

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

October 2, 2019

Ms. Kathy A. Buller  
Inspector General  
Peace Corps  
1111 20th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20526

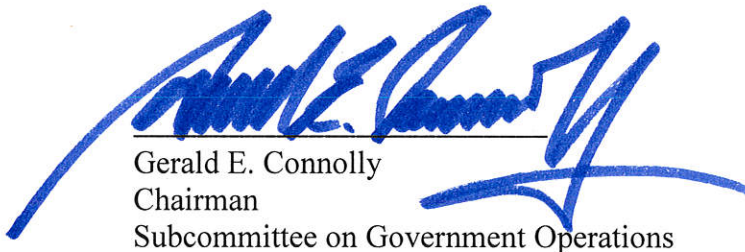
Dear Ms. Buller:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the hearing that was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, titled "Overseeing the Overseers: The Council of the Inspectors General @ 10 Years."

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Wednesday, October 16, 2019, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Josh Zucker, Assistant Clerk, at [Joshua.Zucker@mail.house.gov](mailto:Joshua.Zucker@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member

## **Questions for Ms. Kathy Buller**

Inspector General,

Peace Corps

Executive Chair, Legislation Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)

## **Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly**

September 18, 2019, Hearing: "Overseeing the Overseers: The Council of the Inspectors General @ 10 Years"

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1. Inspector General (IG) offices vary widely in size and budget. Per the fiscal year 2020 budget request from the Department of Defense, their OIG will operate on \$350 million, while one of the smallest, the OIG of the Appalachian Regional Commission, has requested just over \$500,000. The Peace Corps IG is one of the smaller IG offices. Do your size and limited resources affect your ability to accomplish your statutorily required responsibilities?
2. Are there opportunities to stretch IGs' limited resources by working across the IG community?
3. What are some of the roadblocks IGs might encounter when attempting collaborate across the IG community?
4. How could Congress support possible demonstration projects or other incentives for IGs to collaborate?
5. Are there members of CIGIE who, under current statute, can be removed from office without 30-day notice to Congress?
6. Does 30-day notice for the removal of an IG foster further independence for individual IGs?
7. Would the IG community have concerns about enactment of a statute requiring 30-day notice for any intention to remove an acting IG from their post?
8. Are there additional ways that Congress could support the IG community to ensure it gets the access to the information it needs?
9. At the hearing, in response to my question to you about access to records and IG independence, you raised a concern about independence at Peace Corps. I would like to follow up on that and ask if there are steps Congress might consider ensuring your independence is preserved? Are there additional details you could provide, or steps Congress could take to further support IGs in your situation?
10. Do you think the 2016 Empowerment Act has helped to improve the timeliness and access to information for IGs? How?
11. Congress seeks to ensure that OIG employees or other individuals who raise allegations under 5 U.S.C. 1213 receive the same attention as other whistleblower allegations. Does CIGIE have an opinion on how such allegations would most effectively routed to the appropriate investigatory body?
12. What should Congress consider when deliberating whether to extend an IG's jurisdiction to cover an agency or program without an IG or to create a new IG?