subject to such conditions as the President may
20 prescribe, such health care may be provided in any facility
21 of any agency of the United States Government, and in
22 such cases the appropriation for maintaining and oper-
23 ating such facility shall be reimbursed from appropriations
24 available under this Act. Health care may not be provided
25 under this subsection in a manner inconsistent with the

1 Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 (Public
2 Law 105–12).

3 “(5) Returned volunteers, including those whose pe-
4 riod of service is subject to early termination as the result
5 of an emergency, shall receive upon termination of their
6 service with the Peace Corps two months of short-term
7 non-service-related health insurance for transition and
8 travel (SHIFTT), to provide coverage for a 60-day period
9 within which such volunteer will be advised to obtain quali-
10 fying health insurance, and an opportunity to extend for
11 an additional 1 month such SHIFTT insurance, at the
12 expense of such volunteer.

13 “(6) Not later than 30 days before the date on which
14 the period of service of a volunteer or trainee terminates,
15 or 30 days after the date of such termination if such ter-
16 mination is the result of an emergency, the Director of
17 the Peace Corps, in consultation with the Secretary of
18 Health and Human Services, shall provide detailed infor-
19 mation to such volunteer or trainee on options for health
20 care after termination other than health care provided by
21 the Peace Corps, including—

22 “(A) where additional, detailed information, in-
23 cluding on the application process and eligibility re-
24 quirements for medical assistance through State
25 plans under title XIX of the Social Security Act (or

1 waiver of State plans), may be obtained, including
2 through external health care ‘navigators’ or health
3 care option identification services available within
4 the public and private sectors;

5 “(B) where detailed information on qualified
6 health plans may be obtained, including through ex-
7 ternal health care ‘navigators’ or health care option
8 identification services available within the public and
9 private sectors; and

10 “(C) if such volunteer or trainee is 25 years of
11 age or younger, detailed information regarding the
12 eligibility of such volunteer or trainee to enroll as a
13 dependent child in a group health plan or health in-
14 surance coverage in which the parent of such volun-
15 teer or trainee is enrolled if such plan or coverage
16 offers such dependent coverage.”.

17 **SEC. 5. ACCESS TO ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS AND MEN-**
18 **STRUAL PRODUCTS FOR PEACE CORPS VOL-**
19 **UNTEERS.**

20 Section 5A of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504a)
21 is amended—

22 (1) by striking subsections (c) and (e);

23 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
24 section (e);

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
2 lowing new subsections:

3 “(c) ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace
5 Corps shall consult with experts at the Centers for
6 Disease Control and Prevention regarding rec-
7 ommendations for prescribing malaria prophylaxis,
8 and implement such recommendations to the extent
9 practicable, in order to provide the best standard of
10 care within the context of the Peace Corps environ-
11 ment.

12 “(2) CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Director of the
13 Peace Corps shall ensure that each Peace Corps
14 medical officer serving in a malaria-endemic country
15 receives training in the recognition of the side effects
16 of such medications.

17 “(d) ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
20 the Director of the Peace Corps shall establish a
21 comprehensive policy to ensure Peace Corps volun-
22 teers who require menstrual products are able to ac-
23 cess such products by—

24 “(A) increasing stipends for such volun-
25 teers to purchase such products; or

1 “(B) providing such volunteers with such
2 products in the generic product types selected
3 by such volunteer, if available in the country of
4 service.

5 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The policy required
6 under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration
7 the availability for purchase locally of menstrual
8 products, the price of such products, and cultural
9 norms regarding menstruation.

10 “(3) COST.—If stipends are increased pursuant
11 to the policy required under paragraph (1), the Di-
12 rector of the Peace Corps shall ensure that such in-
13 crease is sufficient to cover the average cost within
14 the country of service of menstrual products re-
15 quired by volunteers.”; and

16 (4) in paragraph (1)(A) of subsection (e), as so
17 redesignated, by inserting “, patient confidentiality
18 standards” before “, and guidelines”.

19 **SEC. 6. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11103.**

20 The Peace Corps Act is amended by inserting after
21 section 5A (22 U.S.C. 2504a) the following new section:

22 **“SEC. 5B. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11103.**

23 “(a) Executive Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504 note;
24 28 Fed. Reg. 3571; relating to Providing for the Appoint-
25 ment of Former Peace Corps Volunteers to the Civilian

1 Career Services), as amended by Executive Order 12107
2 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; relating to the Civil Service Commis-
3 sion and Labor-Management in the Federal Service), as
4 in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of
5 this section, shall remain in effect and have the full force
6 and effect of law, consistent with subsection (b).

