

## HR 2259

Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** May 1, 2017

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 115-256.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 115-256. (Oct 9, 2018)

**Law:** 115-256 (Enacted Oct 9, 2018)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2259>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (62 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		May 1, 2017
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Jun 21, 2017
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jun 29, 2017
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 29, 2017
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Jun 29, 2017
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jun 29, 2017
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jun 29, 2017
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jul 11, 2017
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Jul 11, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jul 17, 2017
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Jul 24, 2017
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Jul 24, 2017
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Sep 5, 2017
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Sep 5, 2017
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Sep 5, 2017
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Sep 5, 2017
Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Sep 25, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Oct 5, 2017
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Oct 10, 2017
Rep. Garrett, Thomas A., Jr. [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]	R · OR		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Nov 3, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Nov 3, 2017
Rep. Faso, John J. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Nov 3, 2017
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Nov 8, 2017
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2017
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Nov 14, 2017
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2017
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Nov 16, 2017
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Jan 9, 2018
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Feb 5, 2018
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Feb 7, 2018
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Feb 7, 2018
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Mar 6, 2018
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Mar 7, 2018
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Mar 22, 2018
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Mar 29, 2018
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Apr 5, 2018
Rep. Meehan, Patrick [R-PA-7]	R · PA		Apr 5, 2018
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		May 15, 2018
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		May 16, 2018
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		May 17, 2018
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jul 10, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	May 1, 2017
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	May 17, 2018
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	May 1, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

International Affairs

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 2286	Related bill	Mar 14, 2018: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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.

## **Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018**

This bill modifies various aspects of the Peace Corps, including changes to the provisioning of health care to volunteers, program oversight, and how it handles sexual assault allegations.

The President shall ensure that each Peace Corps overseas post has medical services consistent with the size and scope of the post. The bill lays out criteria for hiring medical officers and support staff, including the candidate's medical training and experience, record of performance, understanding of the local language and culture, and the ability to work in English.

The Peace Corps shall evaluate the medical staff in each country to ensure that they are complying with all relevant policies and guidelines, and that the staff members are receiving the necessary continuing medical education. It shall confirm that such a review has been completed in its annual budget justification to Congress.

The Peace Corps shall ensure that all medical officers serving in malaria-endemic countries receive training in recognizing the side effects of malaria medications. It shall consult with experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for recommendations on malaria-preventing medication.

The Peace Corps shall implement its response to the Peace Corps Inspector General's recommendations in a report about a volunteer's death in Morocco. That report found issues such as gaps in medical emergency preparedness practices and problems in oversight. The Peace Corps shall also report to Congress semiannually as to the progress of the implementation.

The bill authorizes the Peace Corps to provide medical benefits to a volunteer for 120 days following the end of service, if the injury was sustained while serving in the Peace Corps and proximately caused by such service.

The bill relaxes appointment term restrictions for certain critical management or management support positions that require specialized technical or technical skills. For such positions, the Peace Corps may make or renew appointments for up to five years. Such appointments shall not be subject to current limits on appointment term length.

The Peace Corps may not open, close, significantly reduce, or suspend an office without consulting Congress at least 15 days in advance, except when the action is necessary to ameliorate a substantial security risk to Peace Corps personnel.

The bill also directs the President to brief the Peace Corps Inspector General after the death of a volunteer. The briefing shall include the available facts and circumstances of the incident, subsequent Peace Corps actions, and if it is determined that further inquiry is not required, the reasoning for that conclusion.

The Inspector General may independently review the death and of Peace Corps actions in response. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces or an employee of another U.S. department may be detailed to the Inspector General to assist with the review.

The Peace Corps shall provide each applicant with specific, aggregated, and easily accessible information and about crimes and other risks in each country that the applicant may be invited to serve. The information for each country shall include (1) an overview of past crimes against volunteers, including unreported crimes, (2) the rate of early termination of a volunteer's service, (3) information about health risks, and (4) the nature and frequency of reports of sexual harassment from volunteers. The applicant shall have the option to apply to serve in a different country. Currently, applicants receive

information about crimes and risks after being invited to serve in a specific country.

The bill directs the Peace Corps to require each post to have designated staff responsible for serving victims of sexual assault. The Peace Corps shall also gather additional information about sexual assault, such as instances where an employee or volunteer resigns after being accused of assault but before a final determination has been made.

The bill permanently authorizes the Office of Victim Advocacy to assist victims of sexual assault. It extends the authorization of the Sexual Assault Advisory Council to October 1, 2023, and gives the Council authority to conduct case reviews.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Oct 9, 2018:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 9, 2018:** Became Public Law No: 115-256.
- **Sep 28, 2018:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 25, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 24, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.(consideration: CR S6280)
- **Sep 24, 2018:** Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote. (consideration: CR S6280)
- **Jul 11, 2018:** Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 508.
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Mr. Poe (TX) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6019-6025)
- **Jul 10, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2259.
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6019-6022)
- **Jul 10, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6019-6022)
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 17, 2018:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 17, 2018:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 17, 2018:** Committee Agreed to Seek Consideration Under Suspension of the Rules,.
- **May 2, 2017:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H3008)
- **May 1, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **May 1, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, 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.