

HB

314

Alaska State Legislature

Session
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Chair, House Special Committee
on Economic Development, Trade
and Tourism

Chair, Joint House and Senate
Administrative Regulation and
Review Committee

Member
Resources Committee
Rules Committee

Representative Lesil McGuire

House District 17

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 314

“An Act relating to service in the peace corps as an allowable absence from the state for the purposes of eligibility for permanent fund dividends; and providing for an effective date.”

Alaskans are known for their volunteer spirit. Our young people often consider serving their country as a way to give back what this country has given to them. Many serve in the military, while others choose to make conditions better for someone else by devoting two years of their lives to the Peace Corps. Like military service, the Peace Corps has played a major role in promoting democracy in other countries. But we the legislature, have overlooked this valuable service to our country.

Alaska college students, those taking care of a loved one outside or being a merchant marine, all qualify as exemptions when applying for the Permanent Fund Dividend. Spending two years of your life in a third world country as a Peace Corps' volunteer not only means going without your P.F.D., it also means that as a volunteer, you are not paid a salary. Instead, you receive a stipend to cover your basic necessities – food, housing expenses, and local transportation. At the conclusion of your service as a volunteer, you will receive a “readjustment allowance” of \$225 for each month of service. The annual dividend check would help these men and women to better their lives while they are serving our country and helping those less fortunate.

Additionally, the committee substitute before you adds language to existing statute that will give the Department of Revenue a new tool for enforcing fraud. For many years we have tried to catch and prosecute those who would lie and cheat to get a check, only to be frustrated by an overcrowded and costly court system.

The changes will bring the investigation and prosecution of these cases into the Department under Administrative Rule. Fines of up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000) can be levied through this process and will send a message to those looking for that check illegally, that they will face consequences for their actions.

CSHB 314 amends the application period from January 2 to January 1. This change is due to the fact that applicants could not file for their PFD electronically until recently, and had to wait to file a paper application until January 2.

22-LS1129C
Cook
2/5/02

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 314()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MCGUIRE AND DAVIES

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to service in the peace corps as an allowable absence from the state for**
2 **purposes of eligibility for permanent fund dividends and to the period for filing an**
3 **application for a permanent fund dividend; authorizing the Department of Revenue to**
4 **issue administrative orders imposing sanctions for certain misrepresentations or other**
5 **actions concerning eligibility for a permanent fund dividend and providing for**
6 **administrative appeal of those orders; and providing for an effective date."**

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

8 *** Section 1. AS 43.23.008(a) is amended to read:**

9 (a) Subject to (b) and (c) of this section, an otherwise eligible individual who
10 is absent from the state during the qualifying year remains eligible for a current year
11 permanent fund dividend if the individual was absent

12 (1) receiving secondary or postsecondary education on a full-time
13 basis;

1 (2) receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a
2 full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
3 Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state;

4 (3) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the
5 United States;

6 (4) serving under foreign or coastal articles of employment aboard an
7 oceangoing vessel of the United States merchant marine;

8 (5) receiving continuous medical treatment recommended by a
9 licensed physician or convalescing as recommended by the physician that treated the
10 illness if the treatment or convalescence is not based on a need for climatic change;

11 (6) providing care for a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or stepchild with
12 a critical life-threatening illness whose treatment plan, as recommended by the
13 attending physician, requires travel outside the state for treatment at a medical
14 specialty complex;

15 (7) providing care for the individual's terminally ill parent, spouse,
16 sibling, child, or stepchild;

17 (8) settling the estate of the individual's deceased parent, spouse,
18 sibling, child, or stepchild, provided the absence does not exceed 220 cumulative days;

19 (9) serving as a member of the United States Congress;

20 (10) serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United
21 States Congress;

22 (11) serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other
23 location;

24 (12) accompanying a minor who is absent under (5) of this subsection;

25 (13) accompanying another eligible resident who is absent for a reason
26 permitted under (1) - (3), (5) - (12), [OR] (14), or (15) of this subsection as the spouse,
27 minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident;

28 (14) serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program;

29 (15) for any reason consistent with the individual's intent to remain a
30 state resident, provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed

31 (A) 180 days if the individual is not claiming an absence under

1 (1) - (14) [(1) - (13)] of this subsection;

2 (B) 120 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
3 claimed under (1) or (2) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an
4 absence under (3) - (14) [(3) - (13)] of this subsection; or

5 (C) 45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
6 claimed under (1) - (14) [(1) - (13)] of this subsection.

