

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2699

To establish policies and procedures in the Peace Corps to provide for the safety and security of volunteers from rape and sexual assault, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. POE of Texas, and Ms. BUERKLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To establish policies and procedures in the Peace Corps to provide for the safety and security of volunteers from rape and sexual assault, 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 Volunteer  
5 Service Improvement Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS OF RAPE OR SEX-**  
7 **UAL ASSAULT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace Corps  
9 shall establish and maintain policies and procedures that

1 clearly establish a process for volunteers to make confiden-  
2 tial reports of rape or sexual assault.

3 (b) PENALTY.—Any Peace Corps volunteer or staff  
4 member who is responsible for maintaining confidentiality  
5 under subsection (a) and who breaches such duty shall be  
6 subject to disciplinary action, including termination, and  
7 in the case of a staff member, ineligibility for re-employ-  
8 ment with the Peace Corps.

9 (c) INCLUSION.—In this Act, Peace Corps volunteers  
10 includes trainees and Peace Corps staff members include  
11 any employee, contractor, expert, consultant, or Foreign  
12 Service national employed or contracted by the Peace  
13 Corps, whether in the United States or in a foreign coun-  
14 try.

15 **SEC. 3. SAFETY AND SECURITY AGREEMENT REGARDING**  
16 **PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN**  
17 **FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after  
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the  
20 Peace Corps shall consult with the Assistant Secretary of  
21 State for Diplomatic Security and enter into a memo-  
22 randum of understanding that specifies the duties and ob-  
23 ligations of the Peace Corps and the Bureau of Diplomatic  
24 Security of the Department of State with respect to the  
25 protection of Peace Corps volunteers and staff members

1 serving in foreign countries, including with respect to in-  
2 vestigations of safety and security incidents and crimes  
3 committed against such volunteers and staff members.

4 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—

5 (1) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the  
6 Peace Corps shall review the memorandum of under-  
7 standing described in subsection (a) and be afforded  
8 the opportunity to recommend changes that advance  
9 the safety and security of Peace Corps volunteers be-  
10 fore its entry into force.

11 (2) REPORT.—The Director of the Peace Corps  
12 shall consider the recommendations of the Inspector  
13 General of the Peace Corps regarding the memo-  
14 randum of understanding described in subsection  
15 (a). If the Director enters into such memorandum  
16 without implementing a recommendation of the In-  
17 spector General, the Director shall submit to the In-  
18 spector General a written explanation relating there-  
19 to.

20 (3) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—

21 (A) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT REPORT.—

22 If, by the date that is 6 months after the date  
23 of the enactment of this section, the Director of  
24 the Peace Corps is unable to obtain agreement  
25 with the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplo-

1           matic Security and certification by the Inspec-  
2           tor General of the Peace Corps, the Director  
3           shall submit to the committees of Congress  
4           specified in subparagraph (C) a report explain-  
5           ing the reasons for such failure.

6           (B) LIMITATION ON FUNDS.—If, by the  
7           date that is 9 months after the date of the en-  
8           actment of this section, the memorandum of  
9           understanding described in subsection (a) has  
10          not entered into force, no funds available to the  
11          Peace Corps may be obligated or expended to  
12          extend to Peace Corps volunteers invitations for  
13          service or to deploy Peace Corps trainees over-  
14          seas unless the Director of the Peace Corps cer-  
15          tifies to the committees of Congress specified in  
16          subparagraph (C) that—

17                 (i) significant progress is being made  
18                 toward finalizing such memorandum; and

19                 (ii) the Peace Corps is using best ef-  
20                 forts to provide volunteers with the train-  
21                 ing, support, and information they need to  
22                 stay safe and secure.

23          (C) COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS SPECI-  
24          FIED.—The committees of Congress specified in  
25          this subparagraph are the Committee on For-

1           eign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
2           and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
3           Senate.

4 **SEC. 4. INDEPENDENCE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF**  
5 **THE PEACE CORPS.**

6           The limitations specified in section 7(a)(2)(A) of the  
7 Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2506(a)(2)(A)) on the length  
8 of appointment or assignment under section 7(a)(2) of  
9 such Act, section 7(a)(2)(B) of such Act on reappointment  
10 or reassignment of an individual whose appointment or as-  
11 signment under section 7(a)(2) of such Act has been ter-  
12 minated, and section 7(a)(5) of such Act on the cir-  
13 cumstances under which an appointment or assignment  
14 under section 7(a)(2) of such Act may exceed five years  
15 shall not apply to—

16           (1) the Inspector General of the Peace Corps;  
17           and

18           (2) officers and employees of the Office of the  
19           Inspector General of the Peace Corps.

20 **SEC. 5. SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORTS.**

21           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace Corps  
22 shall annually submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
23 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
24 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the safety

1 of Peace Corps volunteers. Each such report shall at a  
2 minimum include the following information:

3 (1) The incidence of crimes, together with the  
4 number of arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations  
5 for every country in which volunteers serve for the  
6 preceding year.

7 (2) A three year trend analysis of the types and  
8 frequency of crimes committed against volunteers for  
9 every country in which the Peace Corps has operated  
10 for at least the three preceding years.

11 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—Not later than  
12 two years after the date of the enactment of this section  
13 and at least once every five years thereafter (or more fre-  
14 quently as appropriate), the Inspector General of the  
15 Peace Corps shall perform an audit of Peace Corps imple-  
16 mentation of safety and security protocols, including the  
17 status of any Inspector General findings and recommenda-  
18 tions from previous audits that have not been adequately  
19 remediated or implemented.

20 **SEC. 6. PORTFOLIO REVIEWS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Peace Corps  
22 shall, at least once every three years (or more frequently  
23 as appropriate), perform a review to evaluate the alloca-  
24 tion and delivery of resources across the countries the  
25 Peace Corps serves or is considering for service. Such

1 portfolio reviews shall at a minimum include the following  
2 with respect to each such country:

3 (1) An evaluation of the country's commitment  
4 to the Peace Corps program.

5 (2) An analysis of the safety and security of  
6 volunteers.

7 (3) An evaluation of the country's need for as-  
8 sistance.

9 (4) An analysis of country program costs.

10 (5) An evaluation of the effectiveness of man-  
11 agement of each post within a country.

12 (6) An evaluation of the country's congruence  
13 with the Peace Corps' mission and strategic prior-  
14 ities.

15 (b) REPORT.—The Director of the Peace Corps shall  
16 prepare a report on each portfolio review required under  
17 subsection (a). Each such report shall discuss performance  
18 measures and sources of data used (such as project status  
19 reports, volunteer surveys, impact studies, reports of In-  
20 spector General of the Peace Corps, and any relevant ex-  
21 ternal sources) in making such review's findings and con-  
22 clusions. The Director shall make each such report avail-  
23 able upon request to the Chairman and Ranking Member  
24 of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
25 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of

- 1 the Senate in a manner consistent with the protection of
- 2 classified information if determined necessary to protect
- 3 sensitive information.

○