Calendar No. 454

111TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 1382

[Report No. 111-219]

To improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 25, 2009

Mr. Dodd (for himself, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Begich, Mr. Udall of New Mexico, Mr. Reid, Mr. Rockefeller, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Kerry, Mr. Nelson of Florida, and Mr. Isakson) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

June 29, 2010

Reported by Mr. KERRY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, 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,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Peace Corps Improve-
3	ment and Expansion Act of 2009".
4	SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
5	Congress makes the following findings:
6	(1) Firmly established beliefs of the Peace
7	Corps include the following:
8	(A) The act of volunteering has inherent
9	value.
10	(B) The foreign policy goals of the United
11	States are advanced by—
12	(i) contributing to the reduction of
13	poverty; and
14	(ii) fostering international under-
15	standing.
16	(2) More than 195,000 volunteers have ably
17	served in the Peace Corps in 139 countries by—
18	(A) working towards economic and social
19	development; and
20	(B) promoting a better understanding of
21	(i) the people of the United States on
22	the part of the peoples served; and
23	(ii) other peoples on the part of the
24	people of the United States.
25	(3) Today, the importance and necessity is
26	greater than ever for the Peace Corps—

1	(A) to promote global economic and social
2	development;
3	(B) to promote understanding and friend-
4	ship; and
5	(C) to foster collaboration with inter-
6	national nongovernmental organizations.
7	(4) Since 1961, a bi-partisan succession of
8	Presidents and Congresses have endorsed the expan-
9	sion of the Peace Corps in order—
10	(A) to meet requests from countries to in-
11	crease the size of the Peace Corps programs in
12	their countries;
13	(B) to initiate Peace Corps programs in
14	countries where the Peace Corps does not cur-
15	rently operate;
16	(C) to provide more opportunities for the
17	people of the United States to engage in volun-
18	teer service abroad; and
19	(D) to renew dormant Peace Corps pro-
20	grams.
21	(5) The purpose of the Peace Corps, as de-
22	elared by section 2(a) of the Peace Corps Act (22
23	U.S.C. 2501), is to promote world peace and friend-
24	ship by helping—

1	(A) the people of interested countries in
2	meeting their needs for trained men and
3	women, particularly in meeting the basic needs
4	of those living in the poorest areas of such
5	countries;
6	(B) to promote a better understanding of
7	people of the United States on the part of the
8	peoples served; and
9	(C) to promote a better understanding of
10	other peoples on the part of the people of the
11	United States.
12	(6) As the Peace Corps reaches its 50th anni-
13	versary in 2010, a new forward-looking strategy
14	should be developed to improve the effectiveness and
15	efficiency of the Peace Corps in pursuing the goals
16	described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-
17	graph (5) by analyzing and accounting for the
18	strengths and weaknesses of the following:
19	(A) The program model of the Peace
20	Corps.
21	(B) The current and planned distribution
22	of Peace Corps volunteers throughout the
23	world.
24	(C) Partnership opportunities and oper-
25	ations of the Peace Corps.

1	(D) Recruitment and management prac-
2	tices of the Peace Corps with respect to the di-
3	versity of Peace Corps volunteers and staff.
4	SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROV-
5	ING AND EXPANDING PEACE CORPS.
6	(a) Assessment.—
7	(1) In General.—Not later than 90 days after
8	the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
9	of the Peace Corps shall complete the assessment
10	described in paragraph (2) to determine how best—
11	(A) to strengthen the management capa-
12	bilities and program effectiveness of the Peace
13	Corps;
14	(B) to expand opportunities for Peace
15	Corps volunteers; and
16	(C) to increase the size of the Peace Corps.
17	(2) Assessment Described.—The assessment
18	described in this paragraph means an assessment
19	of
20	(A) how the purpose of the Peace Corps
21	declared under section 2(a) of the Peace Corps
22	Act (22 U.S.C. 2501(a)) translates into tan-
23	gible strategic plans for the Peace Corps;
24	(B) the distribution of Peace Corps volun-
25	teers in country programs, including how and