7 “(b)(1) The period of eligibility for noncompetitive
8 appointment to the civil service provided to an individual
9 by operation of subsection (a), including any individual
10 who is so eligible on the date of the enactment of this
11 section, shall be extended by the total number of days
12 that, during such period—

13 “(A) a hiring freeze for civilian employees of
14 the Executive branch is in effect by order of the
15 President with respect to any Executive agency at
16 which the individual has applied for employment;

17 “(B) there is a lapse in appropriations with re-
18 spect to any Executive agency at which the indi-
19 vidual has applied for employment; or

20 “(C) the individual is receiving disability com-
21 pensation under section 8142 of title 5, United
22 States Code, based on their service as a Peace Corps
23 volunteer, retroactive to the date the individual ap-
24 plied for such compensation.

1 “(2) The period of eligibility for noncompetitive ap-
2 pointment status to the civil service by operation of sub-
3 section (a) shall apply to a Peace Corps volunteer—

4 “(A) whose service ended involuntarily as the
5 result of a suspension of volunteer operations by the
6 Director of the Peace Corps, but shall not last
7 longer than 12 months from the date on which such
8 service ended involuntarily; or

9 “(B) who re-enrolls as a volunteer in the Peace
10 Corps after completion of a term of service.

11 “(3) In this subsection:

12 “(A) The term ‘hiring freeze’ means any memo-
13 randum, Executive order, or other action by the
14 President that prohibits an Executive agency from
15 filling vacant Federal civilian employee positions or
16 creating new such positions.

17 “(B) The term ‘Executive agency’ has the
18 meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5,
19 United States Code, and includes the United States
20 Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commis-
21 sion, but does not include the Government Account-
22 ability Office.

23 “(c) Subject to subsection (b), Executive Order
24 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504 note; 28 Fed. Reg. 3571; relating
25 to Providing for the Appointment of Former Peace Corps

1 Volunteers to the Civilian Career Services), as amended
2 by Executive Order 12107 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; relating
3 to the Civil Service Commission and Labor-Management
4 in the Federal Service), as in effect on the day before the
5 date of the enactment of this section, shall, except as set
6 forth herein, remain in effect and have the full force and
7 effect of law. In the event of a conflict between the lan-
8 guage herein and Executive Order 11103, the language
9 herein shall prevail.

10 “(d) Any volunteer whose service terminated after
11 January 1, 2020, and who has been certified by the Direc-
12 tor as having served satisfactorily as a volunteer under
13 the Act may, for two years after their separation from the
14 Peace Corps, be appointed to a position in any United
15 States department, agency, or establishment in the com-
16 petitive service under title 5, United States Code without
17 competitive examination and in accordance with such reg-
18 ulations and conditions consistent with this subsection as
19 may be prescribed by the Director of the Office of Per-
20 sonnel Management.”.

21 **SEC. 7. VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING VIRTUAL SERVICES FOR**
22 **THE PEACE CORPS.**

23 The Peace Corps Act is amended by inserting after
24 section 5B, as added by section 6 of this Act, the following
25 new section:

1 **“SEC. 5C. VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING VIRTUAL SERVICES**
2 **FOR THE PEACE CORPS.**

3 “(a) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—Congress declares
4 that the Peace Corps has a demonstrated ability to deliver
5 information, training, and technical assistance virtually
6 through the internet and other electronic means to com-
7 munities abroad.

8 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—The Director of the Peace Corps
9 is authorized to recruit individuals, who may be located
10 within the United States or third countries, to provide
11 services virtually by electronic means to communities in
12 host countries to flexibly meet the expressed needs of those
13 countries.

14 “(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**—The Director of
15 the Peace Corps—

16 “(1) may recruit, train, and accept, on such
17 terms and conditions as the Director may determine
18 necessary or appropriate, the services of individuals,
19 especially those individuals who face barriers to serv-
20 ing physically in a host country, who shall serve on
21 a part-time basis as virtual service volunteers to
22 meet the expressed needs of host countries, such as
23 information, training, and technical assistance,
24 through the internet or other electronic or virtual
25 means; and

1 “(2) may provide for incidental expenses of
2 such individuals, as determined by the Director to be
3 appropriate for the nature of the assignments.