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.008(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) An individual may not claim an allowable absence under (a)(1) - (14)
9 [(a)(1) - (13)] of this section unless the individual was a resident of the state for at
10 least six consecutive months immediately before leaving the state.

11 * **Sec. 3.** AS 43.23.011 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 43.23.011. Application period.** An application for a permanent fund
13 dividend shall be filed during the period that begins January 1 [JANUARY 2] and
14 ends March 31 of that dividend year.

15 * **Sec. 4.** AS 43.23.035(c) is amended to read:

16 (c) In addition to any criminal penalties imposed by state law, if the
17 department finds that an [AN] individual [WHO], in claiming a permanent fund
18 dividend, or an individual [WHO], in certifying another person's eligibility, willfully
19 misrepresents, exercises gross negligence with respect to, or recklessly disregards a
20 material fact pertaining to, eligibility, the department may issue an order against
21 the individual for the

22 (1) forfeiture of [FORFEITS] the dividend;

23 (2) imposition of [, IS SUBJECT TO] a civil fine of up to \$3,000;
24 [\$5,000.] and

25 (3) loss of [LOSES] eligibility to receive the next five dividends
26 following the forfeited dividend [DIVIDENDS. THE COMMISSIONER MAY
27 COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS IN COURT TO ENFORCE THIS SUBSECTION].

28 * **Sec. 5.** AS 43.23.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

29 (e) The provisions of AS 43.23.015(g) and (i) apply to a request for review of,
30 and to appeal of, a decision under (c) of this section by an individual aggrieved by the
31 decision. When all appeals have been exhausted under this chapter or the time when

1 all of the appeals that could have been taken has expired, the order issued imposing a
2 civil fine, forfeiture, or loss of eligibility becomes final and enforceable in the same
3 manner as a judgment of the court.

4 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 REGULATIONS AND APPLICATION. (a) The Department of Revenue may
7 immediately adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by secs. 3 - 5 of this
8 Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not
9 before July 1, 2002.

10 (b) AS 43.23.035(c), as amended in sec. 4 of this Act, and AS 43.23.035(e), as added
11 in sec. 5 of this Act, apply only with respect to applications filed on or after July 1, 2002.
12 AS 43.23.035(c) as it read immediately before July 1, 2002, applies with respect to
13 applications filed before July 1, 2002.

14 * **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

15 * **Sec. 8.** Sections 3 - 5 of this Act take effect July 1, 2002.

16 * **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect January 1, 2003.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB314
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Revenue
 Title PFD Eligibility for BRU Revenue Operations
Peace Corps Volunteers Component Permanent Fund Dividend
 Sponsor Representative McGuire
 Requester House State Affairs Component No. 981

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would re-establish service in the Peace Corps as an allowable absence in determining eligibility for the Permanent Fund dividend.

The division does not expect that this legislation would have a fiscal effect on its operations.

Prepared by: Nanci A. Jones, Director Phone 465-2323
 Division: Permanent Fund Dividend Date/Time 1/30/02 11:25 AM
 Approved by: Larry Persily, Deputy Commissioner Date 01/30/2002
 Agency: Department of Revenue

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HB 314

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAYES

- 1 Page 1, line 1:
2 Delete "as an allowable absence"
3 Insert "and to receiving certain rehabilitative education as allowable absences"
4
5 Page 2, line 7, following "(6)":
6 Insert "receiving rehabilitative education for which, as determined by the
7 Department of Education and Early Development, a comparable program is not
8 reasonably available;
9 (7)"
10
11 Page 2, line 11:
12 Delete "(7)"
13 Insert "(8) [(7)]"
14
15 Page 2, line 13:
16 Delete "(8)"
17 Insert "(9) [(8)]"
18
19 Page 2, line 15:
20 Delete "(9)"
21 Insert "(10) [(9)]"
22
23 Page 2, line 16:
24 Delete "(10)"