1	why volunteers are assigned to various countries
2	and jurisdictions of within countries;
3	(C) the most effective and efficient meth-
4	ods of improving support for the Peace Corps
5	goal of promoting a better understanding of
6	other peoples on the part of the people of the
7	United States;
8	(D) the prospects for partnerships with
9	international and host country nongovernmental
10	organizations and other entities to achieve the
11	goals of the Peace Corps through development
12	projects;
13	(E) the adequacy of the current program
14	model of the Peace Corps and the feasibility of
15	program models such as the Peace Corps Re-
16	sponse Program;
17	(F) the effectiveness and efficiency of vol-
18	unteer recruitment strategies, methods, and re-
19	source allocations used by the Peace Corps;
20	(G) the effectiveness of the Peace Corps in
21	recruiting ethnically, socio-economically, and
22	geographically diverse volunteers with wide-
23	ranging skills and interests;
24	(H) the skills and interests of current
25	Peace Corps volunteers;

1	(I) options for diversification of the skills
2	and interests of Peace Corps volunteers, includ-
3	ing volunteers with skills and interests that re-
4	late to public health, information technology,
5	urban planning, social services, communica-
6	tions, and community organizing;
7	(J) the Peace Corps volunteer training
8	programs;
9	(K) the options available to volunteers to
10	suspend payment of student loans while serving
11	in the Peace Corps;
12	(L) the medical care received by volunteers
13	while serving in the Peace Corps;
14	(M) the procedures of the Peace Corps for
15	mandatory medical separation of volunteers
16	serving in the Peace Corps;
17	(N) the medical screening process for vol-
18	unteers entering service in the Peace Corps, in-
19	cluding-
20	(i) the cost to the Peace Corps of pro-
21	viding full reimbursement for medical tests
22	under taken by volunteers applying for or
23	entering service in the Peace Corps;

1	(ii) expanded information for appli-
2	cants including potentially disqualifying
3	medical conditions; and
4	(iii) the cost of extending the medical
5	care provided by the Peace Corps to volun-
6	teers serving in the Peace Corps to include
7	the 5-month period beginning on the date
8	on which a volunteer completes service in
9	the Peace Corps;
10	(O) the causes of the early termination of
11	service in the Peace Corps, using the cohort
12	and other statistically appropriate methods and
13	the reasons cited by volunteers terminating
14	their service in the Peace Corps early;
15	(P) how the Peace Corps can utilize infor-
16	mation technology to improve—
17	(i) program efficiency, effectiveness,
18	and coordination; and
19	(ii) communication among volunteers;
20	(Q) mechanisms for soliciting the views of
21	volunteers serving in the Peace Corps, on a con-
22	fidential basis, regarding—
23	(i) the support provided to such volun-
24	teers by senior staff of the Peace Corps;
25	and

1	(ii) the operations of the Peace Corps,
2	including—
3	(I) staffing decisions;
4	(H) site selection;
5	(III) language training;
6	(IV) country programs; and
7	(V) dialogue with host country
8	partners and ministries; and
9	(R) mechanisms for incorporating the
10	views solicited in subparagraph (Q) into pro-
11	gramming and management decisions of the
12	Peace Corps.
13	(3) METHOD.—The assessment shall—
14	(A) be built on a review of past experiences
15	and studies; and
16	(B) draw on the knowledge of—
17	(i) current Peace Corps volunteers
18	and staff, at all levels of seniority;
19	(ii) returned Peace Corps volunteers
20	and staff; and
21	(iii) host country nationals and offi-
22	cials who have worked closely with Peace
23	Corps volunteers.
24	(b) Strategic Plan.—

1	(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2	after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
3	rector of the Peace Corps shall develop, based on the
4	assessment required under subsection (a), a stra-
5	tegic plan for the Peace Corps that—
6	(A) encompasses the findings of the Direc-
7	tor with respect to the assessment required
8	under subsection (a); and
9	(B) includes the matters described in para-
10	graph (2).
11	(2) MATTERS DESCRIBED.—The matters de-
12	seribed in this paragraph include the following:
13	(A) 1-year and 5-year goals and bench-
14	marks for the Peace Corps that address—
15	(i) each matter included in the assess-
16	ment required under subsection (a); and
17	(ii) such other matters as the Director
18	considers appropriate.
19	(B) Strategies for—
20	(i) distributing volunteers to countries
21	in which they have maximum value-added
22	for the host country, for the United States,
23	and for the volunteers themselves;
24	(ii) identifying countries with strategic
25	value to Peace Corps goals, currently not