4 “(d) INDIVIDUALS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED VOLUN-
5 TEERS.—An individual who provides services under the
6 authority of this section shall not be considered to be a
7 volunteer for purposes of section 5 unless the Director of
8 the Peace Corps requires the individual to physically serve
9 in the host country on a temporary basis.

10 “(e) INDIVIDUALS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED FED-
11 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—An individual who provides services
12 under the authority of this section shall not be considered
13 a Federal employee except for the purposes described in
14 section 5(h).”.

15 **SEC. 8. PROTECTION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**
16 **AGAINST REPRISAL OR RETALIATION.**

17 Section 8G of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2507g)
18 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(d) PROHIBITION AGAINST REPRISAL OR RETALIA-
21 TION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace
23 Corps shall take all reasonable measures, including
24 through the development and implementation of a
25 comprehensive policy, to prevent and address re-

1 praisal or retaliation against a volunteer by any Peace
2 Corps officer or employee, or any other person with
3 supervisory authority over the volunteer during the
4 volunteer's period of service.

5 “(2) REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION; RE-
6 LIEF.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A volunteer may re-
8 port a complaint or allegation of reprisal or re-
9 taliation—

10 “(i) directly to the Inspector General
11 of the Peace Corps, and the Inspector Gen-
12 eral may conduct such investigations and
13 make such recommendations with respect
14 to the complaint or allegation as the In-
15 spector General considers appropriate; and

16 “(ii) through other channels provided
17 by the Peace Corps, including through the
18 process for confidential reporting required
19 in subsection (a).

20 “(B) RELIEF.—The Director of the Peace
21 Corps—

22 “(i) may order any relief for an af-
23 firmative finding of a proposed or final res-
24 olution of a complaint or allegation of re-
25 praisal or retaliation in accordance with

1 policies, rules, and procedures of the Peace
2 Corps; and

3 “(ii) shall ensure such relief is
4 promptly provided to the volunteer.

5 “(3) APPEAL.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A volunteer may ap-
7 peal to the Director of the Peace Corps any
8 proposed or final resolution of a complaint or
9 allegation of reprisal or retaliation.

10 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
11 in this paragraph may be construed to affect
12 any other right of recourse a volunteer may
13 have under any other provision of law.

14 “(4) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS AND REM-
15 EDIES.—The Director of the Peace Corps shall en-
16 sure that volunteers are informed in writing of the
17 rights and remedies provided under this section.

18 “(5) DISPUTE MEDIATION.—The Director of
19 the Peace Corps shall offer the opportunity for vol-
20 unteers to resolve disputes concerning a complaint
21 or allegation of reprisal or retaliation through medi-
22 ation in accordance with procedures developed by the
23 Peace Corps.

24 “(6) STAFF MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER CO-
25 OPERATION.—The Director of the Peace Corps may

1 take such disciplinary or other administrative action,
2 including termination of service or finding of ineligi-
3 bility for re-employment or reinstatement, with re-
4 spect to a staff member or volunteer who unreason-
5 ably refuses to cooperate with an investigation con-
6 ducted by the Inspector General of the Peace Corps
7 into a complaint or allegation of reprisal or retalia-
8 tion.

9 “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) REPRISAL OR RETALIATION.—The
11 term ‘reprisal or retaliation’ means taking,
12 threatening to take, or initiating adverse ad-
13 ministrative action against a volunteer because
14 the volunteer made a report pursuant to sub-
15 section (a) or otherwise disclosed to a covered
16 official or office any information pertaining to
17 waste, fraud, abuse of authority, misconduct,
18 mismanagement, violations of law, or a signifi-
19 cant threat to health and safety, whenever the
20 activity or occurrence complained of is based
21 upon the reasonable belief of the volunteer that
22 it has taken place.

23 “(B) COVERED OFFICIAL OR OFFICE.—
24 The term ‘covered official or office’ means any
25 of the following:

1 “(i) Any Peace Corps employee, in-
2 cluding an employee of the Office of In-
3 spector General.

4 “(ii) A Member of Congress or a rep-
5 resentative of a committee of Congress.

6 “(iii) An Inspector General (other
7 than the Peace Corps Inspector General).

8 “(iv) The Government Accountability
9 Office.

