

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4466

To amend the Peace Corps Act by reauthorizing the Peace Corps, providing better support for current, returning, and former volunteers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2022

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act by reauthorizing the Peace Corps, providing better support for current, returning, and former 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”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Funding for the Peace Corps; Integration of information age volunteer opportunities.

- Sec. 3. Readjustment allowances for volunteers and volunteer leaders.
- Sec. 4. Restoration of volunteer opportunities for major disruptions to volunteer service.
- Sec. 5. Health care continuation for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 6. Access to antimalarial drugs and hygiene products for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 7. Codification of certain Executive orders relating to existing noncompetitive eligibility Federal hiring status for returning volunteers and extension of the period of such status.
- Sec. 8. Extension of period of existing noncompetitive eligibility Federal hiring status for returning volunteers.
- Sec. 9. Protection of Peace Corps volunteers against reprisal or retaliation.
- Sec. 10. Peace Corps National Advisory Council.
- Sec. 11. Memorandum of Agreement with Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State.
- Sec. 12. Clarification regarding eligibility of United States nationals.
- Sec. 13. Workers compensation for Peace Corps volunteers.
- Sec. 14. Sexual Assault Advisory Council.
- Sec. 15. Suspension without pay.
- Sec. 16. Technical and conforming amendments.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR THE PEACE CORPS; INTEGRATION OF**  
 2 **INFORMATION AGE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNI-**  
 3 **TIES.**

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

6 (1) in subparagraph (b)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
 8 ing the following:

9 “(1) There is authorized to be appropriated  
 10 \$410,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2023 through  
 11 2027 to carry out this Act.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “that fis-  
 13 cal year and the subsequent fiscal year” and in-  
 14 serting “obligation until the last day of the sub-  
 15 sequent fiscal year”; and

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

3 **SEC. 3. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES FOR VOLUNTEERS**  
4 **AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS.**

5           Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504)  
6 is amended—

7           (1) in subsection (b), by striking “insure their  
8           health” and inserting “ensure their safety, their  
9           health, and”;

10          (2) in subsection (c)—

11               (A) by striking “\$125” and inserting  
12               “\$375”;

13               (B) by striking “his” each place such term  
14               appears and inserting “the volunteer’s”; and

15               (C) by striking “he” and inserting “the  
16               volunteer”;

17          (3) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
18          section (d);

19          (4) by inserting after subsection (d), as redesi-  
20          gnated, the following:

21          “(e) The Director shall consult with health experts  
22          outside of the Peace Corps, including experts licensed in  
23          the field of mental health, and follow guidance by the Cen-  
24          ters for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the pre-  
25          scription of medications to volunteers.”;

1 (5) in subsection (h), by striking “he” and in-  
 2 serting “the President”;

3 (6) in subsection (n)(2)—

4 (A) by striking “subsection (e)” each place  
 5 such term appears and inserting “subsection  
 6 (d)”;

7 (B) by striking “he” and inserting “the  
 8 President”;

9 (7) in subsection (o), by striking “his” each  
 10 place such term appears and inserting “the volun-  
 11 teer’s”.

12 **SEC. 4. RESTORATION OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**  
 13 **FOR MAJOR DISRUPTIONS TO VOLUNTEER**  
 14 **SERVICE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act  
 16 (22 U.S.C. 2504), as amended by section 3 of this Act,  
 17 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(q) DISRUPTION OF SERVICE PROTOCOLS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish  
 20 processes for the safe return to service of returning  
 21 Peace Corps volunteers whose service is interrupted  
 22 due to mandatory evacuations of volunteers due to  
 23 catastrophic events or global emergencies of unknow-  
 24 able duration, which processes shall include—

1           “(A) the establishment of monitoring and  
2           communications systems, protocols, safety  
3           measures, policies, and metrics for determining  
4           the appropriate approaches for restoring volun-  
5           teer opportunities for evacuated return volun-  
6           teers whose service is interrupted by a cata-  
7           strophic event or global emergency; and

8           “(B) streamlining, to the fullest extent  
9           practicable, application requirements for the re-  
10          turn to service of such volunteers.

11          “(2) RETURN TO SERVICE.—Beginning on the  
12          date on which any volunteer described in paragraph  
13          (1) returns to service, the Director shall strive to af-  
14          ford evacuated volunteers, to the fullest extent prac-  
15          ticable, the opportunity—

16               “(A) to return to their previous country of  
17               service, except for Peace Corps missions in  
18               China; and

19               “(B) to continue their service in the most  
20               needed sectors within the country in which they  
21               had been serving immediately before their evac-  
22               uation due to a catastrophic event or global  
23               emergency, except for Peace Corps missions in  
24               China.