1	served or dormant, and proposals for start-
2	ing new country programs or re-activating
3	dormant programs, as well as countries
4	with less strategie relevance to Peace
5	Corps goals, including proposals for reduc-
6	ing or closing such country programs;
7	(iii) balancing the Peace Corps' inde-
8	pendence with its need to remain relevant
9	to broader United States foreign goals; and
10	(iv) ensuring that Peace Corps oper-
l 1	ations and goals are not adversely affected
12	in situations where the bi-lateral relation-
13	ship between the host country and the
14	United States is problematic.
15	(e) Report.—
16	(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days
17	after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
18	rector of the Peace Corps shall submit to the appro-
19	priate congressional committees a report that in-
20	cludes—
21	(A) the findings of the Director with re-
22	spect to the assessment required under sub-
23	section (a); and
24	(B) the strategic plan developed under sub-
25	section (b).

1	(2) Appropriate congressional commit-
2	TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "ap-
3	propriate congressional committees" means—
4	(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
5	and the Committee on Appropriations of the
6	Senate; and
7	(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
8	the Committee on Appropriations of the House
9	of Representatives.
10	SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL AP-
11	POINTMENTS UNDER PEACE CORPS ACT.
12	The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is
13	amended by inserting after section 19 the following:
14	"SEC. 20. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF POLITICAL APPOINT-
15	MENTS.
16	"Except for appointments made under section 12, the
17	President may not make more than 15 concurrent ap-
10	
18	pointments under this Act.".
18	pointments under this Act.". SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
19	SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
19 20	SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
19 20 21	Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502(b)) is amended to read as follows:
19 20 21 22	Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502(b)) is amended to read as follows: "(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1	"(B) \$575,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;
2	and
3	"(C) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.
4	"(2) Availability of funds.—Amounts au-
5	thorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) for
6	a fiscal year are authorized to remain available for
7	that fiscal year and the subsequent fiscal year.".
8	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
9	This Act may be cited as the "Peace Corps Improve-
10	ment and Expansion Act of 2010".
11	SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
12	Congress makes the following findings:
13	(1) Firmly established beliefs of the Peace Corps
14	include the following:
15	(A) The act of volunteering has inherent
16	value.
17	(B) The foreign policy goals of the United
18	States are advanced by—
19	(i) contributing to the reduction of
20	poverty; and
21	(ii) fostering international under-
22	standing.
23	(2) More than 195,000 volunteers have ably
24	served in the Peace Corps in 139 countries by—

1	(A) working towards economic and social					
2	development; and					
3	(B) promoting a better understanding of—					
4	(i) the people of the United States on					
5	the part of the peoples served; and					
6	(ii) other peoples on the part of the					
7	people of the United States.					
8	(3) Today, the importance and necessity is great-					
9	er than ever for the Peace Corps—					
10	(A) to promote global economic and social					
11	development;					
12	(B) to promote understanding and friend-					
13	ship; and					
14	(C) to foster collaboration with inter-					
15	$national\ nongovernmental\ organizations.$					
16	(4) Since 1961, a bi-partisan succession of Presi-					
17	dents and Congresses have endorsed the expansion of					
18	the Peace Corps in order—					
19	(A) to meet requests from countries to in-					
20	crease the size of the Peace Corps programs in					
21	$their\ countries;$					
22	(B) to initiate Peace Corps programs in					
23	countries where the Peace Corps does not cur-					
24	rently operate;					

1	(C) to provide more opportunities for the
2	people of the United States to engage in volun-
3	teer service abroad; and
4	(D) to renew dormant Peace Corps pro-
5	grams.
6	(5) The purpose of the Peace Corps, as declared
7	by section 2(a) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
8	2501), is to promote world peace and friendship by
9	helping—
10	(A) the people of interested countries in
11	meeting their needs for trained men and women,
12	particularly in meeting the basic needs of those
13	living in the poorest areas of such countries;
14	(B) to promote a better understanding of
15	people of the United States on the part of the
16	peoples served; and
17	(C) to promote a better understanding of
18	other peoples on the part of the people of the
19	United States.
20	(6) As the Peace Corps reaches its 50th anniver-
21	sary in 2011, a new forward-looking strategy should
22	be developed to improve the effectiveness and effi-
23	ciency of the Peace Corps in pursuing the goals de-
24	scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-

