

# Support Robust Peace Corps Funding in FY11

\*\*\* This is a programmatic request \*\*\*  
*No Member certification required*

**Current FY11 Co-Signers (5):** Honda, Petri, Driehaus, Farr, Garamendi,

Deadline to sign on is **COB March 15, 2010**

Dear Colleague:

We encourage you to co-sign the below letter to the State/Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee urging a \$465 million appropriation for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2011.

Peace Corps is one of America's most effective and enduring foreign policy initiatives. Peace Corps volunteers foster development while helping to build good will and relationships with people around the world.

We hope you share our view that Peace Corps is a vital component of our "smart power" toolbox. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers have provided meaningful development assistance, reversing stereotypes about Americans and returning stateside to educate their fellow Americans about the cultures and peoples of the world.

More than a dozen nations have requested new Peace Corps programs. Several more have requested additional volunteers. In 2009, more than 15,000 Americans applied to serve in the Peace Corps, but fewer than 4,000 were placed. Insufficient funding has slowed Peace Corps' ability to respond to existing requests, recruit new Americans and engage in new partnerships with international organizations.

We think we should increase our investment in the Peace Corps. This will allow us to match supply of highly skilled Americans ready to serve with the demand for volunteers coming nations around the globe. Please join us in signing the attached letter to the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

To support the Peace Corps please be sure to submit an online **“Program Level Request”** under Appropriation Subcommittee **“State, Foreign Operations”**, Agency **“Peace Corps”** for **\$465 million**.

To add your name to the letter or for further information, please contact Marc Hanson of Rep. Sam Farr’s office [marc.hanson@mail.house.gov](mailto:marc.hanson@mail.house.gov) .

**Sam Farr, M.C.**  
RPCV Colombia, 1964-66  
**Mike Honda, M.C.**  
RPCV El Salvador, 1965-67  
**John Garamendi, M.C.**  
RPCV Ethiopia3, 1966-68

**Thomas Petri, M.C.**  
RPCV Somalia, 1966-67  
**Steve Driehaus, M.C.**  
RPCV Senegal, 1988-91

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
HB 26  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We respectfully request that you appropriate \$465 million in funding for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2011.

Peace Corps is one of America's finest expressions of friendship and solidarity around the world. And it is being tapped yet again to inspire Americans and global citizens alike to renew their spirit of peace, partnership and prosperity. Peace Corps is a vital element of America's soft power. An energized, well-resourced Peace Corps will enhance our credibility and moral standing in the world.

Peace Corps reports that more than a dozen nations have requested American volunteers. Several more countries want existing Peace Corps programs expanded to include new project areas. New funding is the key to creating new and expanded Peace Corps programs in important countries, where the United States seeks improved relations.

In 2009, 15,000 Americans applied to serve in the Peace Corps, but only 4,000 were placed. Additional funding is needed to ensure that more Americans have the opportunity to serve their country in the Peace Corps.

We believe that \$465 million is the minimum appropriation necessary to enable the agency to reinvigorate its programming, develop innovative partnerships, open new countries, and train the next generation of Peace Corps Volunteers.

We appreciate the unrelenting support you have both shown Peace Corps over the years, not least of which last year. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you to innovate, expand and support the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,