1       “(r) SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND ACCRUAL OF  
2 INTEREST ON FEDERAL LOANS DURING SERVICE.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a volunteer received a  
4 Federal loan held by the Department of Education  
5 under part B or D of title IV of the Higher Edu-  
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq. and  
7 1087a et seq.) before commencing service in the  
8 Peace Corps—

9           “(A) all payments due for such loans shall  
10 be suspended; and

11           “(B) interest shall not accrue on such loan  
12 for the duration of such service.

13           “(2) DEFERMENT OR FORBEARANCE.—Not-  
14 withstanding any other provision of the Higher Edu-  
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), the  
16 Secretary of Education shall deem each month for  
17 which a loan payment was—

18           “(A) suspended under this section; or

19           “(B) subject to a deferment or forbearance  
20 under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as if  
21 the borrower of the loan had made a payment  
22 for the purpose of any loan forgiveness program  
23 or loan rehabilitation program authorized under  
24 part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education  
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq. and 1087a

1 et seq.) for which the borrower would have oth-  
2 erwise qualified.”.

3 (b) **MEDICAL PERSONNEL.**—Section 5A(b) of the  
4 Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504a(b)) is amended, in the  
5 matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, mental  
6 health professionals” after “medical officers”.

7 (c) **VOLUNTEER LEADERS.**—Section 6 of the Peace  
8 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2505) is amended—

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

11 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “he” and in-  
12 serting “the President”.

13 **SEC. 5. HEALTH CARE CONTINUATION FOR PEACE CORPS**  
14 **VOLUNTEERS.**

15 Section 5(d) of the Peace Corps Act, as redesignated  
16 by section 3(3) of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(d)(1) Volunteers shall receive such health care dur-  
18 ing their service as the Director considers necessary or ap-  
19 propriate, including, if necessary, services under section  
20 8B.

21 “(2) Applicants for enrollment shall receive such  
22 health examinations preparatory to their service, and ap-  
23 plicants for enrollment who have accepted an invitation  
24 to begin a period of training under section 8(a) shall re-  
25 ceive, preparatory to their service, such immunization,

1 dental care, and information regarding prescription op-  
2 tions and potential interactions, as may be necessary and  
3 appropriate and in accordance with subsection (F).

4       “(3) Returned volunteers shall receive the health ex-  
5 aminations described in paragraph (2) during the 6-month  
6 period immediately following the termination of their serv-  
7 ice, including services provided in accordance with section  
8 8B (except that the 6-month limitation shall not apply in  
9 the case of such services), as the Director determines nec-  
10 essary or appropriate.

11       “(4) Subject to such conditions as the Director may  
12 prescribe, the health care described in paragraphs (1)  
13 through (3) for serving volunteers, applicants for enroll-  
14 ment, or returned volunteers may be provided in any facil-  
15 ity of any agency of the United States Government, and  
16 in such cases the amount expended for maintaining and  
17 operating such facility shall be reimbursed from appro-  
18 priations available under this Act. Health care may not  
19 be provided under this subsection in a manner that is in-  
20 consistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction  
21 Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–12).

22       “(5) Returned volunteers, including those whose pe-  
23 riod of service is subject to early termination as the result  
24 of an emergency, shall receive, upon termination of their  
25 service with the Peace Corps, 60 days of short term non-



1 service-related health insurance for transition and travel,  
2 during which they will be—

3 “(A) given an opportunity to extend such tran-  
4 sitional health insurance for 1 additional month, at  
5 their expense; and

6 “(B) advised to obtain health insurance cov-  
7 erage through a qualified health plan (as defined in  
8 section 1301 of the Patient Protection and Afford-  
9 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18021)).

10 “(6) Not later than 30 days before the date on which  
11 the period of service of a volunteer terminates, or 30 days  
12 after such termination date if such termination is the re-  
13 sult of an emergency, the Director, in consultation with  
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall pro-  
15 vide detailed information to such volunteer regarding op-  
16 tions for health care after termination other than health  
17 care provided by the Peace Corps, including information  
18 regarding—

19 “(A) how to find additional, detailed informa-  
20 tion, including information regarding—

21 “(i) the application process and eligibility  
22 requirements for medical assistance through a  
23 State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the So-  
24 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), or  
25 under a waiver of such plan; and

1           “(ii) health care navigators or health care  
2           option identification services available through  
3           the public and private sectors;

4           “(B) the qualified health plans (as defined in  
5           section 1301(a) of the Patient Protection and Af-  
6           fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18021(a))) offered  
7           through an Exchange established under title I of  
8           such Act, including the enrollment periods for enroll-  
9           ing such plans; and

10          “(C) if such volunteer is 25 years of age or  
11          younger, the eligibility of such volunteer to enroll as  
12          a dependent child in a group health plan or health  
13          insurance coverage in which the parent of such vol-  
14          unteer is enrolled in such plan or coverage offers  
15          such dependent coverage.

16          “(7) Paragraphs (5) and (6) shall apply to volunteers  
17          whose periods of service are subject to early termination.”.

18 **SEC. 6. ACCESS TO ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS AND HYGIENE**

19 **PRODUCTS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

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:

3           “(c) ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall consult  
5           with experts at the Centers for Disease Control and  
6           Prevention regarding recommendations for pre-  
7           scribing malaria prophylaxis, in order to provide the  
8           best standard of care within the context of the Peace  
9           Corps environment.

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

14          “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Director shall con-  
15          sult with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for  
16          Health Affairs regarding the policy of using  
17          mefloquine in the field as an antimalarial prophy-  
18          lactic.

19          “(d) ACCESS TO HYGIENE PRODUCTS.—Not later  
20          than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the  
21          Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2022, the Director  
22          shall establish a comprehensive policy to ensure Peace  
23          Corps volunteers who require hygiene products are able  
24          to access such products.”.

1 **SEC. 7. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ORDERS**  
 2 **RELATING TO EXISTING NONCOMPETITIVE**  
 3 **ELIGIBILITY FEDERAL HIRING STATUS FOR**  
 4 **RETURNING VOLUNTEERS AND EXTENSION**  
 5 **OF THE PERIOD OF SUCH STATUS.**

6 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is  
 7 amended by inserting after section 5A the following:

8 **“SEC. 5B. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELAT-**  
 9 **ING TO NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY FED-**  
 10 **ERAL HIRING STATUS FOR RETURNING VOL-**  
 11 **UNTEERS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), Execu-  
 13 tive Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504 note; relating to Pro-  
 14 viding for the Appointment of Former Peace Corps Volun-  
 15 teers to the Civilian Career Services), as amended by Ex-  
 16 ecutive Order 12107 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; relating to the  
 17 Civil Service Commission and Labor-Management in the  
 18 Federal Service), as in effect on the day before the date  
 19 of the enactment of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act  
 20 of 2022, shall remain in effect and have the full force and  
 21 effect of law.

22 “(b) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—the term ‘Ex-  
 25 ecutive agency’—

1           “(i) has the meaning given such term  
2           in section 105 of title 5, United States  
3           Code;

4           “(ii) includes the United States Postal  
5           Service and the Postal Regulatory Com-  
6           mission; and

7           “(iii) does not include the Government  
8           Accountability Office.

9           “(B) HIRING FREEZE.—The term ‘hiring  
10          freeze’ means any memorandum, Executive  
11          order, or other action by the President that  
12          prohibits an Executive agency from filling va-  
13          cant Federal civilian employee positions or cre-  
14          ating new such positions.

15          “(2) IN GENERAL.—The period of eligibility for  
16          noncompetitive appointment to the civil service pro-  
17          vided to an individual under subsection (a), includ-  
18          ing any individual who is so eligible on the date of  
19          the enactment of the Peace Corps Reauthorization  
20          Act of 2022, shall be extended by the total number  
21          of days, during such period, that—

22                 “(A) a hiring freeze for civilian employees  
23                 of the executive branch is in effect by order of  
24                 the President with respect to any Executive

1 agency at which the individual has applied for  
2 employment;

3 “(B) there is a lapse in appropriations  
4 with respect to any Executive agency at which  
5 the individual has applied for employment; or

6 “(C) the individual is receiving disability  
7 compensation under section 8142 of title 5,  
8 United States Code, based on the individual’s  
9 service as a Peace Corp volunteer, retroactive to  
10 the date the individual applied for such com-  
11 pensation.

12 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—The period of eligibility  
13 for noncompetitive appointment status to the civil  
14 service under subsection (a) shall apply to a Peace  
15 Corps volunteer—

16 “(A) whose service ended involuntarily as a  
17 result of a suspension of volunteer operations  
18 by the Director, but may not last longer than  
19 1 year after the date on which such service  
20 ended involuntarily; or

21 “(B) who re-enrolls as a volunteer in the  
22 Peace Corps after completion of a term of serv-  
23 ice.”.

1 **SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF EXISTING NONCOMPETI-**  
2 **TIVE ELIGIBILITY FEDERAL HIRING STATUS**  
3 **FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS.**

4 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is  
5 amended by inserting after section 5B, as added by section  
6 7 of this Act, the following:

7 **“SEC. 5C. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF EXISTING NON-**  
8 **COMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY FEDERAL HIRING**  
9 **STATUS FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 5B, Executive  
11 Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504 note; relating to Providing  
12 for the Appointment of Former Peace Corps Volunteers  
13 to the Civilian Career Services), as amended by Executive  
14 Order 12107 (44 Fed. Reg. 1055; relating to the Civil  
15 Service Commission and Labor-Management in the Fed-  
16 eral Service), as in effect on the day before the date of  
17 the enactment of the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of  
18 2022, shall remain in effect and have the full force and  
19 effect of law.