10 “(v) An authorized official of the De-
11 partment of Justice or other law enforce-
12 ment agency.

13 “(vi) A United States court or grand
14 jury.”.

15 **SEC. 9. COMPREHENSIVE ILLEGAL DRUG USE POLICY WITH**
16 **RESPECT TO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

17 The Peace Corps Act is amended by inserting after
18 section 8I (22 U.S.C. 2507i) the following new section:

19 **“SEC. 8J. COMPREHENSIVE ILLEGAL DRUG USE POLICY**
20 **WITH RESPECT TO PEACE CORPS VOLUN-**
21 **TEERS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop and
23 implement a comprehensive drug use policy with respect
24 to Peace Corps volunteers. Such policy shall—

1 “(1) establish a zero tolerance policy regarding
2 volunteer or trainee involvement with illegal drugs;
3 and

4 “(2) require that every case of volunteer or
5 trainee illegal drug involvement be brought imme-
6 diately to the attention of relevant Peace Corps lead-
7 ership, including the Director, and be reported expe-
8 ditiously by the Peace Corps to the Office of the In-
9 specter General.

10 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the policy de-
11 scribed in subsection (a), the Director may consult with
12 and incorporate, as appropriate, the recommendations and
13 views of experts in the field of substance abuse, and shall
14 consult with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
15 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
16 Relations of the Senate.

17 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit
19 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
21 the Senate a report on the illegal drug use policy required
22 to be developed and implemented under this section.”.

23 **SEC. 10. PEACE CORPS NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

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

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “the
3 President and”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
6 graph (A), by striking “conduct on-site in-
7 spections, and make examinations, of the
8 activities of the Peace Corps in the United
9 States and in other countries in order to”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

11 (I) by striking “the President,
12 the Director of the Peace Corps, and,
13 as the Council considers appropriate,
14 the Congress,” and inserting “the Di-
15 rector and, as the Council considers
16 appropriate, the Congress”; and

17 (II) by striking “and” after the
18 semicolon at the end;

19 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
20 (D) as subparagraph (G); and

21 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
22 (C) the following new subparagraphs:

23 “(D) make recommendations for utilizing
24 the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-
25 teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace Corps;

1 “(E) make recommendations for increasing
2 recruitment of volunteers from diverse back-
3 grounds and better supporting such volunteers
4 during their training and enrollment in the
5 Peace Corps;

6 “(F) make recommendations to reduce any
7 financial barriers to application, training, or en-
8 rollment in the Peace Corps, including a volun-
9 teer’s medical expenses and other out-of-pocket
10 costs; and”;

11 (2) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) in the first sentence—

15 (aa) by striking “fifteen”
16 and inserting “seven”; and

17 (bb) by striking “the Presi-
18 dent, by and with the advice and
19 consent of the Senate” and in-
20 serting “the Director of the
21 Peace Corps”; and

22 (II) by striking the second sen-
23 tence and inserting the following new
24 sentence: “At least four of such mem-
25 bers shall be returned Peace Corps

1 volunteers, and not more than four of
2 such members may be members of the
3 same political party.”;

4 (ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to
5 read as follows:

6 “(C) No member of the Council appointed under this
7 paragraph may be an officer or employee of the Peace
8 Corps.”;

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

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

13 (iv) by striking subparagraphs (E),
14 (F), (G), (H), and (I); and

15 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(3) The Director of the Peace Corps shall designate
18 one of the members of the Council as Chair, who shall
19 serve in such capacity for a term of two years.”;

20 (3) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “his or
21 her” and inserting “the member’s”;

22 (4) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “At
24 its first meeting and at its first regular meeting

1 in each calendar year thereafter” and inserting
2 “At its first meeting each calendar year”; and

3 (B) in the second sentence, by inserting
4 before the period at the end the following: “,
5 and each shall serve in that capacity for a term
6 of two years. The Director of the Peace Corps
7 may renew, not more than once per member,
8 the term of a voting member appointed as
9 Chair of the Council under the preceding sen-
10 tence”;

11 (5) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “The Coun-
12 cil” and all that follows through the period at the
13 end and inserting the following: “The Council shall
14 hold a regular meeting during each calendar quarter
15 at a date and time to be determined by the Chair
16 of the Council or at the call of the Director of the
17 Peace Corps.”;

18 (6) in subsection (i)—

19 (A) by striking “the President and” (in-
20 cluding in the subsection heading) each place
21 such term appears;

22 (B) by striking “the President shall” and
23 inserting “the Director shall”; and

24 (C) by striking “the President or”; and

1 (7) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 sections:

3 “(k) INDEPENDENCE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—
4 None of the activities or functions of the Council under
5 subsection (b)(2) may undermine the independence or su-
6 perse the duties of the Inspector General of the Peace
7 Corps.

