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**Colorado's Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Applaud Senator Hickenlooper's Support
for the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act**

(January 23, 2025) The Colorado community of over 2,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers proudly acknowledges Senator John Hickenlooper's support for the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act (PCRA). This vital legislation introduces key enhancements to the Peace Corps program, including improved healthcare resources and coverage for volunteers, as well as extended employment benefits for returned volunteers.

The PCRA represents a significant step toward strengthening the program's mission and its enduring impact both globally and locally. Senator Hickenlooper's advocacy highlights the importance of these efforts and underscores his commitment to the values shared by the Peace Corps community. "This bill revamps the Peace Corps to boost its impact across the globe so it can keep fostering diplomacy and cultural exchange," said Senator Hickenlooper.

"We are deeply grateful to Senator Hickenlooper for championing this essential legislation and amplifying the voices of Colorado's robust Peace Corps community," said Samantha Temple, RPCV Colorado President. "His support ensures the Peace Corps can continue fostering global connections and promoting peace during these critical times."

Colorado's RPCV group held various meetings with Senator Hickenlooper's staff to advocate for increased Peace Corp funding and to pass the PCRA. The most recent meeting left many Colorado RPCVs feeling hopeful about the Senator's support. "Our meeting with Senator Hickenlooper's staff in September made a big difference," said Bernadine Clark (RPCV Ukraine 2005-2007, Mexico 2014-2015). "They were genuinely interested in the impact of the Peace

Corps and how it fosters relationships with partner countries.” That meeting concluded with confirmation that Senator Hickenlooper’s staff would recommend supporting the PCRA.

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), the nationwide, non-profit organization representing the Peace Corps community, also praised this legislative victory. “As the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act unfortunately did not pass last year, and as the new 119th Congress begins its work, the legislation will need to be re-introduced. We are grateful for Senator Hickenlooper’s co-sponsorship late last year and hope he will do so again when the legislation is re-introduced. This will build early momentum in passing the bill and supporting thousands of currently serving and recently returned Peace Corps Volunteers.” said NPCA President & CEO Dan Baker.