20 “(b) NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY FEDERAL HIR-  
21 ING STATUS.—Subject to subsection (d), any volunteer  
22 whose Peace Corps service was terminated after April 1,  
23 2020, and who has been certified by the Director as hav-  
24 ing satisfactorily completed a full term of service, may be  
25 appointed to a position in any United States department,  
26 agency, or establishment in the competitive service under

1 title 5, United States Code, without competitive examina-  
 2 tion, in accordance with such regulations and conditions  
 3 as may be prescribed by the Director of the Office of Per-  
 4 sonnel Management.

5 “(c) EXTENSION.—The appointing authority may ex-  
 6 tend the noncompetitive appointment eligibility under sub-  
 7 section (b) to not more than 2 years after a volunteer’s  
 8 separation from the Peace Corps if the volunteer, following  
 9 such service, was engaged in—

10 “(1) military service;

11 “(2) the pursuit of studies at a recognized insti-  
 12 tution of higher learning; or

13 “(3) other activities which, in the view of the  
 14 appointing authority, warrant an extension of such  
 15 eligibility.

16 “(d) EXCEPTION.—The appointing authority may not  
 17 extend the noncompetitive appointment eligibility under  
 18 subsection (b) to any volunteer who chooses to be subject  
 19 to early termination.”.

20 **SEC. 9. PROTECTION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**  
 21 **AGAINST REPRISAL OR RETALIATION.**

22 Section 8G of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2507g)  
 23 is amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(d) PROHIBITION AGAINST REPRISAL OR RETALIA-  
 25 TION.—



1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

2 “(A) COVERED OFFICIAL OR OFFICE.—The  
3 term ‘covered official or office’ means—

4 “(i) any Peace Corps employee, in-  
5 cluding an employee of the Office of In-  
6 spector General;

7 “(ii) a Member of Congress or a des-  
8 ignated representative of a committee of  
9 Congress;

10 “(iii) an Inspector General (other  
11 than the Inspector General for the Peace  
12 Corps);

13 “(iv) the Government Accountability  
14 Office;

15 “(v) any authorized official of the De-  
16 partment of Justice or other Federal law  
17 enforcement agency; and

18 “(vi) a United States court, including  
19 any Federal grand jury.

20 “(B) RELIEF.—The term ‘relief’ includes  
21 all affirmative relief necessary to make a volun-  
22 teer whole, including monetary compensation,  
23 equitable relief, compensatory damages, and at-  
24 torney fees and costs.

1           “(C) REPRISAL OR RETALIATION.—The  
2           term ‘reprisal or retaliation’ means taking,  
3           threatening to take, or initiating adverse ad-  
4           ministrative action against a volunteer because  
5           the volunteer made a report described in sub-  
6           section (a) or otherwise disclosed to a covered  
7           official or office any information pertaining to  
8           waste, fraud, abuse of authority, misconduct,  
9           mismanagement, violations of law, or a signifi-  
10          cant threat to health and safety, if the activity  
11          or occurrence complained of is based upon the  
12          reasonable belief of the volunteer.

13          “(2) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace  
14          Corps shall take all reasonable measures, including  
15          through the development and implementation of a  
16          comprehensive policy, to prevent and address re-  
17          prisal or retaliation against a volunteer by any Peace  
18          Corps officer or employee, or any other person with  
19          supervisory authority over the volunteer during the  
20          volunteer’s period of service.

21          “(3) REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION; RE-  
22          LIEF.—

23                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A volunteer may re-  
24                 port a complaint or allegation of reprisal or re-  
25                 taliation—

1           “(i) directly to the Inspector General  
2           of the Peace Corps, who may conduct such  
3           investigations and make such recommenda-  
4           tions with respect to the complaint or alle-  
5           gation as the Inspector General considers  
6           appropriate; and

7           “(ii) through other channels provided  
8           by the Peace Corps, including through the  
9           process for confidential reporting imple-  
10          mented pursuant to subsection (a).

11          “(B) RELIEF.—The Director of the Peace  
12          Corps—

13           “(i) may order any relief for an af-  
14           firmative finding of a proposed or final res-  
15           olution of a complaint or allegation of re-  
16           prisal or retaliation in accordance with  
17           policies, rules, and procedures of the Peace  
18           Corps; and

19           “(ii) shall ensure that such relief is  
20           promptly provided to the volunteer.

21          “(4) APPEAL.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A volunteer may sub-  
23           mit an appeal to the Director of the Peace  
24           Corps of any proposed or final resolution of a  
25           complaint or allegation of reprisal or retaliation.

