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JAMIE RASKIN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

April 20, 2020

Dr. Josephine K. Olsen
Director
Peace Corps
1275 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20526

Barbara Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service
250 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Olsen and Chief Executive Officer Stewart,

I write to express concern regarding the employment status of returned Peace Corps volunteers. One of the benefits extended to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in gratitude for their service is one year of noncompetitive eligibility (NCE), which allows federal agencies to hire RPCVs who meet the qualifications for the position. NCE benefits returned volunteers and also benefits our federal agencies in drawing from this talented and experienced pool of experts.

Evacuated from their postings in over 60 countries, more than 7,000 volunteers are returning to the United States with little or no economic safety net, at a time of rising unemployment and a stretched federal work force. Due to the pandemic, job vacancies where RPCVs would benefit from NCE have seen their hiring processes cancelled or suspended indefinitely. Further, for those federal job searches that are still ongoing, a high number of NCE RPCVs are competing for fewer vacancies.

I write to urge you to use the authority provided in Executive Order 11103, Sec. 4, to automatically extend the period of NCE for all RPCVs returned home after the global evacuation from one year to three years. An extension of NCE for RPCVs would be a show of support and would also benefit to the federal agencies who now, more than ever, need committed and qualified public servants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin".

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress