

Volunteers started arriving in five countries through 1962. In just under six years under the leadership of its first Director, Sargent Shriver, the Peace Corps developed programs in 55 countries with a volunteer count of more than 15,000. As of now, over 200,000 Americans have served in 139 developing countries. Whole families have served in the program, which leads me to believe that the Peace Corps is an American institution, its value time-tested and its image recognized on a global scale.

As a Member of Congress dedicated to strengthening American security, at home and abroad, I can think of no other American program that does better work to promote peace and goodwill at the grassroots level among everyday people in the world's developing countries. Every Peace Corps volunteer is an ambassador, living simply and building lasting relationships with their community partners, day in and day out. Some of these partners have gone on to serve their own countries internationally as diplomats. Many more become teachers, businesspeople, and local leaders who invest in their country, continuing and improving upon the work inspired by a Peace Corps volunteer. In making more friends around the globe and helping people take the lead in solving their own problems through collaborative means, the Peace Corps makes the world safer.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to building institutional capacity and promoting a positive model of Americans abroad, the Peace Corps has a third component: It educates Americans about the world beyond our shores and promotes long-term cross-cultural understanding. Returned Peace Corps volunteers will talk about their experiences and offer insights into the cultures of their host countries for the rest of their lives. They will seek out public forums and encourage others interested in making the journey. They will possess a perspective of the world, and of its inhabitants, unattainable by any other means. They will also continue to

serve the public interest. In this way, the Peace Corps improves America as it does any other country.

Mr. Speaker, since the age of 6 I have wanted to work for others, and though I was a little girl at the time, I was touched by the energy of President Kennedy and came of age as the Peace Corps flourished. The spirit of service has never left me. The ideals of the Peace Corps fell across a generation, and to all those volunteers who heeded the call, I thank you for your service.

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INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVING  
COMPACT-IMPACT ASSISTANCE  
FOR EDUCATION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce a bill to expand the Federal Impact Aid Program to reimburse schools for the costs of educating students from the Freely Associated States (FAS), residing in the United States, including the territories. This legislation was H.R. 4695 in the 111th Congress and it enjoyed bipartisan support. Impact Aid was originally authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1965 to compensate local school districts for the costs of educating federally connected children. Examples of these kinds of students include those whose parents live on military bases, live on Indian lands, or are the children of accredited foreign diplomats. However, the Impact Aid Program does not compensate local schools for the costs incurred by educating students from the FAS.

The United States entered into the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau and

under the Compacts, citizens of these countries can enter the United States without a visa. Thus, children whose parents are citizens of the FAS are in schools in the states and territories under a special immigration category and are federally connected just as children of military families are similarly federally connected. This legislation would provide a means for the federal government to provide assistance to impacted local education authorities.

Mr. Speaker, the economic downturn has forced many local school districts to cut education budgets. This is a longstanding issue for affected jurisdictions and they need this to be redressed now more than ever. I will continue to make this, and all unreimbursed compact-impact funds, a priority in the 112th Congress. I would like to thank Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. SABLON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. HANABUSA for their support as original co-sponsors. I will work with these co-sponsors to pass this bill.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,172,957,589,856.62.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,534,531,843,562.80 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for February 2011.  
SH-216

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SH-219 following the open session.  
SD-G50

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars.  
345, Cannon Building

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter A. Diamond, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Katharine G. Abraham, of Iowa, and Carl Shapiro, of California, both to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President.  
SD-538

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the report of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.  
SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Bruce Lyons, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy.  
SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine if the tax system supports economic efficiency, job creation and broad-based economic growth.  
SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine State Department training, focusing on investing in the workforce to address 21st century challenges.  
SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012.  
SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act".  
SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Transportation.  
SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Heather A. Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.  
SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Budget  
To hold hearings to examine distribution and efficiency of spending in the tax code.  
SD-608

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2011 trade agenda.  
SD-215

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.  
SD-226

Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
Business meeting to mark up the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Reauthorization Act of 2011.  
SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for the Federal Highway Administration.  
SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the state of the housing market.  
SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine realizing NASA's potential, focusing on programmatic challenges in the 21st century.  
SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine new tools for curbing waste and fraud in Medicare and Medicaid.  
SD-342

3 p.m.

Appropriations  
Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of the Interior.  
SD-124

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine on the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SH-219 following the open session.  
SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 398, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve energy efficiency of certain appliances and equipment, and S. 395, to repeal certain amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act with respect to lighting energy efficiency.  
SD-366

Appropriations

Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Transportation.  
SD-138

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.  
SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

3 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine information sharing in the era of WikiLeaks, focusing on balancing security and collaboration.  
SD-342

MARCH 15

10:15 a.m.

Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the "Freedom of Information Act", focusing on ensuring transparency and accountability in the digital age.  
SD-226

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations from AMVETS, Jewish War Veterans, Military Officers Association of America, Gold Star Wives, Blinded Veterans Association, Non Commissioned Officers