

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Chris Coons
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham,

For 62 years, the United States' the Peace Corps has given more than 240,000 Volunteers the opportunity to serve and promote global stability through community development and cultural diplomacy. These ambassadors of peace have dedicated billions of hours to generate lasting positive impacts on local communities' prosperity and independence in countries around the world.

Since its inception, the Peace Corps has gathered consistent bipartisan support for the agency to expand the important work of sustainable development around the world. In keeping with this tradition, we request that you support the President's Budget request of \$479 million for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2025. This funding will better enable the Peace Corps to resume full-scale operations after suspending global operations due to the pandemic, improve volunteer safety and security, and increase the recruitment of skilled Volunteers.

As the first post-pandemic Volunteer cohorts return home from serving, the Peace Corps continues to work towards returning to pre-pandemic volunteer levels. Countries remain eager for the Peace Corps to return and relaunch programs. Over the last year alone, the Peace Corps has worked to reopen programs in countries such as El Salvador, Mozambique, and Palau. The agency will need new resources if they are to meet the increasing demand for Volunteers.

The Peace Corps represents one of the most cost-effective ways to promote the United States' interests abroad while providing tangible benefit and engagement for host communities, as well as providing valuable international experience for American Volunteers. Once returning home, many Volunteers maintain their commitment to service by taking leadership roles in business, civil society, and government, with an estimated 7,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers working across the executive branch agencies today.

As the geopolitical stage continues to change, promoting the United States partnership through the Peace Corps national service agenda will help bring people together, bridge divides and build understanding between citizens around the world.

Thank you for considering our request and for your enduring support for the Peace Corps.

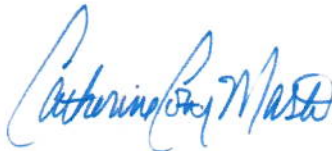
Sincerely,



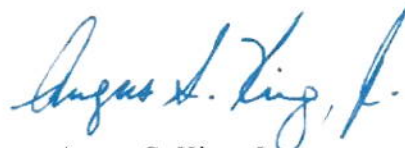
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



Kristen Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



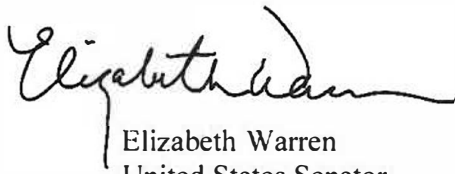
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

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Laphonza Butler
United States Senator

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Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Van Hollen".

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

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Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, reading "Jon Ossoff".

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Menendez".

Robert Menendez
United States Senator