

Hello Chairman Beltz and members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you.

My name is Sarah LaBounty and I served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Romania from 2011-2013. I taught English to 3rd through 8th graders.

I am here to express my support for HB 1529 that will allow all Peace Corps Volunteers to receive in-state tuition regardless of their residency before their Peace Corps Service.

Last March I approached Representative Amabile of Colorado about passing a bill after I learned that Maryland had passed a similar bill. Peace Corps Volunteers serve overseas for two years and as a result can lose their residency. Many Peace Corps Volunteers go to graduate school immediately after their service and then they are required to pay out-of-state tuition. In other words, volunteers are penalized for their service.

Being a Peace Corps Volunteer is a service to our country. We volunteer two years of our lives to the Peace Corps' mission to promote world peace and friendship. The Peace Corps is critical to diplomacy around the world because of the cross cultural relationships that volunteers build.

Peace Corps Volunteers are the kind of people we want to attract to Colorado and North Dakota. They have demonstrated their commitment to public service and often times continue careers inspired by their service, including education, public health, and community development. They are persistent, resilient, and resourceful. Volunteers excel at cross cultural relationship-building and communication.

I urge you to pass this bipartisan bill so that higher education is more affordable for all Peace Corps Volunteers.

House

Hello Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Sarah LaBounty and I served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Romania from 2011-2013. I taught English to 3rd through 8th graders.

I am here to express my support this bill which will allow all Peace Corps Volunteers to receive in-state tuition in Colorado regardless of their residency before their Peace Corps Service.

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Currently, Colorado offers in-state tuition to many worthy groups including veterans, the Colorado National Guard, Native Americans with tribal ties to Colorado, and Olympic Athletes. Peace Corps Volunteers should join this group. They provide a service to our country, and this service can result in losing their residency.

I am so proud that the Senate passed this bill unanimously. I hope that you will also pass this bipartisan bill and encourage your colleagues to do so too. Thank you.