1           “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
2           in this paragraph may be construed to affect  
3           any other right of recourse a volunteer may  
4           have under any other provision of law.

5           “(5) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS AND REM-  
6           EDIES.—The Director of the Peace Corps shall en-  
7           sure that volunteers are informed in writing of the  
8           rights and remedies provided under this section.

9           “(6) DISPUTE MEDIATION.—The Director of  
10          the Peace Corps shall offer the opportunity for vol-  
11          unteers to resolve disputes concerning a complaint  
12          or allegation of reprisal or retaliation through medi-  
13          ation in accordance with procedures developed by the  
14          Peace Corps.

15          “(7) VOLUNTEER COOPERATION.—The Director  
16          of the Peace Corps may take such disciplinary or  
17          other administration action, including termination of  
18          service, with respect to a volunteer who unreason-  
19          ably refuses to cooperate with an investigation into  
20          a complaint or allegation of reprisal or retaliation  
21          conducted by the Inspector General of the Peace  
22          Corps.”.

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)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
3 (A), by striking “(subject to subsection (d)(1))  
4 conduct on-site inspections, and make examina-  
5 tions, of the activities of the Peace Corps in the  
6 United States and in other countries in order  
7 to”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
9 “and” at the end;

10 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as  
11 subparagraph (G); and

12 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (C)  
13 the following:

14 “(D) make recommendations for utilizing  
15 the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-  
16 teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace Corps;

17 “(E) make recommendations on strength-  
18 ening diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessi-  
19 bility principles in the workforce and daily work  
20 of the Peace Corps, including by—

21 “(i) increasing the recruitment of vol-  
22 unteers from diverse backgrounds and bet-  
23 ter supporting such volunteers during their  
24 training and enrollment in the Peace  
25 Corps;

1           “(ii) increasing and sustaining a di-  
2           verse and inclusive workforce through data  
3           collection, anti-harassment and anti-dis-  
4           crimination measures, recruitment, reten-  
5           tion, professional development, and pro-  
6           motion and leadership initiatives that also  
7           consider the work and roles of contractors;

8           “(iii) ensuring that advisory commit-  
9           tees and boards represent the diversity of  
10          the agency; and

11          “(iv) increasing opportunities in oper-  
12          ations, programming, and procurement  
13          through work with partners and commu-  
14          nities that are underrepresented or tradi-  
15          tionally marginalized;

16          “(F) make recommendations to reduce any  
17          financial barriers to application, training, or en-  
18          rollment in the Peace Corps, including medical  
19          expenses and other out-of-pocket costs; and”;

20          (2) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph  
21          (2) to read as follows:

22          “(2)(A) The Council shall be composed of 7 members  
23          who are United States citizens and are not being paid as  
24          officers or employees of the Peace Corps or of any other  
25          United States Government entity.

1 “(B) Of the 7 members of the Council—

2 “(i) 1 member shall be appointed by the Presi-  
3 dent;

4 “(ii) 3 members shall be appointed by the  
5 President pro tempore of the Senate, of which—

6 “(I) 2 members shall be appointed upon  
7 the recommendation of the leader in the Senate  
8 of the political party that is not the political  
9 party of the President;

10 “(II) 1 member shall be appointed upon  
11 the recommendation of the leader in the Senate  
12 of the political party of the President; and

13 “(III) at least 2 members shall be former  
14 Peace Corps volunteers; and

15 “(iii) 3 members shall be appointed by the  
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives, of which—

17 “(I) 2 members shall be appointed upon  
18 the recommendation of the leader in the House  
19 of Representatives of the political party that is  
20 not the political party of the President;

21 “(II) 1 member shall be appointed upon  
22 the recommendation of the leader in the House  
23 of Representatives of the political party of the  
24 President; and

1           “(III) at least 2 members shall be former  
2           Peace Corps volunteers.

3           “(C) Council members shall be appointed to 2-year  
4 terms. No member of the Council may serve for more than  
5 2 consecutive 2-year terms.

6           “(D) Not later than 30 days after any vacancy occurs  
7 on the Council, the Director shall appoint an individual  
8 to fill such vacancy. Any Council member appointed to fill  
9 a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for  
10 which the member’s predecessor was appointed—

11           “(i) shall be appointed for the remainder of  
12 such term; and

13           “(ii) may only serve on the Council for 1 addi-  
14 tional 2-year term.

15           “(E)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), Council  
16 members shall not be subject to laws relating to Federal  
17 employment, including laws relating to hours of work,  
18 rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensa-  
19 tion, and Federal employee benefits.