1	graph (5) by analyzing and accounting for the
2	strengths and weaknesses of the following:
3	(A) The program model of the Peace Corps.
4	(B) The current and planned distribution of
5	Peace Corps volunteers throughout the world.
6	(C) Partnership opportunities and oper-
7	ations of the Peace Corps.
8	(D) Recruitment and management practices
9	of the Peace Corps with respect to the diversity
10	of Peace Corps volunteers and staff.
11	SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROV-
12	ING AND EXPANDING PEACE CORPS.
13	(a) Assessment.—
14	(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after
15	the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of
16	the Peace Corps shall complete the assessment de-
17	scribed in paragraph (2) to determine how best—
18	(A) to strengthen the management capabili-
19	ties and program effectiveness of the Peace
20	Corps;
21	(B) to expand opportunities for Peace Corps
22	volunteers; and
23	(C) to increase the size of the Peace Corps.

1	(2) Assessment described.—The assessment
2	described in this paragraph means an assessment
3	of—
4	(A) how the purpose of the Peace Corps de-
5	clared under section 2(a) of the Peace Corps Act
6	(22 U.S.C. 2501(a)) translates into tangible stra-
7	tegic plans for the Peace Corps;
8	(B) the distribution of Peace Corps volun-
9	teers in country programs, including how and
10	why volunteers are assigned to various countries
11	and jurisdictions of within countries;
12	(C) the most effective and efficient methods
13	of improving and strengthening activities relat-
14	ing to the Peace Corps' goal of promoting a bet-
15	ter understanding of other peoples on the part of
16	the people of the United States, including en-
17	hanced funding to implement, scale, and rep-
18	licate such activities;
19	(D) the prospects for partnerships with
20	international and host country nongovernmental
21	organizations and other entities to achieve the
22	goals of the Peace Corps through development
23	projects;
24	(E) the adequacy of the current program
25	model of the Peace Corps and the feasibility of

1	program models such as the Peace Corps Re-
2	sponse Program;
3	(F) the effectiveness and efficiency of volun-
4	teer recruitment strategies, including strategies
5	for recruitment at graduate schools, methods,
6	and resource allocations used by the Peace Corps;
7	(G) the effectiveness of the Peace Corps in
8	recruiting ethnically, socio-economically, and
9	geographically diverse volunteers with wide-
10	ranging skills and interests;
11	(H) the skills and interests of current Peace
12	Corps volunteers;
13	(I) options for diversification of the skills
14	and interests of Peace Corps volunteers, includ-
15	ing volunteers with skills and interests that re-
16	late to public health, information technology,
17	urban planning, social services, communications,
18	and community organizing;
19	(J) the Peace Corps volunteer training pro-
20	grams;
21	(K) the options available to volunteers to
22	suspend payment of student loans while serving
23	in the Peace Corps;
24	(L) the medical care received by volunteers
25	while serving in the Peace Corps;

1	(M) the procedures of the Peace Corps for
2	mandatory medical separation of volunteers serv-
3	ing in the Peace Corps;
4	(N) the medical screening process for volun-
5	teers entering service in the Peace Corps, includ-
6	ing—
7	(i) the cost to the Peace Corps of pro-
8	viding full reimbursement for medical tests
9	under taken by volunteers applying for or
10	entering service in the Peace Corps;
11	(ii) expanded information for appli-
12	cants including potentially disqualifying
13	medical conditions; and
14	(iii) the cost of extending the medical
15	care provided by the Peace Corps to volun-
16	teers serving in the Peace Corps to include
17	the 5-month period beginning on the date
18	on which a volunteer completes service in
19	the Peace Corps;
20	(O) the causes of the early termination of
21	service in the Peace Corps, using the cohort and
22	other statistically appropriate methods and the
23	reasons cited by volunteers terminating their
24	service in the Peace Corps early;