- 1 Insert "(11) [(10)]"
- 2
- 3 Page 2, line 18:
- 4 Delete "(11)"
- 5 Insert "(12) [(11)]"
- 6
- 7 Page 2, line 20:
- 8 Delete "(12)"
- 9 Insert "(13) [(12)]"
- 10 Following "(5)"
- 11 Insert "or (6)"
- 12
- 13 Page 2, line 21:
- 14 Delete "(13)"
- 15 Insert "(14) [(13)]"
- 16
- 17 Page 2, line 22:
- 18 Delete "(5) - (12), [OR] (14), or (15)"
- 19 Insert "(5) - (13), 15, or 16 [(5) - (12) OR (14)]"
- 20
- 21 Page 2, line 24:
- 22 Delete "(14)"
- 23 Insert "(15)"
- 24
- 25 Page 2, line 25:
- 26 Delete "(15)"
- 27 Insert "(16) [(14)]"
- 28
- 29 Page 2, line 28:
- 30 Delete "(1) - (14)"
- 31 Insert "(1) - (15)"

1

2 Page 2, line 31:

3 Delete "(3) - (14)"

4 Insert "(3) - (15)"

5

6 Page 3, line 2:

7 Delete "(1) - (14)"

8 Insert "(1) - (15)"

9

10 Page 3, line 4:

11 Delete "(a)(1) - (14)"

12 Insert "(a)(1) - (15)"

Alaska Department of Revenue
Permanent Fund Dividend Division

Absences for Service in the Peace Corps

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
# of Absences reported	24	16	26	28	49*

*Note – this number may be inflated if a person in the Peace Corps answered yes to both questions –gone for more than 90 days and gone for more than 180 days. Both answers may have been totalled instead of taking the difference between the two.

Peace Corps Volunteers From Alaska 2002

Fettig, Megan E
% Nancy Bernard Dept Of State
2130 Dakar Pl
Washington Dc 20521-2130
District: 11-255
(Senegal)

Resari, Joanna I
4031 North Star St
Anchorage Ak 99503
District: 15-317
(Bolivia)

Gibson, Rachel C
221 E 7th Ave #318
Anchorage Ak 99501
District: 15-303
(Jordan)

Stohr, Adrienne M
1920 Otter St
Anchorage Ak 99504
District: 21-409
(Zambia)

Wilcox, Melinda M
2930 Sunspot Cir
Anchorage Ak 99507
District: 30-363
(Senegal)

Burrows, Amy E
9701 Spring Hill Dr
Anchorage Ak 99507
District: 18-363
(Bolivia)

Thornley, Jean B
925 Coral Ln
Anchorage Ak 99515
District: 10-245
(Lesotho)

Thornley, John D
925 Coral Ln
Anchorage Ak 99515
District: 10-245
(Lesotho)

Crabtree, Gwentyth M
Corpul Pacii Moldova
Str Grigore Ureche 12
Chisinau 2001 Republica Moldova
District: 26-457
(Moldova)

Taylor, Catherine A
Po Box 772048
Eagle River Ak 99577-2048
District: 24-437
(Mali)

Small, Kristina M
653 Rangeview Ave
Homer Ak 99603
District: 07-171
(Ecuador)

Calhoun, Maria K
Po Box 3805
Homer Ak 99603
District: 07-173
(Dominican Republic)

Evans, L J
Po Box 80073
Fairbanks Ak 99708-0073
District: 29-470
(Philippines)

Wells III, Denmer A
1261 Viewpointe Dr
Fairbanks Ak 99709
District: 29-460
(Thailand)

Wells, Linda M
1261 Viewpointe Dr
Fairbanks Ak 99709
District: 29-460
(Thailand)

Others Not Found In Voter Registration

McCarthy, Andrew – Anchorage
(Kenya)

Price, Linda – Anchorage
(Lesotho)

Lawrence, Joran – Anchorage
(Nicaragua)

Rice, Wendy – Anchorage
(Cameroon)

To All Alaskans:

People here in Thailand ask me where I'm from, and I proudly answer Alaska, even though I know perfectly well that they are expecting me to say what *country* I am from. I feel however, that maybe Alaska is not as proud of me as I am of it, as I am denied the PFD because I am a Peace Corps Volunteer. I am not considered a resident of Alaska despite the fact that I have all my belongings, furniture, etc. in storage in Alaska, my car and truck are there, my bank account is there, my permanent address is there, and I have a post office box there. I am registered to vote in Alaska. My driver's license (still valid) is Alaskan. After I finish my service in the Peace Corps, I will return to live in Alaska. If I'm not a resident of Alaska, then just exactly where *do* you consider me to be a resident? Thailand? The Thais would disagree with you wholeheartedly. I cannot vote here, nor can I acquire a driver's license here. I need a separate visa every time I enter the country, even if I've just stepped across the border to visit a market for the day. I do not qualify for any of the public health plans, I do not pay income tax to the Thai government. The Peace Corps itself considers me an Alaskan resident. "...Peace Corps volunteers are considered residents of their Home-of-Record state," (Peace Corps Administrative Guide, March 2001).

