

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide Peace Corps volunteers whose service was terminated as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic with unemployment compensation, health insurance, and expedited employment opportunities, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MURPHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To provide Peace Corps volunteers whose service was terminated as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic with unemployment compensation, health insurance, and expedited employment opportunities, 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 “Utilizing and Sup-  
5       porting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.**

7       In this section, the term “applicable individual”  
8       means an individual—

1           (1) who was serving as a Peace Corp volunteer  
2 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

3           (2) whose period of service was subject to early  
4 termination as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;  
5 and

6           (3) who is unemployed and not eligible for reg-  
7 ular unemployment compensation or extended unem-  
8 ployment benefits under State or Federal law, in-  
9 cluding an individual who has exhausted all rights to  
10 regular unemployment or extended benefits under  
11 State or Federal law.

12 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF INCLUSION OF PEACE CORPS**  
13 **VOLUNTEERS IN FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEM-**  
14 **PLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.**

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
16 retary of Labor shall deem applicable individuals as cov-  
17 ered individuals for purposes of section 2102 of the Relief  
18 for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act (subtitle A of  
19 title II of division A of Public Law 116–136).

20 **SEC. 4. HEALTH INSURANCE CONTINUATION FOR PEACE**  
21 **CORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

22 Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.  
23 2504(e)) is amended—

24           (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(e)”; and

25           (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) A volunteer whose period of service was subject  
2 to early termination as a result of the COVID–19 public  
3 health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public  
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) shall receive—

5 “(A) 2 months of health insurance that pro-  
6 vides similar coverage to the coverage provided  
7 through health insurance for volunteers upon their  
8 return to the United States; and

9 “(B) an opportunity to extend such health in-  
10 surance, at the expense of such volunteer, until the  
11 last day of the last week for which the volunteer is  
12 eligible for payments under section 3 of the Utilizing  
13 and Supporting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers  
14 Act.”.

15 **SEC. 5. EXPEDITED HIRING FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUN-**  
16 **TEERS.**

17 (a) **NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY HIRING STA-**  
18 **TUS.**—Every Federal department and agency facing crit-  
19 ical hiring needs as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic  
20 shall establish a process by which their staff with hiring  
21 authority receive information from the Office of Personnel  
22 Management about the noncompetitive eligibility hiring  
23 status of former Peace Corps volunteers, including an ex-  
24 pedited process for hiring such individuals who meet the  
25 minimum qualifications of a vacant position.

1 (b) CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY  
2 SERVICE.—The Chief Executive Officer of the Corpora-  
3 tion for National and Community Service, in coordination  
4 with the Director of the Peace Corps, shall establish an  
5 expedited process by which applicable individuals can pro-  
6 cure employment through AmeriCorps, FEMA Corps, or  
7 affiliated programs to help address the COVID–19 pan-  
8 demic.

9 **SEC. 6. RESUMPTION OF PEACE CORPS OPERATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the  
11 Director of the Peace Corps Director determines, as a re-  
12 sult of the cessation of the COVID–19 pandemic, that it  
13 is safe to resume Peace Corps operations worldwide, the  
14 Director shall resume all of its programs in every country  
15 in which it operated as of January 1, 2020.

16 (b) EXPEDITED REENROLLMENT PROCESS.—The  
17 Director of the Peace Corps shall establish an expedited  
18 process for the reenrollment of former Peace Corps Volun-  
19 teers whose service was interrupted as a result of the  
20 COVID–19 outbreak.

21 **SEC. 7. COORDINATION.**

22 The Director of the Peace Corps shall coordinate with  
23 the Secretary of Labor to implement this Act and the  
24 amendments made by this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act and section 5(e)(2) of the Peace Corps Act, as  
4 added by section 4(2) such sums as may be necessary for  
5 each of the fiscal years 2020 and 2021.