8 “(l) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal
9 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply
10 to the Council.

11 “(m) FUNDING OF THE COUNCIL.—The Council shall
12 be fully funded from amounts made available to the Peace
13 Corps to carry out this Act.”.

14 **SEC. 11. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITHIN THE**
15 **UNITED STATES AT THE REQUEST OF AN-**
16 **OTHER AGENCY.**

17 (a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—Congress declares
18 that the Peace Corps provided emergency disaster relief
19 in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2006 and provided
20 COVID–19 relief in 2021 at the request of the Federal
21 Emergency Management Agency and therefore it is the
22 policy of the United States that the Peace Corps be au-
23 thorized to recruit volunteers to serve within the United
24 States at the request of another agency.

1 (b) RECRUITMENT OF DOMESTIC VOLUNTEERS.—

2 The Peace Corps Act is amended by inserting after section

3 14 (22 U.S.C. 2513) the following new section:

4 **“SEC. 14A. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITHIN**
5 **THE UNITED STATES AT THE REQUEST OF**
6 **ANOTHER AGENCY.**

7 “The Director may recruit, train, and accept, for lim-
8 ited periods of time, on such terms and conditions as the
9 Director may determine necessary or appropriate, the
10 services of individuals who are not then serving outside
11 the United States as volunteers or trainees (unless such
12 appointment is made with the consent of the volunteer or
13 trainee serving outside the United States as an extension
14 of such service), who shall serve without compensation as
15 domestic volunteers within the United States to provide
16 assistance at the request of any Federal Government agen-
17 cy with authority to do so. Such service within the United
18 States may be initiated by the Director following the re-
19 quest from the other agency and a determination by the
20 Director that such action is in the best interests of the
21 United States and the Peace Corps. Domestic volunteers
22 shall not be considered volunteers under section 5 and
23 shall not be deemed a Federal employee except for the pur-
24 poses described in section 5(h). The Director may provide
25 for incidental expenses of domestic volunteers, as deter-

1 mined by the Director to be appropriate for the nature
2 of the assignments.”.

3 **SEC. 12. USE OF OFFICIAL SEAL, EMBLEM, AND NAME OF**
4 **THE PEACE CORPS.**

5 Section 19 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2518)
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “The President” and in-
9 serting “The Director of the Peace Corps”; and

10 (B) by striking “he” and inserting “the
11 Director”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before
14 the period at the end the following: “, except
15 that the official seal or emblem and the name
16 ‘Peace Corps’ may be used on any death an-
17 nouncement, gravestone, plaque, or other grave
18 marker of any person who served as a volunteer
19 or as an officer or employee of the Peace Corps
20 under such rules as may be prescribed by the
21 Director”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence,
23 by inserting “or in accordance with the excep-
24 tion specified in paragraph (1),” before “shall
25 be fined”.

1 **SEC. 13. CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY OF**
2 **UNITED STATES NATIONALS.**

3 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in section 7(a)(5), by striking “United
6 States citizens” each place such term appears and
7 inserting “nationals of the United States”;

8 (2) in section 8(b), by striking “citizens” and
9 inserting “nationals”;

10 (3) in section 10(b), by striking “citizen or resi-
11 dent” and inserting “national”;

12 (4) in section 12(g), by striking “citizens” and
13 inserting “nationals”; and

14 (5) in section 26—

15 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
16 through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (9), re-
17 spectively; and

18 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(5) The term ‘national of the United States’
21 has the meaning given such term in section
22 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
23 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)).”.

1 **SEC. 14. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH BUREAU OF**
2 **DIPLOMATIC SECURITY OF THE DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF STATE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and at least once every
6 five years thereafter, the Director of the Peace Corps, in
7 coordination with the Assistant Secretary of State for Dip-
8 lomatic Security, shall review the Memorandum of Agree-
9 ment between the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the
10 Department of State and the Peace Corps relating to secu-
11 rity support and protection of Peace Corps volunteers and
12 staff members abroad and update such Memorandum of
13 Agreement, as appropriate.