Now, I will be perfectly honest. I joined the Peace Corps knowing full well that I would be denied the Permanent Fund Dividend, but I joined anyway because principles are more important to me than money. If you don't believe that, consider this: I make \$170 a month here (that works out to \$2040 per year), and I will quote the Peace Corps Administrative Guide regarding our leave policy: "*Volunteers are deemed to be on duty seven days a week...volunteers accrue annual leave at the rate of two days for each month of service.*" That leave policy is the same as standard military personnel, who, I might add, are eligible to receive the PFD. I am obviously not in this job for the money, but to be completely honest, it bothers me that if I volunteer to carry a gun for my country, I get the PFD, but if I volunteer to help others and promote understanding of Americans, I am denied that money.

In addition to the work that I do locally here, I also participate in the Peace Corps World Wise School program, in which volunteers "adopt" a class back in the States in order to exchange cultural information. I send Marilyn Siedschlag's 2nd grade class at Hunter Elementary (in Fairbanks) letters, post cards, photos, and other miscellaneous things from Thailand, while she arranges for her students to then ask me questions about my life here. This is all done at my own expense.

It is almost inconceivable to me that I do not qualify for the permanent fund, despite the fact that I consider myself an Alaskan resident AND the Peace Corps considers me an Alaskan resident. I just wish that Alaska considered me a resident. It gets a little lonely out here when no one's willing to claim me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wells, PCV
ONPEC Sangkha
Amphur Sangkha
Surin, 32150 - Thailand

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Lesil McGuire
District 17



State Capitol Rm 418, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 Phone (907)465-2995 Fax (907)465-6592

Memorandum

To: Representative John Coghill
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Lesil McGuire

Re: HB 314 Allowable Absence for PFD

Date: February 7, 2002

Thank you for scheduling HB 314 for a hearing on Tuesday, February 12th, I greatly appreciate it. Yesterday my staff, Sue Stancliff, spoke with your staff, and after much discussion about the inconvenience to the public, showing up to testify only to not be able to hear the bill, it was agreed upon to hold the bill over until next Tuesday when there was an assurance of the committee getting to it. There were phone calls made to the Department of Revenue and to several key people to get the word out that the bill was postponed.

I understand your office called this morning to let us know that the situation had changed, and that not everyone got the word about the postponement, indicating that there were two people who wished to testify. I appreciate the effort made by you to go ahead and hear the bill, however, as I mentioned to you previously, we have a committee substitute to present to the committee, and I felt it was very important to have the Department of Revenue present to testify and answer questions.

I have attached a copy of the CS for your review, and would greatly appreciate having HB 314 scheduled for a hearing at the earliest time possible. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me personally if you have any question or concern with the bill.

22-LS1129\C
Cook
2/5/02

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 314()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MCGUIRE AND DAVIES

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10 is absent from the state during the qualifying year remains eligible for a current year
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13 basis;

1 (2) receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a
2 full-time basis for which, as determined by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
3 Education, a comparable program is not reasonably available in the state;

4 (3) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the
5 United States;

6 (4) serving under foreign or coastal articles of employment aboard an
7 oceangoing vessel of the United States merchant marine;

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9 licensed physician or convalescing as recommended by the physician that treated the
10 illness if the treatment or convalescence is not based on a need for climatic change;

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13 attending physician, requires travel outside the state for treatment at a medical
14 specialty complex;

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16 sibling, child, or stepchild;

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18 sibling, child, or stepchild, provided the absence does not exceed 220 cumulative days;

19 (9) serving as a member of the United States Congress;

20 (10) serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United
21 States Congress;

22 (11) serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other
23 location;

24 (12) accompanying a minor who is absent under (5) of this subsection;

25 (13) accompanying another eligible resident who is absent for a reason
26 permitted under (1) - (3), (5) - (12), [OR] (14), or (15) of this subsection as the spouse,
27 minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident;

28 (14) serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program;

29 (15) for any reason consistent with the individual's intent to remain a
30 state resident, provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed

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1 (1) - (14) [(1) - (13)] of this subsection;

2 (B) 120 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
3 claimed under (1) or (2) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an
4 absence under (3) - (14) [(3) - (13)] of this subsection; or

5 (C) 45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences
6 claimed under (1) - (14) [(1) - (13)] of this subsection.

