

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 250

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Peace Corps Charter  
5       for the 21st Century Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) The Peace Corps was established in 1961 to  
2       promote world peace and friendship through the  
3       service of American volunteers abroad.

4           (2) The three goals codified in the Peace Corps  
5       Act, which have guided the Peace Corps and its vol-  
6       unteers over the years, can work in concert to pro-  
7       mote global acceptance of the principles of inter-  
8       national peace and nonviolent coexistence among  
9       peoples of diverse cultures and systems of govern-  
10      ment.

11          (3) The Peace Corps has operated in 135 coun-  
12      tries with 165,000 Peace Corps volunteers since its  
13      establishment.

14          (4) The Peace Corps has sought to fulfill three  
15      goals, as follows: to help people in developing nations  
16      meet basic needs, to promote understanding of  
17      America's values and ideals abroad, and to promote  
18      an understanding of other peoples by Americans.

19          (5) After more than 40 years of operation, the  
20      Peace Corps remains the world's premier inter-  
21      national service organization dedicated to promoting  
22      grassroots development.

23          (6) The Peace Corps remains committed to  
24      sending well trained and well supported Peace Corps

1 volunteers overseas to promote peace, friendship,  
2 and international understanding.

3 (7) The Peace Corps is an independent agency,  
4 and therefore no Peace Corps personnel or volun-  
5 teers should have any relationship with any United  
6 States intelligence agency or be used to accomplish  
7 any other goal than the goals established by the  
8 Peace Corps Act.

9 (8) The Crisis Corps has been an effective tool  
10 in harnessing the skills and talents for returned  
11 Peace Corps volunteers and should be expanded to  
12 utilize to the maximum extent the talent pool of re-  
13 turned Peace Corps volunteers.

14 (9) The Peace Corps is currently operating with  
15 an annual budget of \$275,000,000 in 70 countries,  
16 with 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

17 (10) There is deep misunderstanding and mis-  
18 information about American values and ideals in  
19 many parts of the world, particularly those with sub-  
20 stantial Muslim populations, and a greater Peace  
21 Corps presence in such places could foster greater  
22 understanding and tolerance.

23 (11) the Congress has declared that the Peace  
24 Corps should be expanded to sponsor a minimum of  
25 10,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

1           (12) President George W. Bush has called for  
2           the doubling of the number of Peace Corps volun-  
3           teers in service.

4           (13) Any expansion of the Peace Corps shall  
5           not jeopardize the quality of the Peace Corps volun-  
6           teer experience, and therefore can only be accom-  
7           plished by an appropriate increase in field and head-  
8           quarters support staff.

9           (14) In order to ensure that proposed expansion  
10          of the Peace Corps preserves the integrity of the  
11          program and the security of volunteers, the inte-  
12          grated Planning and Budget System supported by  
13          the Office of Planning and Policy Analysis should  
14          continue its focus on strategic planning.

15          (15) A streamlined, bipartisan National Peace  
16          Corps Advisory Council composed of distinguished  
17          returned Peace Corps volunteers and other individ-  
18          uals, with diverse backgrounds and expertise, can be  
19          a source of ideas and suggestions that may be useful  
20          to the Director of the Peace Corps as he discharges  
21          his duties and responsibilities as head of the agency.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23          In this Act:

24               (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
25          TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-

1       mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations  
 2       of the Senate and the Committee on International  
 3       Relations of the House of Representatives.

4           (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
 5       the Director of the Peace Corps.

6           (3) PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.—The term  
 7       “Peace Corps volunteer” means a volunteer or a vol-  
 8       unteer leader under the Peace Corps Act.

9           (4) RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.—  
 10       The term “returned Peace Corps volunteer” means  
 11       a person who has been certified by the Director as  
 12       having served satisfactorily as a Peace Corps volun-  
 13       teer.

14   **SEC. 4. RESTATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEACE**  
 15       **CORPS.**

16       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2A of the Peace Corps  
 17       Act (22 U.S.C. 2501–1) is amended by adding at the end  
 18       the following new sentence: “As an independent agency,  
 19       all recruiting of volunteers shall be carried out under the  
 20       direction of the Director of the Peace Corps”.