20           “(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), Council members  
21 shall be deemed to be Federal employees for purposes of—

22           “(I) chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code  
23 (relating to compensation for work-related injuries);

24           “(II) chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code  
25 (relating to conflicts of interest);



1           “(III) chapter 171 of title 28, United States  
2 Code (relating to tort claims); and

3           “(IV) section 3721 of title 31 (relating to  
4 claims for damage to, or loss of, personal property  
5 incident to service).

6           “(F) Council members shall serve at the pleasure of  
7 the Director. The Council may remove a member from the  
8 Council by a vote of 5 members if the Council determines  
9 that such member—

10           “(i) committed malfeasance in office;

11           “(ii) persistently neglected, or was unable to  
12 successfully discharge, his or her duties on the  
13 Council; or

14           “(iii) committed an offense involving moral tur-  
15 pitude.”;

16           (3) in subsection (g)—

17           (A) by striking “and at its first regular  
18 meeting in each calendar year thereafter” and  
19 inserting “at its first meeting each subsequent  
20 calendar year”; and

21           (B) by adding at the end the following:  
22 “The Chair and Vice Chair shall each serve in  
23 such capacity for a period not to exceed 2  
24 years. The Director may renew the term of

1 members appointed as Chair and Vice Chair  
2 under this subsection.”;

3 (4) in subsection (h), by amending paragraph  
4 (1) to read as follows:

5 “(1) The Council shall hold 1 regular meeting per  
6 quarter of each calendar year at a date and time to be  
7 determined by the Chair of the Council or at the call of  
8 the Director.”; and

9 (5) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(k) INDEPENDENCE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—  
11 None of the activities or functions of the Council author-  
12 ized under subsection (b)(2) may undermine the independ-  
13 ence or supersede the duties of the Inspector General of  
14 the Peace Corps.”.

15 **SEC. 11. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH BUREAU OF**  
16 **DIPLOMATIC SECURITY OF THE DEPART-**  
17 **MENT OF STATE.**

18 (a) QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW AND UPDATE.—Not  
19 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act, and at least once every 5 years, the Director of  
21 the Peace Corps and the Assistant Secretary of State for  
22 Diplomatic Security shall—

23 (1) review the Memorandum of Agreement be-  
24 tween the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the De-  
25 partment of State and the Peace Corps regarding

1 security support and protection of Peace Corps vol-  
2 unteers, and staff members abroad; and

3 (2) update such Memorandum of Agreement, as  
4 appropriate.

5 (b) NOTIFICATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace  
7 Corps and the Assistant Secretary of State for Dip-  
8 lomatic Security shall jointly submit any update to  
9 the Memorandum of Agreement under subsection (a)  
10 to—

11 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
12 the Senate; and

13 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
14 the House of Representatives.

15 (2) TIMING OF NOTIFICATION.—Each written  
16 notification submitted pursuant to paragraph (1)  
17 shall be submitted not later than 30 days before the  
18 update referred to in such paragraph takes effect.

19 **SEC. 12. CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY OF**  
20 **UNITED STATES NATIONALS.**

21 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), as  
22 amended by this Act, is further amended—

23 (1) in section 7(a)(5) (22 U.S.C. 2506(a)(5)),  
24 by striking “United States citizens” each place such  
25 term appears and inserting “United States nationals

1 of American Samoa and citizens of the United  
2 States”;

3 (2) in section 8(b) (22 U.S.C. 2507(b)), by in-  
4 sserting “United States nationals of American Samoa  
5 and” after “training for”;

6 (3) in section 10(b) (22 U.S.C. 2509(b)), strik-  
7 ing “any person not a citizen or resident of the  
8 United States” and inserting “any person who is not  
9 a United States national of American Samoa nor a  
10 citizen or resident of the United States”; and

11 (4) in section 12(g) (22 U.S.C. 2511(g)), by in-  
12 sserting “United States nationals of American Samoa  
13 or” after “who are”.

14 **SEC. 13. WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR PEACE CORPS**  
15 **VOLUNTEERS.**

16 Section 8142(c) of title 5, United States Code, is  
17 amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting  
18 the following:

19 “(1) a volunteer injured on or after the date of  
20 the enactment of the Peace Corps Reauthorization  
21 Act of 2022 is deemed to be receiving monthly pay  
22 at the rate for GS–7, step 5;

23 “(2)(A) a volunteer or former volunteer whose  
24 injury occurred before the date of the enactment of  
25 the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2022 shall

1 have their disability compensation prospectively ad-  
2 justed so that they are deemed receiving monthly  
3 pay at the rate for GS-7, step 5, unless such adjust-  
4 ment would result in a reduction of compensation  
5 payable;

6 “(B) benefits paid under section 8133 due to a  
7 death occurring before such date of enactment shall  
8 be prospectively adjusted to reflect the volunteer’s  
9 deemed receiving monthly pay at the rate for GS-  
10 7, step 5; and

11 “(C) nothing in this subsection may be con-  
12 strued to authorize the retroactive adjustment to the  
13 rate for GS-7, step 5 for compensation payable for  
14 any period before such date of enactment.”.