1	(P) how the Peace Corps can utilize infor-						
2	mation technology to improve—						
3	(i) program efficiency, effectiveness,						
4	and coordination; and						
5	(ii) communication among volunteers;						
6	(Q) mechanisms for soliciting the views of						
7	volunteers serving in the Peace Corps, on a con-						
8	fidential basis, regarding—						
9	(i) the support provided to such volun-						
10	teers by senior staff of the Peace Corps; and						
11	(ii) the operations of the Peace Corps,						
12	including—						
13	$(I) \ staffing \ decisions;$						
14	$(II)\ site\ selection;$						
15	$(III)\ language\ training;$						
16	(IV) country programs; and						
17	(V) dialogue with host country						
18	partners and ministries;						
19	(R) mechanisms for incorporating the views						
20	solicited in subparagraph (Q) into programming						
21	and management decisions of the Peace Corps;						
22	and						
23	(S) the adequacy of various post-service						
24	benefits for volunteers and the potential impact						

1	of such benefits on increasing, diversifying, and
2	improving the pool of Peace Corps applicants.
3	(3) Method.—The assessment shall—
4	(A) be built on a review of past experiences
5	and studies; and
6	(B) draw on the knowledge of—
7	(i) current Peace Corps volunteers and
8	staff, at all levels of seniority;
9	(ii) returned Peace Corps volunteers
10	and staff; and
11	(iii) host country nationals and offi-
12	cials who have worked closely with Peace
13	Corps volunteers.
14	(b) Strategic Plan.—
15	(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after
16	the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of
17	the Peace Corps shall develop, based on the assessment
18	required under subsection (a), a strategic plan for the
19	Peace Corps that—
20	(A) encompasses the findings of the Director
21	with respect to the assessment required under
22	subsection (a); and
23	(B) includes the matters described in para-
24	graph (2).

1	(2) Matters described.—The matters de-						
2	scribed in this paragraph include the following:						
3	(A) 1-year and 5-year goals and bench-						
4	marks for the Peace Corps that address—						
5	(i) each matter included in the assess-						
6	ment required under subsection (a); and						
7	(ii) such other matters as the Director						
8	$considers\ appropriate.$						
9	(B) Strategies for—						
10	(i) distributing volunteers to countries						
11	in which they have maximum value-added						
12	for the host country, for the United States,						
13	and for the volunteers themselves;						
14	(ii) identifying countries with strategic						
15	value to Peace Corps goals, currently not						
16	served or dormant, and proposals for start-						
17	ing new country programs or re-activating						
18	dormant programs, as well as countries						
19	with less strategic relevance to Peace Corps						
20	goals, including proposals for reducing or						
21	closing such country programs;						
22	(iii) balancing the Peace Corps' inde-						
23	pendence with its need to remain relevant						
24	to broader United States foreign goals; and						

1	(iv) ensuring that Peace Corps oper-					
2	ations and goals are not adversely affected					
3	in situations where the bi-lateral relation-					
4	ship between the host country and the					
5	United States is problematic.					
6	(c) Report.—					
7	(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after					
8	the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of					
9	the Peace Corps shall submit to the appropriate con-					
10	gressional committees a report that includes—					
11	(A) the findings of the Director with respect					
12	to the assessment required under subsection (a);					
13	and					
14	(B) the strategic plan developed under sub-					
15	section (b).					
16	(2) Appropriate congressional committees					
17	Defined.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate					
18	congressional committees" means—					
19	(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations					
20	and the Committee on Appropriations of the					
21	Senate; and					
22	(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and					
23	the Committee on Appropriations of the House of					
24	Representatives.					

- 1 SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NUMBER OF PRESI-
- 2 DENTIAL APPOINTMENTS UNDER PEACE
- 3 CORPS ACT.
- 4 It is the sense of Congress that, except for appoint-
- 5 ments made under section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22
- 6 U.S.C. 2511), the President should not make more than 15
- 7 concurrent appointments under such Act (22 U.S.C. 2501
- 8 *et seq.*).
- 9 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 10 Section 3(b)(1) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
- 11 2502(b)(1)) is amended by striking "are authorized" and
- 12 all that follows through the period at the end and inserting
- 13 the following: "is authorized to be appropriated to carry
- 14 out the purposes of this chapter such sums as may be nec-
- 15 essary for such purposes.".

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A BILL

To improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

Reported with an amendment June 29, 2010