

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

April 22, 2011

Chairwoman Kay Granger  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
Room HT 2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We respectfully request that you appropriate the President's request of \$439,600,000 in funding for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2012.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps and, since its inception, the Peace Corps has deployed nearly a quarter million Americans to serve impoverished communities in the name of peace. For just 0.8% of our foreign affairs budget, the Peace Corps is one of our most cost-effective agents of diplomacy and development.

The Peace Corps is unparalleled in scope and impact. Since 1961, Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 developing countries around the world, including key priority areas for the United States. More than 40 Peace Corps sites help administer the President's Emergency Plan for AIDs Relief (PEPFAR) and nearly 25% of Volunteers serve in a third of all countries considered Muslim. In 2010 alone, the Peace Corps opened programs in Colombia, Sierra Leone, and Indonesia. Currently, 8,655 Volunteers from all 50 states are serving in 77 developing countries.

Yet demand for the Peace Corps far exceeds supply. Over 20 countries have requested Peace Corps Volunteers and still other countries have requested an increase in the number of Volunteers. This past year, 13,500 Americans applied for the Peace Corps, but the agency could only afford to place about 4,500. We believe that \$439,600,000 is essential to ensure that the Peace Corps can continue to strengthen all aspects of their operations to meet ever-rising demand in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.

This March, President Obama honored the Peace Corps' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Presidential Proclamation. In it, he stated that the agency's mission is "more relevant today than ever." We could not agree more. Through war and conflict, Peace Corps Volunteers have shown the world a hopeful side of America that reflects our fundamental ideals of peace and progress. Now more than ever, as the United States confronts harsh scrutiny from the international community, we must support this low-cost, high-return investment in peace.

We appreciate the strong support the Committee has shown the Peace Corps, and we ask that in this milestone year for the agency, you fund the Peace Corps at \$439,600,000.

Sincerely,

*Sam Farr*

SAM FARR  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Colombia, '64-'66

*Michael Honda*

MIKE HONDA  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, El Salvador, '65-'67

*John Garamendi*

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Ethiopia, '66-'68

*James E. Clyburn*

*Hyd Doyt*

*John Garamendi*

*Ed Schultz (do)*

*Gudy Chu*

*Yvette D. Clarke NY-11*

*James E. Clyburn*

*James E. Clyburn*

*Elly E. Cummings*

*John Garamendi*

Paul

John

John

Paul Zilli

Betty McCallen

John

George Miller

Louise Reynolds

John

Ben Chandler

John

John

Hansen

John

John

Robert E. Anderson

Tommy Baldwin

Shelley Berkeley

Earl Blumenthal

Madeline Boudallo

Carrie Brown

Luis Capps

Russ Cardan

Arnold E. Cannoy

John Conroy

Jim Hill

Joe Courtney

Danny K. Davis

Jason A. Davis

Diana DeLotto

Rosad. DeLaur

Donna F. Edwards

Keith Miller

Eliot L. Engel

~~W.A. G. Edwards~~

Falcone, George

Chuk Fard

Bob Fink

Benny Frank

Charles A. Ziegler

Raúl M. Hijaalra

José V. Ontiveros

W. Anne Kinley

Margie K. Harris

Rush Holt

Shirley M. Lee

Hank Johnson

Jim Langevin

Barbara Lee

Julia Lujan

John Lewis

Dave Lujan

Zoe Lofgren

Candice B. Maloney

Edward J. Markey

Doris O. Matsui

Candice M. Melnick

Jim McDermott

Jim Moran

Joy M. Nygren

Greg Meeks

Jim Moran

L.M.

Grace F. Napotkins

Joseph Walker

Frank Ballouf.

Donald Payne

Chell R

Jared Paul

Daniel Price

Steven Mathon

Tim Ryan

Vivian

J.P. Sch

Jan Staley

Alvin Lewis

Laurie M. Skyles

Jackie

Pete Stark

Betty Sutton

Bonnie A. Thompson

John F. Tenny

Edwards

Chivon Holler

Nadia A. Velazquez

Debbie Waxman

Pete Wicks

Lynne Woolsey

Edwards

John Wicks

Steve Cohen

Pete Wicks

Chester Holmes

Michael H. Merchant

Loetta Sanchez

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## Signature Key

(Left to right)