21       (b) DETAILS AND ASSIGNMENTS.—Section 5(g) of  
 22       the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(g)) is amended by  
 23       inserting after “*Provided, That*” the following: “such de-  
 24       tail or assignment does not contradict the standing of  
 25       Peace Corps volunteers as being independent from foreign

1 policy-making and intelligence collection: *Provided further*,  
 2 That”.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORTS AND CONSULTATIONS.**

4 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS; CONSULTATIONS ON NEW  
 5 INITIATIVES.—Section 11 of the Peace Corps Act (22  
 6 U.S.C. 2510) is amended by striking the section heading  
 7 and the text of section 11 and inserting the following:

8 **“SEC. 11. ANNUAL REPORTS; CONSULTATIONS ON NEW INI-**  
 9 **TIATIVES.**

10 “(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Director shall trans-  
 11 mit to the Congress, at least once in each fiscal year, a  
 12 report on operations under this Act. Each report shall con-  
 13 tain information—

14 “(1) describing efforts undertaken to improve  
 15 coordination of activities of the Peace Corps with ac-  
 16 tivities of international voluntary service organiza-  
 17 tions, such as the United Nations volunteer pro-  
 18 gram, and of host country voluntary service organi-  
 19 zations, including—

20 “(A) a description of the purpose and  
 21 scope of any development project which the  
 22 Peace Corps undertook during the preceding  
 23 fiscal year as a joint venture with any such  
 24 international or host country voluntary service  
 25 organizations; and

1           “(B) recommendations for improving co-  
2           ordination of development projects between the  
3           Peace Corps and any such international or host  
4           country voluntary service organizations;

5           “(2) describing—

6           “(A) any major new initiatives that the  
7           Peace Corps has under review for the upcoming  
8           fiscal year, and any major initiatives that were  
9           undertaken in the previous fiscal year that were  
10          not included in prior reports to the Congress;

11          “(B) the rationale for undertaking such  
12          new initiatives;

13          “(C) an estimate of the cost of such initia-  
14          tives; and

15          “(D) the impact on the safety of volun-  
16          teers;

17          “(3) describing in detail the Peace Corp’s plans  
18          for doubling the number of volunteers from 2002  
19          levels, including a 5-year budget plan for reaching  
20          that goal; and

21          “(4) describing standard security procedures for  
22          any country in which the Peace Corps operates pro-  
23          grams or is considering doing so, as well as any spe-  
24          cial security procedures contemplated because of  
25          changed circumstances in specific countries, and as-

1       sessing whether security conditions would be en-  
2       hanced—

3               “(A) by colocating volunteers with inter-  
4               national or local nongovernmental organiza-  
5               tions; or

6               “(B) with the placement of multiple volun-  
7               teers in one location.

8       “(b) CONSULTATIONS ON NEW INITIATIVES.—The  
9       Director of the Peace Corps should consult with the appro-  
10      priate congressional committees with respect to any major  
11      new initiatives not previously discussed in the latest an-  
12      nual report submitted to the Congress under subsection  
13      (a) or in budget presentations. Wherever possible, such  
14      consultations should take place prior to the initiation of  
15      such initiatives, but in any event as soon as practicable  
16      thereafter.”.

17      (b) ONE TIME REPORT ON STUDENT LOAN FOR-  
18      GIVENESS PROGRAMS.—Not later than 30 days after the  
19      date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall sub-  
20      mit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-  
21      port—

22              (1) describing the student loan forgiveness pro-  
23              grams currently available to Peace Corps volunteers  
24              upon completion of their service;



1           (2) comparing such programs with other Gov-  
2           ernment-sponsored student loan forgiveness pro-  
3           grams; and

4           (3) recommending any additional student loan  
5           forgiveness programs which could attract more ap-  
6           plicants from more low and middle income appli-  
7           cants facing high student loan obligations.

8   **SEC. 6. SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND PLACE-**  
9                   **MENT FOR COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERN-**  
10                  **MENTS ARE SEEKING TO FOSTER GREATER**  
11                  **UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR CITIZENS**  
12                  **AND THE UNITED STATES.**

13       (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit  
15 a report to the appropriate congressional committees de-  
16 scribing the initiatives that the Peace Corps intends to  
17 pursue with eligible countries where the presence of Peace  
18 Corps volunteers would facilitate a greater understanding  
19 that there exists a universe of commonly shared human  
20 values and aspirations. Such report shall include—

21           (1) a description of the recruitment strategies  
22           to be employed by the Peace Corps to recruit and  
23           train volunteers with the appropriate language skills  
24           and interest in serving in such countries; and

1           (2) a list of the countries that the Director has  
2       determined should be priorities for special recruit-  
3       ment and placement of Peace Corps volunteers.