14 (b) NOTIFICATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace
16 Corps and the Assistant Secretary of State for Dip-
17 lomatic Security shall jointly submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
20 tions of the Senate a written notification relating to
21 an update to the Memorandum of Agreement made
22 pursuant to subsection (a).

23 (2) TIMING OF NOTIFICATION.—A written noti-
24 fication submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
25 be submitted not later than 30 days before the up-
26 date referred to in such paragraph shall take effect.

1 **SEC. 15. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—The Peace Corps Act is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) in section 8E (22 U.S.C. 2507e)—

5 (A) by striking “President” and inserting
6 “Director” each place it appears;

7 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “Sep-
8 tember 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30,
9 2025”; and

10 (C) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by striking
11 “September 30, 2018” and inserting “Sep-
12 tember 30, 2025”; and

13 (2) in section 8I (22 U.S.C. 2507i)—

14 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “Sep-
15 tember 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30,
16 2025”; and

17 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “Presi-
18 dent” each place it appears and inserting “Di-
19 rector”.

20 (b) GAO REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
23 Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-
24 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
25 House of Representatives and the Committee on
26 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report relating to

1 the post-service health care delivery and insurance
2 coverage pursuant to subsection (d) of section 5 of
3 the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504), as amended
4 by section 4 of this Act, and section 8B of the Peace
5 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2507b).

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
7 graph (1) shall include the following:

8 (A) Information relating to examinations,
9 counseling, and other mental health care serv-
10 ices provided by the Peace Corps to returned
11 volunteers in the six months following the end
12 of the term of service of such volunteers.

13 (B) Recommendations relating to—

14 (i) better protection of patient con-
15 fidentiality for returned Peace Corps vol-
16 unteers for mental health care services;

17 (ii) improved access to mental health
18 providers that will accept payment from
19 the Peace Corps; and

20 (iii) whether such mental health care
21 services for returned volunteers would be
22 better provided under the Short-term
23 Health Insurance For Transition and
24 Travel (SHIFTT) plan or a similar com-

1 mercially available insurance plan to be
2 paid for by the Peace Corps.

3 (c) REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION
4 STANDARDS.—Not later than one year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Peace Corps
6 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
7 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
8 Relations of the Senate a report on the guidelines and
9 standards used to evaluate the mental health of Peace
10 Corps applicants prior to service. Such report shall in-
11 clude—

12 (1) a detailed description of mental health
13 screening guidelines and evaluation standards used
14 by the Peace Corps to determine medical eligibility
15 of applicants for service, including a description of
16 the most common mental health conditions of appli-
17 cants;

18 (2) specific standards in the mental health
19 screening process that could lead to an applicant's
20 disqualification from service, and a description of
21 how these determinations are made;

22 (3) a description of any expedited mental health
23 clearance process for severe or recent symptom pres-
24 entation;

1 (4) a description of periods of stability related
2 to certain mental health conditions and symptoms
3 recommended prior to an applicant's clearance to
4 serve;

5 (5) an assessment of the impact of updated
6 mental health evaluation guidance, including a com-
7 parison of mental health related volunteer medevacs
8 in years before and after updated guidelines were
9 implemented; and

10 (6) a review of these screening guidelines, con-
11 ducted by a panel of certified and qualified medical
12 professionals in the United States, that evaluates
13 these standards based on scientific evidence and
14 mental health research and proposes relevant up-
15 dates or additions to current guidance.

16 (d) REPORT ON VOLUNTEER MEDICAL EVACU-
17 ATIONS.—Not later than the first May 1 occurring after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act and annually there-
19 after for five years, the Director of the Peace Corps shall
20 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
21 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
22 tions of the Senate a report on volunteer medical and men-
23 tal health evacuations. Such report shall include—

1 (1) the number of Peace Corps volunteer med-
2 ical and mental health evacuations during the pre-
3 vious year;

4 (2) a breakdown of these evacuations into med-
5 ical and mental health evacuation categories; and

6 (3) the estimated cost of these evacuations for
7 each year, including a breakdown of costs between
8 medical and mental health evacuation categories.