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1. Sam Farr, Member of Congress
2. Mike Honda, Member of Congress
3. John Garamendi, Member of Congress
4. Xavier Becerra, Member of Congress
5. Lloyd Doggett, Member of Congress
6. Luis V. Gutiérrez, Member of Congress
7. Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress
8. Judy Chu, Member of Congress
9. Yvette Clarke, Member of Congress
10. Laura Richardson, Member of Congress
11. James Clyburn, Member of Congress
12. Mel Watt, Member of Congress
13. Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress
14. G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress

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15. Bennie Thompson, Member of Congress
16. John Tierney, Member of Congress
17. Jose Serrano, Member of Congress
18. Daniel Lipinski, Member of Congress
19. Betty McCollum, Member of Congress
20. Jerry Costello, Member of Congress
21. George Miller, Member of Congress
22. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Member of Congress
23. Stephen Lynch, Member of Congress
24. Ben Chandler, Member of Congress
25. Richard Neal, Member of Congress
26. Timothy Bishop, Member of Congress
27. Jay Inslee, Member of Congress
28. Hansen Clarke, Member of Congress
29. Emmanuel Cleaver, Member of Congress
30. Joseph Crowley, Member of Congress

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32. Tammy Baldwin, Member of Congress
33. Shelley Berkley, Member of Congress
34. Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress
35. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress
36. Corrine Brown, Member of Congress
37. Lois Capps, Member of Congress
38. Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress
39. Gerry Connolly, Member of Congress

40. John Conyers, Member of Congress
41. Jim Costa, Member of Congress
42. Joe Courtney, Member of Congress
43. Danny Davis, Member of Congress
44. Susan Davis, Member of Congress
45. Diana DeGette, Member of Congress
46. Rosa DeLauro, Member of Congress

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48. Keith Ellison, Member of Congress
49. Eliot Engel, Member of Congress
50. Anna Eshoo, Member of Congress
51. Eni Faleomavaega, Member of Congress
52. Chaka Fattah, Member of Congress
53. Bob Filner, Member of Congress
54. Barney Frank, Member of Congress
55. Charles Gonzalez, Member of Congress
56. Raúl M. Grijalva, Member of Congress
- Luis V. Gutiérrez, Member of Congress
57. Colleen Hanabusa, Member of Congress
58. Maurice Hinchey, Member of Congress
59. Mazie Hirono, Member of Congress
60. Rush Holt, Member of Congress
61. Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress

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62. Hank Johnson, Member of Congress
63. Jim Langevin, Member of Congress
64. Barbara Lee, Member of Congress
65. Sander Levin, Member of Congress
66. John Lewis, Member of Congress
67. Dave Loebsack, Member of Congress
68. Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress
69. Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress
70. Edward Markey, Member of Congress
71. Doris Matsui, Member of Congress
72. Carolyn McCarthy, Member of Congress
73. Jim McDermott, Member of Congress
74. James P. McGovern, Member of Congress
75. Jerry McNerney, Member of Congress
76. Gwen Moore, Member of Congress
77. James Moran, Member of Congress

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78. Christopher Murphy, Member of Congress

79. Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress
80. Grace Napolitano, Member of Congress
81. Frank Pallone, Member of Congress
82. Donald Payne, Member of Congress
83. Chellie Pingree, Member of Congress
84. Jared Polis, Member of Congress
85. David Price, Member of Congress
86. Steven Rothman, Member of Congress
87. Tim Ryan, Member of Congress
88. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Member of Congress
89. John Sarbanes, Member of Congress
90. Jan Schakowsky, Member of Congress
91. Albio Sires, Member of Congress
92. Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress
93. Jackie Speier, Member of Congress

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94. Fortney "Pete" Stark, Member of Congress
95. Betty Sutton, Member of Congress
- Bennie G. Thompson, Member of Congress
- John F. Tierney, Member of Congress
96. Edolphus Towns, Member of Congress
97. Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress
98. Nydia Velázquez, Member of Congress
99. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress
100. Peter Welch, Member of Congress
101. Lynn Woolsey, Member of Congress
102. David Wu, Member of Congress
103. John Yarmuth, Member of Congress
104. Steve Cohen, Member of Congress
105. Peter DeFazio, Member of Congress
106. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress
107. Michael Michaud, Member of Congress

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108. Loretta Sanchez, Member of Congress