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8 (b) An individual may not claim an allowable absence under (a)(1) - (14)
9 [(a)(1) - (13)] of this section unless the individual was a resident of the state for at
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27 COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS IN COURT TO ENFORCE THIS SUBSECTION].

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29 (e) The provisions of AS 43.23.015(g) and (i) apply to a request for review of,
30 and to appeal of, a decision under (c) of this section by an individual aggrieved by the
31 decision. When all appeals have been exhausted under this chapter or the time when

1 all of the appeals that could have been taken has expired, the order issued imposing a
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3 manner as a judgment of the court.

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7 immediately adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by secs. 3 - 5 of this
8 Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not
9 before July 1, 2002.

10 (b) AS 43.23.035(c), as amended in sec. 4 of this Act, and AS 43.23.035(e), as added
11 in sec. 5 of this Act, apply only with respect to applications filed on or after July 1, 2002.
12 AS 43.23.035(c) as it read immediately before July 1, 2002, applies with respect to
13 applications filed before July 1, 2002.

14 * Sec. 7. Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

15 * Sec. 8. Sections 3 - 5 of this Act take effect July 1, 2002.

16 * Sec. 9. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect January 1, 2003.

Subject: Peace Corps

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2002 10:14:12 -0900

From: Justine Bishop <Justine_Bishop@revenue.state.ak.us>

To: Rynnieva_Moss@legis.state.ak.us

Thank you for your work on behalf of the Alaskans who are serving in the Peace Corps. As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) who served in Guinea-Bissau from 1993-1995, I was very upset when the legislature took the Peace Corps away from the allowable absences for receipt of a Permanent Fund Dividend. I consider it very unjust. The Peace Corps is a Federal program and had been an allowable absence from the beginning of the PFD program until the legislature disallowed it. I am hereby expressing my support for restoring Permanent Fund Dividends for Alaskan residents serving in the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,

Justine Bishop, RPCV Guinea-Bissau 93-95

Subject: HB 314

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 14:20:19 -0900

From: cuadra@gci.net

To: <Rynnieva_Moss@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Rynnieva:

As we discussed by phone, here is the letter I'm asking you to reproduce and put copies in the packets of House State Affairs Committee members. If you can do so easily, it would be nice to give a copy to each of the bill sponsors also. Thank you so much.

If you can open and print the attachment, that would be best, as the letter barely fits on a single page. The text imbedded in this email, below, is just in case you have trouble opening and reading the attachment, as sometimes can happen.

Elizabeth Cuadra, cuadra@gci.net
789-2084

P.O. Box 33678

Juneau, AK 99803-3678

February 5, 2002

Chairman Coghill and

Members of the House State Affairs Committee

Re: Supporting HB 314, restoring to Alaska Residents

the right to continue receiving Permanent Fund

Dividends while serving as **U.S. Peace Corps** Volunteers

I've been an Alaska resident ever since May 1977 when I moved here to practice law. In 1997-1999 I served my country for two years in a South Asian country as a Peace Corps volunteer, having retired a year or so early in order to do so. When I returned to my house in Juneau after the standard 3 months of training and two years of service, I was 66 and convinced Peace Corps service is one of the most satisfying things a senior citizen -- or any citizen -- can do.

The worst thing that happened to me while overseas was the slap in the face that the (then) Legislature gave me by changing the statute to withdraw Peace Corps service as an allowable absence for purposes of receiving the Permanent Fund Dividend. It was worse than the exposure to diseases that sent so many of my peers home with medical discharges; worse than the dangers posed by the Maoist insurgents whose violence caused me and others to be evacuated from several districts of the country and reassigned elsewhere; worse than going without Alaskan salmon, snow, and my husky dog; way worse than going without comforts that are ordinary here (e.g., a refrigerator, water heating for showers, a washing machine, safe and comfortable transport).