9 (e) REPORT AND EXTENSION OF THE SEXUAL AS-
10 SAULT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 8D of the Peace
11 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2507d) is amended—

12 (1) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(d) REPORTS.—On an annual basis for the duration
15 of its mandate, the Council shall submit to the Director,
16 the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee
17 on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on
18 Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of
19 the House of Representatives a report on its findings
20 based on the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (c)
21 and shall include relevant recommendations. Such reports
22 shall be made publicly available.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “October 1,
24 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2025”.

1 (f) REPORT ON PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.—Not
2 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act, the Director of the Peace Corps shall submit to
4 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
6 the Senate a report on—

7 (1) the presence of the Peace Corps in the Pa-
8 cific Islands region; and

9 (2) a strategy to expand such presence, as prac-
10 ticable, including—

11 (A) outcomes of consultations with regional
12 allies and partners on areas in which coopera-
13 tion can reduce factors limiting Peace Corps ex-
14 pansion; and

15 (B) timelines for expanding and reopening
16 country programs in the Pacific Islands region.

17 **SEC. 16. WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR PEACE CORPS**
18 **VOLUNTEERS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8142 of title 5, United
20 States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “GS–7”
23 and inserting “GS–7, step 5”;

24 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
2 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and
3 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “subsection
4 (c)(3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(2)”.

5 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
6 section (a)(1)(A) shall apply to any volunteer (as that
7 term is defined in subsection (a) of section 8142 of title
8 5, United States Code) with respect to whom benefits
9 under chapter 81 of such title commence, by operation of
10 such section, on or after the date of the enactment of this
11 Act.

12 **SEC. 17. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING EDITS.**

13 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is
14 amended—

15 (1) by amending section 1 to read as follows:

16 **“SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

17 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
18 ‘Peace Corps Act’.

19 “(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents
20 for this Act is as follows:

“TITLE I—THE PEACE CORPS

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“Sec. 2. Declaration of purpose.

“Sec. 2A. Peace Corps as an independent agency.

“Sec. 3. Authorization.

“Sec. 4. Director of the Peace Corps and delegation of functions.

“Sec. 5. Peace Corps volunteers.

“Sec. 5A. Health care for volunteers at Peace Corps posts.

“Sec. 5B. Codification of Executive Order 11103.

“Sec. 5C. Volunteers providing virtual services for the Peace Corps.

“Sec. 6. Peace Corps volunteer leaders.

- “Sec. 7. Peace Corps employees.
- “Sec. 8. Volunteer training.
- “Sec. 8A. Sexual assault risk-reduction and response training.
- “Sec. 8B. Sexual assault policy.
- “Sec. 8C. Office of victim advocacy.
- “Sec. 8D. Establishment of sexual assault advisory council.
- “Sec. 8E. Volunteer feedback and Peace Corps review.
- “Sec. 8F. Establishment of a policy on stalking.
- “Sec. 8G. Establishment of a confidentiality protection policy.
- “Sec. 8H. Removal and assessment and evaluation.
- “Sec. 8I. Reporting requirements.
- “Sec. 8J. Comprehensive illegal drug use policy with respect to Peace Corps volunteers.
- “Sec. 9. Participation of foreign nationals.
- “Sec. 10. General powers and authorities.
- “Sec. 11. Reports.
- “Sec. 12. Peace Corps National Advisory Council.
- “Sec. 13. Experts and consultants.
- “Sec. 14. Detail of personnel to foreign governments and international organizations.
- “Sec. 14A. Peace corps volunteers serving within the United States at the request of another agency.
- “Sec. 15. Utilization of funds.
- “Sec. 16. Foreign currency fluctuations account.
- “Sec. 17. Use of foreign currencies.
- “Sec. 18. Activities promoting Americans’ understanding of other peoples.
- “Sec. 19. Exclusive right to seal and name.
- “Sec. 20. [Reserved.]
- “Sec. 21. [Reserved.]
- “Sec. 22. Security investigations.
- “Sec. 23. Universal military training and service act.
- “Sec. 24. Foreign language proficiency act.
- “Sec. 25. Nonpartisan appointments.
- “Sec. 26. Definitions.
- “Sec. 27. Construction.
- “Sec. 28. Effective date.

“TITLE II—AMENDMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

- “Sec. 201. [Reserved.]
- “Sec. 202. [Reserved.]

