

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

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

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State and Foreign Operations
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Schatz,

For nearly 64 years, the United States' Peace Corps has been a vital aspect of U.S. diplomacy and engagement. The Peace Corps has given nearly 250,000 American volunteers the opportunity to serve and promote global stability and American values and leadership through people-to-people exchanges. With programs in 60 countries, often in remote places with limited formal U.S. presence, Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) are a critical asset for cultivating lasting international goodwill toward the United States and strengthening international partnerships. Through activities such as teaching English and working with host communities to support economic development and improve health and food security, the Peace Corps is a strategic, cost-effective investment that helps people around the world and extends U.S. soft power and national security beyond what can be achieved through traditional policy measures.

Since its inception, the Peace Corps has gathered consistent, bipartisan support. In keeping with this tradition, we request that you provide \$479 million for the Peace Corps in fiscal year 2026, which is consistent with the FY2025 Senate version of the State Department and Foreign Operations and Related Programs appropriations bill. This funding will enable the Peace Corps to re-open Peace Corps missions in regions of strategic importance in Africa and the Indo-Pacific and support the safety and security of PCVs abroad who often work in unstable environments and deserve proper investment in their protection.

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 PCVs. In fiscal year 2024 alone, the Peace Corps instructed nearly 18,000 smallholder farmers on improved agricultural practices, helped 5,400 teachers improve their skills, and trained 6,500 people in entrepreneurship.¹ Furthermore, the Peace Corps provides immense returns on investment in the United States when Volunteers return home. Once returning home, many PCVs maintain their commitment to service by taking

¹ [Peace Corps - Peace Corps Facts and Figures](#)

leadership roles in business, civil society, and government. Approximately 86 percent of returned Peace Corps Volunteers come home and continue to volunteer in their communities at zero expense to tax payers. Furthermore, over tens of thousands of returned Volunteers have worked across executive branch agencies.

As the geopolitical stage continues to change, promoting United States partnership and leadership through the Peace Corps national service agenda will help bring people together, bridge divides, and build understanding between citizens around the world that ultimately strengthens the United States and protects our long-term leadership, security, and prosperity.

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

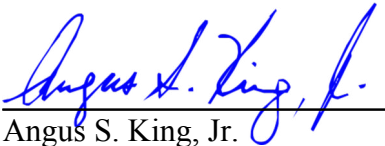
Sincerely,



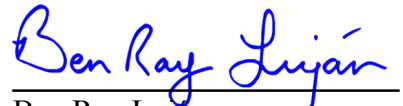
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



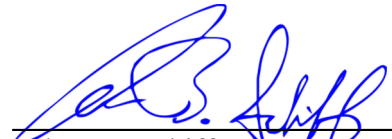
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



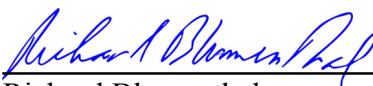
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



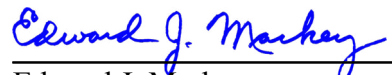
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



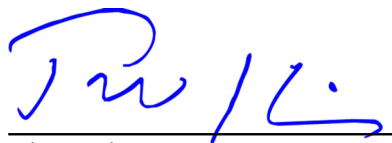
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



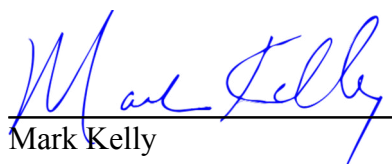
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



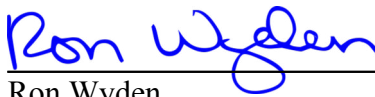
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

State and Foreign Operations Group Letter Table

SFOPS_Booker_Group_250522-035447[LetterID 22272]

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
184917	SFOPS Group	[Title III - Bilateral Economic Assistance]/[Independent Agencies]/[Peace Corps] [Member Staff] - Mia Furtado Mia_furtado@booker.senate.gov 202-224-4702	Peace Corps	\$479,000