

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
HB 26  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Wolf:

We respectfully request that you provide \$400 Million in funding for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2009.

At a time when global attitudes about the United States remain highly fragile, the Peace Corps continues to be one of the best programs we offer to extend a hand of friendship and reverse negative opinions about the values and character of the American people.

Peace Corps reports as many as twenty nations are interested in having programs where none currently exist. We believe it is in our foreign policy and national security interest to pursue these opportunities and expand the global presence of Peace Corps.

Unfortunately, the administration request of \$343.5 million for FY 09 will not address the existing backlog. The Peace Corps budget - as currently proposed - projects less than 25 additional volunteers (a two-tenths of one percent increase) in the field by September 30, 2009.

We believe the President's FY 05 proposal of \$401 million for Peace Corps to achieve his stated goal to double the number of volunteers in the field is an appropriate funding level sufficient to meet demand for the Peace Corps.

The nearly 8,000 individuals currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers are part of a proud and rich history of international service. These selfless citizens represent us in more than 70 countries overseas - including many nations with predominantly Muslim populations. They are among the more than 190,000 U.S. citizens who have answered the call to serve since 1961.

We appreciate the support you have provided to the Peace Corps in the past and welcome the opportunity to advance the agency to new heights in FY 09 and years to come.

Sincerely,

Christopher Shays  
RPCV Fiji, 1968-70

Sam Farr  
RPCV Colombia, 1964-66

James Walsh  
RPCV Nepal, 1970-72

Mike Honda  
RPCV El Salvador, 1965-67

Thomas Petri  
RPCV Somalia, 1966-67

Rush Holt

Betty Sutton

Michael R. McNulty

Earl Blumenauer

Jan Schakowsky

Alcee L. Hastings

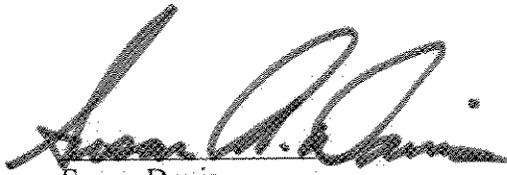
Gwen Moore

Steve Cohen

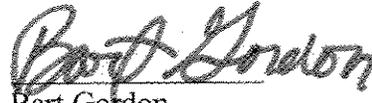
Mazie Hirono

Tammy Baldwin

James P. McGovern



Susan Davis



Bart Gordon



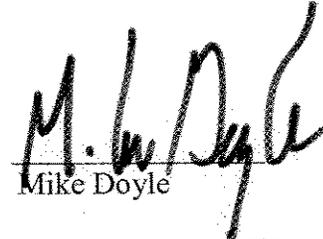