“TITLE III—ENCOURAGEMENT OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE
PROGRAMS

- “Sec. 301. Voluntary Service Programs.”;

- 1 (2) in subsection (a) of section 2—
- 2 (A) by striking “men and women” and in-
- 3 serting “individuals”;

1 (B) by striking “help the peoples” and in-
2 serting “partner with the peoples”; and

3 (C) by striking “trained manpower” and
4 inserting “trained individuals”;

5 (3) in subsection (e) of section 3 (as so redesign-
6 nated by section 2 of this Act), by striking “disabled
7 people” and inserting “people with disabilities” each
8 place it appears;

9 (4) in subsection (b) of section 4—

10 (A) by striking “him” and inserting “the
11 President”;

12 (B) by striking “he” and inserting “the
13 Director”; and

14 (C) by striking “of his subordinates” and
15 all that follows through “functions.” and insert-
16 ing “subordinate of the Director the authority
17 to perform any such functions.”;

18 (5) in section 7—

19 (A) in subsection (a), by moving the mar-
20 gins of paragraphs (7) and (8) two ems to the
21 left;

22 (B) in the second sentence of subsection
23 (c), by striking “in his discretion” and inserting
24 “in the President’s discretion”; and

1 (C) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
2 section (b);

3 (6) in section 8A—

4 (A) in subsection (c), by striking “his or
5 her” and inserting “the volunteer’s”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), by
7 inserting “the” before “information”; and

8 (C) in subsection (f)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph
10 (2), by striking “his or her” and inserting
11 “the volunteer’s” each place it appears;
12 and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph
14 (4), by striking “his or her” and inserting
15 “that person’s”;

16 (7) in section 8C, in the heading of subsection
17 (a), by striking “VICTIMS” and inserting “VICTIM”;

18 (8) in section 8E—

19 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “sub-
20 section (c),” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

21 (B) in subsection (e)(1)(F), by striking
22 “Corp’s” and inserting “Corps”;

23 (9) in section 9—

24 (A) by striking “Act proceedings” and in-
25 serting “Act. Removal proceedings”;

1 (B) by striking “under which he” and in-
2 serting “under which that person”; and

3 (C) by striking “for which he” and insert-
4 ing “for which that person”;

5 (10) in section 10—

6 (A) in subsection (b) (as amended by sec-
7 tion 13 of this Act), by striking “he” and in-
8 serting “the President”; and

9 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “section
10 3709” and all that follows through “1949” and
11 inserting “sections 3101(a), 3101(c), 3104,
12 3106, 3301(b)(2), and 6101 of title 41, United
13 States Code”;

14 (11) in section 14—

15 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “his”
16 after “of” and before “agency” and inserting
17 “that”; and

18 (B) in subsection (b)—

19 (i) by striking “preserving his” and
20 inserting “preserving the”; and

21 (ii) by striking “he” after “assigned,
22 and”;

23 (12) in section 15—

1 (A) in subsection (c), in the first sentence,
2 by striking “that Act” and inserting “such sub-
3 chapter”; and

4 (B) in subsection (d)(7), by striking “his
5 designee” and inserting “the Director’s des-
6 ignee”;

7 (13) in section 23, by striking “Universal Mili-
8 tary Training and Service Act” and inserting “Mili-
9 tary Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.)”;

10 (14) in section 24, by striking—

11 (A) “his” and inserting “the volunteer’s”;

12 and

13 (B) “he” each place it appears and insert-
14 ing “the volunteer”;

15 (15) in section 26 (as amended by section 13
16 of this Act)—

17 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “which
18 he or she” and inserting “which the medical of-
19 ficer”;

20 (B) by further redesignating paragraphs
21 (2) through (9) (as so redesignated by section
22 13) as paragraphs (3) through (10), respec-
23 tively;

24 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
25 following new paragraph:

1 “(2) The term ‘Director’ means the Director of
2 the Peace Corps.”;

3 (D) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated,
4 by striking “5(m)” and inserting “5(n)”; and

5 (E) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated—
6 nated—

7 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and
8 (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
9 and moving such subparagraphs, as
10 so redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated,
12 by striking “section 5(f)” and inserting
13 “section 5(e)”; and

14 (16) in section 301, by striking “Sec. 301. (a)
15 The Congress” and inserting the following:

16 “VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAMS

17 “SEC. 301.

18 “(a) The Congress”.

19 **SEC. 18. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

20 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
21 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
22 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
23 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
24 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
25 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.