4       (b) **USE OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUN-**  
5 **TEERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
6 Director is authorized and strongly urged to utilize the  
7 services of returned Peace Corps volunteers having lan-  
8 guage and cultural expertise, including those returned  
9 Peace Corps volunteers who may have served previously  
10 in countries with substantial Muslim populations, in order  
11 to open or reopen Peace Corps programs in such coun-  
12 tries.

13 **SEC. 7. GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES INITIATIVE.**

14       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in cooperation with  
15 international public health experts such as the Centers for  
16 Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes  
17 of Health, the World Health Organization, the Pan Amer-  
18 ican Health Organization, and local public health officials  
19 shall develop a program of training for all Peace Corps  
20 volunteers in the areas of education, prevention, and treat-  
21 ment of infectious diseases in order to ensure that all  
22 Peace Corps volunteers make a contribution to the global  
23 campaign against such diseases.

24       (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) AIDS.—The term “AIDS” means the ac-  
2       quired immune deficiency syndrome.

3           (2) HIV.—The term “HIV” means the human  
4       immunodeficiency virus, the pathogen that causes  
5       AIDS.

6           (3) HIV/AIDS.—The term “HIV/AIDS”  
7       means, with respect to an individual, an individual  
8       who is infected with HIV or living with AIDS.

9           (4) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The term “infec-  
10      tious diseases” means HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and  
11      malaria.

12 **SEC. 8. PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

13       Section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2511;  
14   relating to the Peace Corps National Advisory Council)  
15   is amended—

16           (1) by amending subsection (b)(2)(D) to read  
17       as follows:

18                   “(D) make recommendations for utilizing  
19       the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-  
20       teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace  
21       Corps.”;

22           (2) in subsection (c)—

23                   (A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

24                           (i) in the first sentence, by striking  
25                   “fifteen” and inserting “seven”; and

1 (ii) by striking the second sentence  
2 and inserting the following: “Four of the  
3 members shall be former Peace Corps vol-  
4 unteers, at least one of whom shall have  
5 been a former staff member abroad or in  
6 the Washington headquarters, and not  
7 more than four of the members shall be  
8 members of the same political party.”;

9 (B) by amending subparagraph (D) to  
10 read as follows:

11 “(D) The members of the council shall be appointed  
12 to 2-year terms.”;

13 (C) by striking subparagraphs (B) and  
14 (H); and

15 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (C),  
16 (D), (E), (F), (G), and (I) as subparagraphs  
17 (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively;

18 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-  
19 lows:

20 “(g) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one of  
21 the voting members of the Council as Chair, who shall  
22 serve in that capacity for a period not to exceed two  
23 years.”;

24 (4) by amending subsection (h) to read as fol-  
25 lows:

1 “(h) MEETINGS.—The Council shall hold a regular  
 2 meeting during each calendar quarter at a date and time  
 3 to be determined by the Chair of the Council.”; and

4 (5) by amending subsection (i) to read as fol-  
 5 lows:

6 “(i) REPORT.—Not later than July 30, 2003, and an-  
 7 nually thereafter, the Council shall submit a report to the  
 8 President and the Director of the Peace Corps describing  
 9 how the Council has carried out its functions under sub-  
 10 section (b)(2).”.

11 **SEC. 9. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES.**

12 The Peace Corps Act is amended—

13 (1) in section 5(c) (22 U.S.C. 2504(c)), by  
 14 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”; and

15 (2) in section 6(1) (22 U.S.C. 2505(1)), by  
 16 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”.

17 **SEC. 10. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF RETURNED PEACE**

18 **CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO PROMOTE THE**

19 **GOALS OF THE PEACE CORPS.**

20 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
 21 vide support for returned Peace Corps volunteers to de-  
 22 velop and carry out programs and projects to promote the  
 23 third purpose of the Peace Corps Act, as set forth in sec-  
 24 tion 2(a) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2501(a)), by promoting

1 a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the  
2 American people.

