

## Schneider, Mary

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**From:** Patricia Conrad <patriciaryanconrad@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10:11 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Mary  
**Subject:** HB 1529

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Mary, please feel free to share these remarks with the other members of the House Agriculture Committee.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend Thursday's hearing on this bill, but I have 2 prior commitments. My husband would have been here had he still been alive. I am 100% in favor of giving in-state tuition for graduate study to individuals who have successfully completed their Peace Corps assignment, as is currently being done for other targeted groups.

I was not a Peace Corps volunteer, but my husband Dean Conrad was. Dean served from the fall of 1967 to the spring of 1970 in small towns along the Amazon River in Brazil. Most of the guys in his group (and they were all males) had agricultural backgrounds, but Dean was a city boy. He was assigned to this particular Peace Corps group because of his master's degree in marketing and finance. The Brazilian government had asked Peace Corps to come to this area of Brazil to help the local farmers understand how to operate their newly formed cooperatives. Where here in the US cooperatives were initiated by the farmers themselves, in Brazil the government formed the cooperatives from the top down and forced the farmers to participate. Dean's job was to explain the benefits of working together cooperatively to buy and sell their products. He used his knowledge of the cooperative movement here in North Dakota and his education to train cooperative members in basic bookkeeping and accounting, while making sure that they understood why the government felt that cooperatives would be beneficial for their community. And he did this in the Portuguese language that he learned while in Peace Corps training.

What I noticed from my interactions over the years with Dean and other members of his Peace Corps group was that they were problem solvers who saw themselves as world citizens, who understood the value of hard work and working for something other than just profit. They gave back to their communities and understood the value of helping those who were not as fortunate as themselves.

These are the kind of individuals we want settling in our state. And we know that out-of-state college students who come into North Dakota for their education, often remain in the state as they begin their professional careers. The small fiscal note that will probably accompany the addition of Peace Corps graduates to the list of individuals for whom the state offers in-state tuition will be more than repaid by those individuals who remain here to teach our children, lead our institutions, and possibly begin new businesses.

Please vote 'yes' to the change proposed in HB 1529.

Sincerely,

Patricia Conrad