And it was incomprehensible to me, because the basic criterion is intent to remain an Alaskan resident. I was still paying the utilities, the mortgage payments, and the property taxes on my home in Juneau, where all my worldly goods remained -- in the care of housesitters -- until my return. My car and my dog remained in Southeast Alaska, in the care of my daughter. I was voting absentee in Alaska elections. I knew I was serving my country just as surely as military personnel do. Yet we PCVs were singled out to lose the PFD. It not only made it harder to keep up the property taxes and utility payments at home -- it really hurt.

President Kennedy said, in his inaugural address, that we all should not ask what our country can do for us, but instead, ask what we can do for our country. And he and Congress proceeded to establish the Peace Corps, which has continued its work for over 40 years now, with volunteers serving in more than 160 countries. President George F. Bush, in his state of the union address, reiterated the importance of volunteer service in the Peace Corps. I would like this Alaska Legislature to recognize, as those two presidents have, that Peace Corps service is service to our country. You can best do that by enacting HB 314.

Sincerely,

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

I would like to congratulate House Members on holding this important committee meeting and for listening to public comment about HB 314, which will hopefully reinclude Peace Corps Volunteers for receiving the Permanent Fund Dividend.

My name is Francis McLaughlin. I was born at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in 1977 and have been a Fairbanks resident all my life. I live down the street from Senator Wilken and Representative ^{Revis} helped me ^{write} do a seismology report in high school. After graduating from college, I applied and was accepted to the U.S. Peace Corps. I did not find out where the Peace Corps would send me until three months before I left for my post. The Peace Corps placed me in a town in the Central Highlands of Guatemala. I was the only non-Guatemalan and English speaking person living in Santiago Sacatepequez. I was the only person that the people of that town will probably ever meet from Alaska. I lived in a one room house with a tin roof. I shared my bathroom, a latrine, with sixteen other people. My town only had access to water three hours a day. While living in Santiago Sac., I successfully organized the community to build a tree nursery which has since produced over 8,000 new avocado trees for the town. All of the trees are planted in fields surrounding the town and some are already producing fruit. I lived as the people did and worked with them side by side. It was a very rewarding experience for me and I hope that the work I did will help the people of Santiago Sac. I know that I will never forget them and that they will never forget me.

During my first year in Santiago Sac. I joined the town soccer team. My neighbor and fellow teammate thought that it would be funny if he told everyone in town that I had played professional soccer in the U.S. Well, the entire town showed up at our first soccer game to see if I was really good and would help Santiago Sac. win all its games. My reputation was confirmed when I scored a left footed shot placed perfectly in the lower right corner of the goal within the first five minutes of the game. Unfortunately, I never scored again during the entire season.

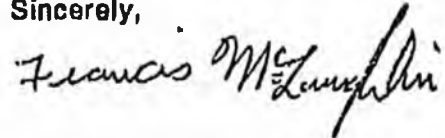
I am sad to say that when I left Fairbanks to become a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala, I was penalized. While serving two years and four months in Guatemala, I was ineligible to receive the Permanent Fund Dividend two years in a row. I worked very hard during my entire service to be a good representative of my family, state, and country and to help the rural Mayan people of Santiago Sacatepequez. I should not have lost my Dividend for being a Peace Corps Volunteer. Everyone can come up with a reason why they need the Dividend and I am no different. I have four years of Alaska Student Loans to pay off and the interest on these loans has continued while I was a volunteer. I was allowed to defer the principle of the loan but not the interest. So my debt has grown while I was working and earning next to nothing in

Guatemala.

Why are Peace Corps Volunteers and Olympic Athletes from Alaska penalized for representing their State while working abroad? I know that other Alaskans, my neighbors here in Fairbanks and elsewhere throughout the state, value public service and do not believe that Peace Corps Volunteers and Olympic Athletes should be penalized for the important job that we do. I believe that Peace Corps Volunteers and Olympic Athletes should receive the Dividend and those who have already been stripped of the Dividend like me should be given it back retroactively. The amount of money that this would be is very small because there are very few Peace Corps Volunteers and Olympic Athletes. Believe me, we are very deserving of the Dividend and need it too. I support HB 314, however, I would amend it to include Olympic Athletes and give us the Dividend retroactively for the three years that we were ineligible.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Francis McLaughlin

1167 Park Drive

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

(907) 479-5940

February 2, 2002

Representative John B. Coghill
Chair, House State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Coghill,

I am a constituent writing in regards to House Bill 314 that pertains to Alaskan Peace Corps Volunteers being eligible to receive their Permanent Fund Dividends. Alaskan PCVs were originally eligible to receive the PFD until 1998, at which point they were removed from the list of absent Alaskan residents permitted to continue receiving the PFD and the merchant marines were added. The United States Peace Corps is a completely voluntary governmental service, just as the military is and the removal of Peace Corps Volunteers from this list is unacceptable. If they were to be added once again to the eligibility list, the reduction, if any, of the amount of each check would only be a matter of pennies. To be exact, in 2000 and 2001, each check would have been only eight cents smaller.

