



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information:**

Name of Contact: Sarah LaBounty

Phone Number of Contact: 720.326.8896

Email of Contact: sarah.labounty@gmail.com

**Colorado Law Gives All Peace Corps Volunteers In-state Tuition**

(May 11, 2023) The close of the 2023 state legislative session included a victory for those who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers and wish to further their education.

Colorado Senate Bill 23-096 grants in-state tuition to all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers regardless of where they lived prior to their service. In the past, volunteers moving or returning to Colorado from their two years of overseas service were not eligible for in-state tuition because of the state's one year residency requirement. Senate Bill 23-096 includes an exemption for all Peace Corps Volunteers from the residency requirement. Colorado is the second state to recognize the service of Peace Corps Volunteers in this way.

"The hope is that in-state tuition will encourage returning Peace Corps Volunteers to seek graduate programs here in Colorado," said Colorado State Representative Judy Amabile, who co-sponsored the bill in the House. "Not only is this a great way to thank those who have given so much in service to our country and the world, but our Colorado universities will be made richer by their enrollment." The bipartisan bill was also co-sponsored by State Representative Matt Soper and Senators Dylan Roberts and Paul Lundeen. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and had only four dissenting votes in the House. Governor Jared Polis signed the bill into law on April 11, 2023.

This initiative received the full support of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado (RPCVCO), a membership organization dedicated to connecting and supporting the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer community in Colorado. "We see this as a statewide win not only for our current community, but for those who have yet to complete service and move to Colorado," said

RPCVCO President, Samantha Temple. “And, we hope that as an organization we can help Colorado universities connect with returning volunteers to see the full benefit of this legislation.”

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), the nationwide, non-profit organization representing the Peace Corps community, also praised this legislative victory. “We congratulate Colorado as the latest state to set a standard of how to recognize and honor Peace Corps Volunteers for their service,” said NPCA President & CEO Dan Baker. “We thank the sponsors who guided this legislation to passage, Governor Polis for signing the bill into law, and the dedicated members of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado for being a strong voice of support for the next generation of volunteers.”

Colorado has a long, proud history of recruiting and sending Peace Corps Volunteers overseas. The state historically ranks tenth in the nation, with just over 7,300 Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961. Colorado College, Colorado State University, and University of Colorado Boulder all ranked high in the most recent rankings of schools recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers. CU Boulder also ranks fifth in the nation historically, sending more than 2,500 graduates into Peace Corps service.