15 **SEC. 14. SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

16 (a) REPORT AND EXTENSION OF THE SEXUAL AS-  
17 SAULT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 8D of the Peace  
18 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2507d) is amended—

19 (1) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-  
20 lows:

21 “(d) REPORTS.—On an annual basis through the  
22 date specified in subsection (g), the Council shall submit  
23 a report to the Director of the Peace Corps, the Com-  
24 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee  
25 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on For-

1 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the  
2 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representa-  
3 tives that describes its findings based on the reviews con-  
4 ducted pursuant to subsection (c) and includes relevant  
5 recommendations. Each such report shall be made publicly  
6 available.”; and

7           (2) in subsection (g), by striking “October 1,  
8           2023” and inserting “October 1, 2027”.

9 **SEC. 15. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY.**

10       Section 7 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2506)  
11 is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

12       “(b) SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY.—(1) The Peace  
13 Corps may suspend (without pay) any employee appointed  
14 or assigned under this section if the Director has deter-  
15 mined that the employee engaged in serious misconduct  
16 that could impact the efficiency of the service and could  
17 lead to removal for cause.

18       “(2) Any employee for whom a suspension without  
19 pay is proposed under this subsection shall be entitled  
20 to—

21           “(A) written notice stating the specific reasons  
22           for such proposed suspension;

23           “(B)(i) up to 15 days to respond orally or in  
24           writing to such proposed suspension if the employee  
25           is assigned in the United States; or

1           “(ii) up to 30 days to respond orally or in writ-  
2           ing to such proposed suspension if the employee is  
3           assigned outside of the United States;

4           “(C) representation by an attorney or other  
5           representative, at the employee’s own expense;

6           “(D) a written decision, including the specific  
7           reasons for such decision, as soon as practicable;

8           “(E) a process through which the employee may  
9           submit an appeal to the Director of the Peace Corps  
10          not later than 10 business days after the issuance of  
11          a written decision; and

12          “(F) a final decision personally rendered by the  
13          Director of the Peace Corps not later than 30 days  
14          after the receipt of such appeal.

15          “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
16          final decision under paragraph (2)(F) shall be final and  
17          not subject to further review.

18          “(4) If the Director fails to establish misconduct by  
19          an employee under paragraph (1) and no disciplinary ac-  
20          tion is taken against such employee based upon the alleged  
21          grounds for the suspension, the employee shall be entitled  
22          to reinstatement, back pay, full benefits, and reimburse-  
23          ment of attorney fees of up to \$20,000.”.

1 **SEC. 16. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), as  
3 amended by this Act, is further amended—

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

5 **“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

6 “(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
7 ‘Peace Corps Act’.

8 “(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents  
9 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 orders relating to noncompetitive eligibility  
Federal hiring status for returning volunteers.
- “Sec. 5C. Extension of period of existing noncompetitive eligibility Federal hir-  
ing status for returning volunteers.
- “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. 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 organi-  
zations.
- “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. 22. Security investigations.  
 “Sec. 23. Universal Military Training and Service Act.  
 “Sec. 24. Foreign language proficiency.  
 “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

“TITLE III—ENCOURAGEMENT OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE  
 PROGRAMS

“Sec. 301. ”;

- 1           (2) in section 2(a) (22 U.S.C. 2501(a))—  
 2                   (A) by striking “help the peoples” and in-  
 3           serting “partner with the peoples”; and  
 4                   (B) by striking “manpower” and inserting  
 5           “individuals”;  
 6           (3) in section 3 (22 U.S.C. 2502)—  
 7                   (A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
 8           section (e); and  
 9                   (B) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by  
 10           striking “disabled people” each place such term  
 11           appears and inserting “people with disabilities”;  
 12           (4) in section 4(b) (22 U.S.C. 2503(b))—  
 13                   (A) by striking “him” and inserting “the  
 14           President”;  
 15                   (B) by striking “he” and inserting “the  
 16           Director”; and  
 17                   (C) by striking “of his subordinates” and  
 18           all that follows through “functions.” and insert-

1 ing “subordinate of the Director the authority  
2 to perform any such function.”;

3 (5) in section 5 (22 U.S.C. 2504)—

4 (A) in subsection (e), by striking “: *Pro-*  
5 *vided, however,*” and all that follows through  
6 “the amount” and inserting “. Under such cir-  
7 cumstances as the President may determine,  
8 the accrued readjustment allowance, or any  
9 part thereof, may be paid to the volunteer,  
10 members of the volunteer’s family, or others,  
11 during the period of the volunteer’s service, or  
12 prior to the volunteer’s return to the United  
13 States. In the event of the volunteer’s death  
14 during the period of his service, the amount”;