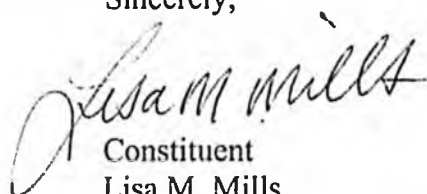
Now more than ever, Americans need to commit to service in organizations such as the Peace Corps and Americorps. President Bush recently stated in his State of the Union speech that the government intends to double the size of the Peace Corps in the next five years. If Alaskans cannot receive their PFD while serving their country in the Peace Corps, that will indeed deter them from joining. Alaskans need to continue to contribute to the United States' efforts to encourage development, education, and opportunity in developing nations and by reinstating Peace Corps Volunteers on the list of those eligible to receive the PFD, you will be helping to do just that. If you do not support House Bill 314, the state of Alaska will be greatly underrepresented in these efforts.

I served in the United States Peace Corps for 2 years and 8 months in the country of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. There I volunteered to represent the United States of America while bridging the gap of understanding between Haitians and Americans. I helped the local people of my village in various projects that included basic sanitation and education. I endured several illnesses and hardships while at the same time learned a lot about how others view Americans and how easily misconceptions can arise in regards to nationality and race. Peace Corps Volunteers are out in the real world doing the work that needs to be done to make this planet a healthier place in all senses of the word. Peace Corps Volunteers are trying to make the world a place of Peace, even in the midst of war and strife. These Volunteers have voluntarily given a minimum of 2 years of their lives as a service to their country for the past 40 years.

I will close by saying that I have no personal stake in this issue, I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, already having done my service and I am a very recent resident of the great state of Alaska. House Bill 314 will not personally affect me financially, but I know of several young and enthusiastic Alaskans that are considering joining the Peace Corps and have hesitated because of this issue. It would be a great loss and disappointment to the United States and to the global community for these people to decide not to join this vitally important organization.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Mills". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Constituent
Lisa M. Mills
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer
Haiti 98-00

PO Box 91906
Anchorage, AK 99509-1906
(907) 646-7780

cc: Representatives Fate, James, Stevens, Wilson, Crawford, and Hayes.

United Campus Ministry
An Ecumenical Ministry on the University of Alaska Fairbanks

University of Alaska Fairbanks

PO Box 750118

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0118

(907) 474-7804

David K. Moore, Director

Lois E. Patton, Office Administrator

To: Representative John Coghill
From: David Moore
Director United Campus Ministry
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Regarding: House Bill No. 314

My name is David Moore and I am the Director of United Campus Ministry at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am testifying on behalf of all twenty-six Alaskans who are currently serving in the Peace Corp. I am specifically speaking on behalf of Denny and Lisa Wells who were active in United Campus Ministry from 1994 through 1998 and are currently serving our nation in Surin, Thailand.

On Sunday I read in the newspaper an article about how Peace Corp volunteers were acting as diplomats to other nations. I found this article intriguing because it quoted both U.S. Senators as well as Representatives, and both Democrats and Republicans as they spoke about the many benefits of the Peace Corp. The article went on to say that there are 7,000 Peace Corp volunteers deployed from here in the United States. It was interesting that they used the word "Deployed". I have always thought of that as a term use for our armed forces. President Bush in the light of new world tensions wants to more than double this number to 15,000. He also wishes to increase the Peace Corp budget from \$275 million to \$475 million over the next five years. He realizes the importance of supporting these individuals as they strive to make the world a better place. In the Post 9-11 world it is also important for us as Alaskans to support our residents who wish to show the world that we are a good nation.

The Peace Corp is an entirely voluntary government service, just like the military. Denny and Lisa are both very sharp young individuals who could make big bucks in the corporate world. But they chose to serve our nation to make the world a better place. They choose to serve our state by corresponding with 2nd graders from Hunter Elementary School here in Fairbanks. I am sure that when they return home they will share the gifts they have received from the Peace Corp with individuals from our state. They will share the gift of the Thai culture, the gift of understanding, and the gift of information.

