

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6958

To expand the financial, healthcare, and educational benefits received by Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Veterans' Affairs, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To expand the financial, healthcare, and educational benefits received by Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers, 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 “A Chance To Serve
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER**
2 **PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

3 (a) **EXTENDED NON-COMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY.**—
4 The President shall revise Executive Order 11103 (28
5 Fed. Reg. 3571; relating to providing for the appointment
6 of former Peace Corps volunteers to the civilian career
7 services) to extend to three years the period during which
8 any appointment under the authority of such Executive
9 Order may be made.

10 (b) **EXTENDED HEALTHCARE.**—

11 (1) **1-YEAR ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH BENE-**
12 **FITS.**—Subchapter VIII of title 38, United States
13 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following
14 new section:

15 **“§ 1789A. Former Peace Corps volunteers**

16 “During the one-year period beginning on the day
17 after the final day of the service of a Peace Corps volun-
18 teer, the Secretary shall provide such former volunteer
19 such hospital care or medical services as the former volun-
20 teer may elect to receive at a medical facility of the De-
21 partment of Veterans Affairs. The cost of any care or serv-
22 ices furnished under this section to such former volunteer
23 shall be reimbursed at such rates as may be agreed upon
24 by the Secretary and the Director of the Peace Corps,
25 based on the cost of the care or service furnished and in

1 accordance with health care otherwise provided to volun-
 2 teers under section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5(e)
 4 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(e)) is
 5 amended—

6 (A) by inserting after the first sentence the
 7 following new sentence: “Former volunteers
 8 shall also be entitled to such hospital care and
 9 medical services as may be provided in accord-
 10 ance with section 1789A of title 38, United
 11 States Code.”; and

12 (B) in the second sentence, by inserting
 13 “(other than health care provided in accordance
 14 with such section 1789A)” after “such health
 15 care”.

16 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 17 tions for chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code,
 18 is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-
 19 tion 1789 the following new item:

“1789A. Former Peace Corps volunteers.”.

20 (c) NONTAXABLE STATUS FOR READJUSTMENT AL-
 21 LOWANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the
 22 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a readjustment allowance
 23 received pursuant to section 5(c) of the Peace Corps Act
 24 (22 U.S.C. 2504(c)) shall not be subject to taxation under
 25 chapter 1 of such Code.

1 (d) REGULARITY OF PAYMENTS OF MONTHLY STI-
2 PENDS.—The Director of the Peace Corps shall take such
3 steps as may be necessary to ensure that Peace Corps vol-
4 unteers receive stipends on a regular and predictable basis
5 (and, to the maximum extent practicable, on the same nu-
6 merical day of each month), including in the event of a
7 temporary partial or complete government shutdown.

8 **SEC. 3. EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR AMERICORPS VOLUN-**
9 **TEERS.**

10 (a) INCREASE IN NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS.—
11 Notwithstanding any provision of the national service
12 laws, on or after the date of enactment of this Act, not
13 fewer than 500,000 national service positions shall be
14 available under the national service programs authorized
15 under such laws.

16 (b) INCREASE IN LIVING ALLOWANCE.—Notwith-
17 standing section 140 of the National and Community
18 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594) or any other provi-
19 sion of the national service laws, any individual serving
20 in a national service program authorized under a national
21 service law shall receive a living allowance that is not less
22 than 200 percent of the poverty line (as defined in section
23 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
24 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and adjusted by the Corporation for Na-

1 tional and Community Service in the manner described in
2 such section.

3 (c) EXTENDED NON-COMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY.—

4 Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation, the
5 head of any agency in the Executive branch may non-
6 competitively appoint, to a competitive service position at
7 such agency, any individual who is certified by the Cor-
8 poration for National and Community Service as having
9 satisfactorily completed service in a national service pro-
10 gram authorized under a national service law. Such an in-
11 dividual may not be appointed under the authority pro-
12 vided under this section after the date that is 3 years after
13 the date such individual so completes such service.

14 (d) 1-YEAR ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH BENEFITS.—

15 Notwithstanding section 140 of the National and Commu-
16 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594) or any other
17 provision of the national service laws, during the one-year
18 period beginning on the day after the final day of a partic-
19 ipant in a national service program authorized under a
20 national service law, the Corporation for National and
21 Community Service shall provide such former participant,
22 at no cost to such participant, with the health care policy
23 such participant received during the term of service in
24 such program.

1 (e) DOUBLING OF THE SEGAL AMERICORPS EDU-
 2 CATION AWARD.—Section 147(a) of the National and
 3 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)) is
 4 amended by inserting “twice” before “the maximum”.

5 (f) NATIONAL SERVICE LAWS DEFINED.—In this
 6 section, the term “national service laws” has the meaning
 7 given such term in section 101 of the National and Com-
 8 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).

9 **SEC. 4. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF CERTAIN PAY-**
 10 **MENTS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part II of subchapter B of chap-
 12 ter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended
 13 by inserting after section 139I the following new section:

14 **“SEC. 139J. CERTAIN PAYMENTS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.**

15 “In the case of an individual, gross income shall not
 16 include any amount received under a national service edu-
 17 cational award under subtitle D of title I of the National
 18 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
 19 et seq.) or any living allowance provided to such individual
 20 during participation in a national service program author-
 21 ized under a national service law (as defined in section
 22 101 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990
 23 (42 U.S.C. 12511)).”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 25 for part II of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code

1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
2 139I the following new item:

“Sec. 139J. Certain payments for national service.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act.

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