Eleanor Holmes Norton



Dave Loeb sack



Brad Miller



Mike Doyle



Mark Udall



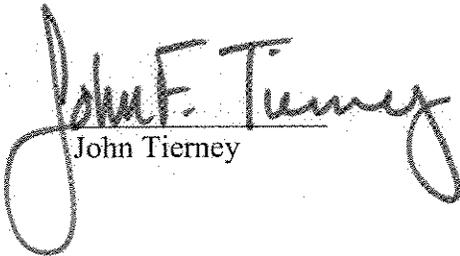
Al Green



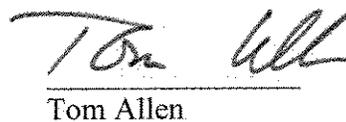
Stephen F. Lynch



Jim Gerlach



John Tierney



Tom Allen



Rosa L. DeLauro



Carol Shea-Porter



Richard Neal



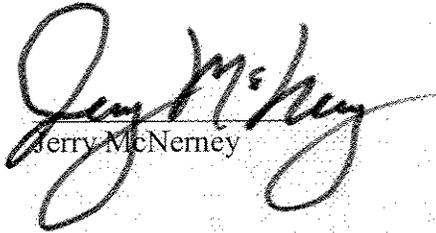
Eddie Bernice Johnson

  
Tim Bishop

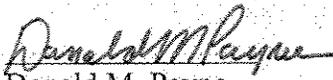
  
Todd R. Platts

  
Chris Van Hollen

  
James Langevin

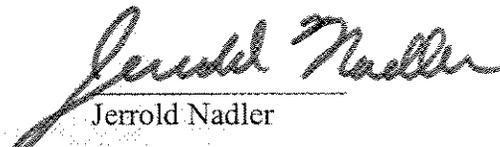
  
Jerry McNerney

  
Pete Stark

  
Donald M. Payne

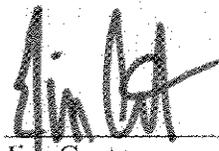
  
Ellen O. Tauscher

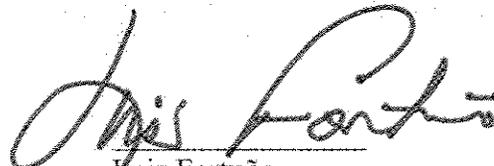
  
Diana DeGette

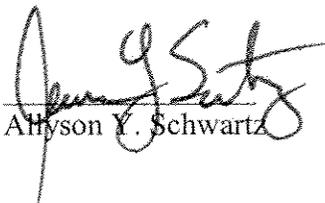
  
Jerrold Nadler

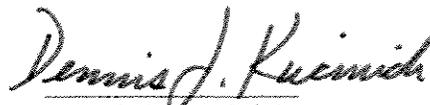
  
Sheila Jackson Lee

  
Robert Wexler

  
Jim Costa

  
Luis Fortuño

  
Allyson Y. Schwartz

  
Dennis J. Kucinich

*Ruben Hinojosa*  
Ruben Hinojosa

*Jim McDermott*  
Jim McDermott

*Carolyn B. Maloney*  
Carolyn B. Maloney

*Henry A. Waxman*  
Henry A. Waxman

*Sander Levin*  
Sander Levin

*Dennis Moore*  
Dennis Moore

*Gregory Meeks*  
Gregory Meeks

*Michael E. Capuano*  
Michael E. Capuano

*Maxine Waters*  
Maxine Waters

*Grace J. Napolitano*  
Grace Napolitano

*William Jefferson*  
William Jefferson

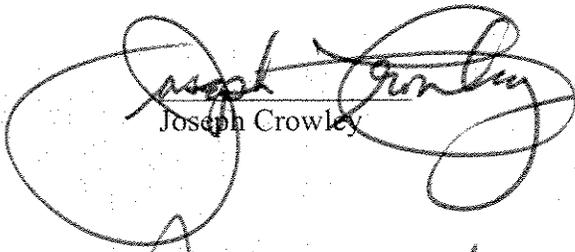
*Madeleine Bordallo*  
Madeleine Bordallo

*Leonard Boswell*  
Leonard Boswell

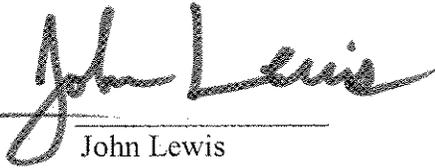
*Albio Sires*  
Albio Sires

*Howard L. Berman*  
Howard L. Berman

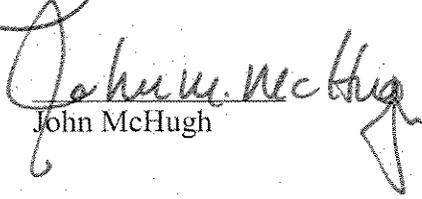
*Barney Frank*  
Barney Frank

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joseph Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Crowley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John Lewis', written over a horizontal line.

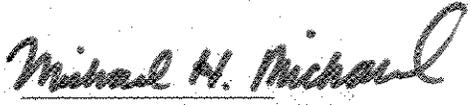
John Lewis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John McHugh', written over a horizontal line.

John McHugh

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Charles Gonzalez', written over a horizontal line.

Charles Gonzalez

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael H. Michaud', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Michaud

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lois Capps', written over a horizontal line.

Lois Capps