3 (b) GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT CORPORA-  
4 TIONS.—

5 (1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—To carry out the pur-  
6 pose of this section, and subject to the availability  
7 of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the  
8 Corporation for National and Community Service  
9 (referred to in this section as the “Corporation”)  
10 shall award grants on a competitive basis to private  
11 nonprofit corporations for the purpose of enabling  
12 returned Peace Corps volunteers to use their knowl-  
13 edge and expertise to develop and carry out the pro-  
14 grams and projects described in subsection (a).

15 (2) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Such pro-  
16 grams and projects may include—

17 (A) educational programs designed to en-  
18 rich the knowledge and interest of elementary  
19 school and secondary school students in the ge-  
20 ography and cultures of other countries where  
21 the volunteers have served;

22 (B) projects that involve partnerships with  
23 local libraries to enhance community knowledge  
24 about other peoples and countries; and

1 (C) audio-visual projects that utilize mate-  
2 rials collected by the volunteers during their  
3 service that would be of educational value to  
4 communities.

5 (3) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible  
6 to compete for grants under this section, a nonprofit  
7 corporation shall have a board of directors composed  
8 of returned Peace Corps volunteers with a back-  
9 ground in community service, education, or health.  
10 The nonprofit corporation shall meet all appropriate  
11 Corporation management requirements, as deter-  
12 mined by the Corporation.

13 (c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—Such grants shall be  
14 made pursuant to a grant agreement between the Cor-  
15 poration and the nonprofit corporation that requires  
16 that—

17 (1) the grant funds will only be used to support  
18 programs and projects described in subsection (a)  
19 pursuant to proposals submitted by returned Peace  
20 Corps volunteers (either individually or cooperatively  
21 with other returned volunteers);

22 (2) the nonprofit corporation will give consider-  
23 ation to funding individual programs or projects by  
24 returned Peace Corps volunteers, in amounts of not  
25 more than \$100,000, under this section;

1           (3) not more than 20 percent of the grant  
2 funds made available to the nonprofit corporation  
3 will be used for the salaries, overhead, or other ad-  
4 ministrative expenses of the nonprofit corporation;

5           (4) the nonprofit corporation will not receive  
6 grant funds for programs or projects under this sec-  
7 tion for a third or subsequent year unless the non-  
8 profit corporation makes available, to carry out the  
9 programs or projects during that year, non-Federal  
10 contributions—

11                 (A) in an amount not less than \$2 for  
12 every \$3 of Federal funds provided through the  
13 grant; and

14                 (B) provided directly or through donations  
15 from private entities, in cash or in kind, fairly  
16 evaluated, including plant, equipment, or serv-  
17 ices; and

18           (5) the nonprofit corporation shall manage,  
19 monitor, and submit reports to the Corporation on  
20 each program or project for which the nonprofit cor-  
21 poration receives a grant under this section.

22         (d) STATUS OF THE FUND.—Nothing in this section  
23 shall be construed to make any nonprofit corporation sup-  
24 ported under this section an agency or establishment of  
25 the Federal Government or to make the members of the



1 board of directors or any officer or employee of such non-  
2 profit corporation an officer or employee of the United  
3 States.

4 (e) FACTORS IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In deter-  
5 mining the number of nonprofit corporations to receive  
6 grants under this section for any fiscal year, the Corpora-  
7 tion—

8 (1) shall take into consideration the need to  
9 minimize overhead costs that direct resources from  
10 the funding of programs and projects; and

11 (2) shall seek to ensure a broad geographical  
12 distribution of grants for programs and projects  
13 under this section.

14 (f) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Grant recipients  
15 under this section shall be subject to the appropriate over-  
16 sight procedures of the Congress.

17 (g) FUNDING.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
19 appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000.  
20 Such sum shall be in addition to funds made avail-  
21 able to the Corporation under Federal law other  
22 than this section.

23 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-  
24 suant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain  
25 available until expended.

1 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 3(b)(1) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.  
3 2502(b)(1)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “2002, and” and inserting  
5 “2002,”; and

6 (2) by inserting before the period the following:

7 “, \$465,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$500,000,000  
8 for fiscal year 2005, \$560,000,000 for fiscal year  
9 2006, and \$560,000,000 for fiscal year 2007”.

○