

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March XX, 2010

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Gregg,

We respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2011.

Last year, thanks to your leadership, significant steps were taken to advance an improved, emboldened, and expanded Peace Corps. The planned return of volunteers to Indonesia and Sierra Leone is an exciting indicator that the Peace Corps is about to begin a new era of revitalization. The Peace Corps is in the process of conducting a strategic assessment and will report to Congress later this year on how it can best assist in addressing the key global challenges of the 21st century. Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams has a proven record in the fields of international development, service and volunteerism, and building strategic partnerships. His stated goals of targeted growth, innovation across all agency sectors and enhanced efforts to bring the Peace Corps volunteer experience home to America are forward-thinking initiatives that will strengthen the Peace Corps, contribute to our national security and benefit tens of thousands of our fellow citizens.

While Fiscal Year 2010 funding provided a strong step forward, we must sustain this path to fulfill the promise and possibility of the Peace Corps. Many countries continue to seek volunteers, and the number of Peace Corps applications continue to rise.

President Obama recognizes the importance of Peace Corps service, recommending \$446 million for the Peace Corps in his FY 2011 budget request. By once again supporting a robust funding level for the Peace Corps, you will advance key initiatives outlined above and maintain the important, positive outreach to the world that Peace Corps provides.

The Peace Corps has benefited from bi-partisan support throughout its nearly fifty year history, and we appreciate the support you have provided in the past. We look forward to your continued leadership in helping to advance the Peace Corps and the cause of service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Chris Dodd



Ben Cardin