15 (B) in subsection (h), by striking “he may  
16 determine” and inserting “the President may  
17 determine”; and

18 (C) in subsection (o) by striking “the date  
19 of his departure” and all that follows and in-  
20 serting “the date of the volunteer’s departure  
21 from the volunteer’s place of residence to enter  
22 training until not later than 3 months after the  
23 termination of the volunteer’s service.”;

1           (6) in section 6(3) (22 U.S.C. 2505(3)), by  
2 striking by striking “he may determine” and insert-  
3 ing “the President may determine”;

4           (7) in section 7 (22 U.S.C. 2506)—

5           (A) in subsection (a), by moving para-  
6 graphs (7) and (8) 2 ems to the left; and

7           (B) in subsection (b), as redesignated, by  
8 striking “in his discretion” and inserting “in  
9 the President’s discretion”;

10          (8) in section 8A (22 U.S.C. 2507a)—

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

13          (B) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting  
14 “the” before “information”; and

15          (C) in subsection (f)—

16           (i) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking  
17 “his or her” each place such phrase ap-  
18 pears and inserting “the volunteer’s”; and

19           (ii) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking  
20 “his or her” and inserting “the person’s”;

21          (9) in section 8C(a) (22 U.S.C. 2507c(a)), in  
22 the subsection heading, by striking “VICTIMS” and  
23 inserting “VICTIM”;

24          (10) in section 8E (22 U.S.C. 2507e)—

1 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “sub-  
2 section (c),,” and inserting “subsection (c),”;  
3 and

4 (B) in subsection (e)(1)(F), by striking  
5 “Peace Corp’s mission” and inserting “Peace  
6 Corps’ mission”;

7 (11) in section 9 (22 U.S.C. 2508)—

8 (A) by striking “under which he was ad-  
9 mitted or who fails to depart from the United  
10 States at the expiration of the time for which  
11 he was admitted” and inserting “under which  
12 such person was admitted or who fails to depart  
13 from the United States at the expiration of the  
14 period for which such person was admitted”;  
15 and

16 (B) by striking “Act proceedings” and in-  
17 serting “Act. Removal proceedings”;

18 (12) in section 10 (22 U.S.C. 2509)—

19 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “he may  
20 prescribe” and inserting “the President may  
21 prescribe”;

22 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “section  
23 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United  
24 States, as amended, section 302 of the Federal  
25 Property and Administrative Services Act of

1 1949”; and by inserting “sections 3101(a),  
2 3101(c), 3104, 3106, 3301(b)(2), and 6101 of  
3 title 41, United States Code”; and

4 (C) in subsection (j), by striking “of this  
5 section.”;

6 (13) in section 12(d)(1)(b) (22 U.S.C.  
7 2511(d)(1)(b)), by striking “his or her” and insert-  
8 ing “the member’s”;

9 (14) in section 14 (22 U.S.C. 2513)—

10 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “his  
11 agency” and inserting “such agency”; and

12 (B) in subsection (b)—

13 (i) by striking “his allowance” and in-  
14 serting “the”; and

15 (ii) by striking “he”;

16 (15) in section 15 (22 U.S.C. 2514)—

17 (A) in subsection (e), by striking “that  
18 Act” and inserting “that subchapter”; and

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

22 (16) in section 19(a) (22 U.S.C. 2518(a)), by  
23 striking “he shall determine” and inserting “the  
24 President shall determine”;

25 (17) in section 23 (22 U.S.C. 2520)—

1 (A) in the section heading, by striking  
2 “UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING AND SERV-  
3 ICE” and inserting “MILITARY SELECTIVE  
4 SERVICE”; and

5 (B) by striking “Universal Military Train-  
6 ing and Service Act” and inserting “Military  
7 Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.)”;  
8 (18) in section 24—

9 (A) by striking “he” each place such term  
10 appears and inserting “the volunteer”; and

11 (B) by striking “his” and inserting “the  
12 volunteer’s”;

13 (19) in section 26—

14 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
15 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-  
16 spectively;

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
18 following:

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

21 (C) in paragraph (5), as redesignated, by  
22 striking “he or she” and inserting “the medical  
23 officer”;

24 (D) in paragraph (7), as redesignated, by  
25 striking “5(m)” and inserting “5(n)”; and

- 1 (E) in paragraph (10), as redesignated—  
2 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and  
3 (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-  
4 tively; and  
5 (ii) in subparagraph (A), as redesign-  
6 nated, by striking “section 5(f)” and in-  
7 serting “section 5(e)”; and  
8 (20) in section 301(a), by striking “manpower”  
9 each place such term appears and inserting “individ-  
10 uals”.

○