I have personally benefited from Peace Corp volunteers from their stories, their knowledge, and their insight. I believe abroad as well as right here in Alaska thousands have reaped rewards from this valuable program. I believe that we should show our resident Peace Corp volunteers our support by sharing 8 cents a piece so that they might have their rightful dividend.

Sincerely,


David Moore

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAYES

TO: HB 314

1 Page 1, line 1:

2 Delete "as an allowable absence"

3 Insert "and to receiving certain rehabilitative education as allowable absences"

4

5 Page 2, line 7, following "(6)":

6 Insert "receiving rehabilitative education for which, as determined by the
7 Department of Education and Early Development, a comparable program is not
8 reasonably available;

9 (7)"

10

11 Page 2, line 11:

12 Delete "(7)"

13 Insert "(8) [(7)]"

14

15 Page 2, line 13:

16 Delete "(8)"

17 Insert "(9) [(8)]"

18

19 Page 2, line 15:

20 Delete "(9)"

21 Insert "(10) [(9)]"

22

23 Page 2, line 16:

24 Delete "(10)"

- 1 Insert "(11) [(10)]"
- 2
- 3 Page 2, line 18:
- 4 Delete "(11)"
- 5 Insert "(12) [(11)]"
- 6
- 7 Page 2, line 20:
- 8 Delete "(12)"
- 9 Insert "(13) [(12)]"
- 10 Following "(5)"
- 11 Insert "or (6)"
- 12
- 13 Page 2, line 21:
- 14 Delete "(13)"
- 15 Insert "(14) [(13)]"
- 16
- 17 Page 2, line 22:
- 18 Delete "(5) - (12), [OR] (14), or (15)"
- 19 Insert "(5) - (13), 15, or 16 [(5) - (12) OR (14)]"
- 20
- 21 Page 2, line 24:
- 22 Delete "(14)"
- 23 Insert "(15)"
- 24
- 25 Page 2, line 25:
- 26 Delete "(15)"
- 27 Insert "(16) [(14)]"
- 28
- 29 Page 2, line 28:
- 30 Delete "(1) - (14)"
- 31 Insert "(1) - (15)"

1

2 Page 2, line 31:

3 Delete "(3) - (14)"

4 Insert "(3) - (15)"

5

6 Page 3, line 2:

7 Delete "(1) - (14)"

8 Insert "(1) - (15)"

9

10 Page 3, line 4:

11 Delete "(a)(1) - (14)"

12 Insert "(a)(1) - (15)"

Alaska State Legislature

Session
State Capitol Building, Room 418
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Phone (907) 465-2995
Fax (907) 465-6592

Interim
716 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 430
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone (907) 269-0250
Fax 9907) 269-0249

Chair, House Special Committee
on Economic Development, Trade
and Tourism

Chair, Joint House and Senate
Administrative Regulation and
Review Committee

Member
Resources Committee
Rules Committee

Representative Lesil McGuire

House District 17

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative John Coghill
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Lesil McGuire

DATE: February 8, 2002

RE: HB 314
"An Act relating to service in peace corps as an allowable absence from the state for purposes of eligibility for permanent fund dividends."

I respectfully request that HB 314 be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.

Attached are the following back up:

1. Sponsor Statement
2. HB 314
3. Blank CS - work draft 22-LS1129\C
4. Dept. of Revenue - "Absences for service in Peace Corps"
5. List of Volunteers from Alaska 2002
6. Letter, Lisa Wells

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me personally, or my staff Sue Stancliff at ext. #4695.

Russell W. Walker
9730 Arlene Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-243-4989
alaska_walker@hotmail.com

February 12, 2002

RE: H.B 314

Peace Corps-PFD

BEFORE THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

COGHILL, CHAIR
FATE, JAMES, STEVENS, WILSON, CRAWFORD, HAYES

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL W. WALKER

My name is Russell W. Walker. I reside at 9730 Arlene Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99502 -Telephone 243-4980 (e-mail: alaska_walker@hotmail.com).

I have been a permanent resident of Alaska for 23 years.

When the legislature promulgated provisions regarding qualifications to receive a Permanent Fund Dividend ("PFD"), it was determined various exemptions from PFD disqualifications were necessary. One such exemption was an Alaska residents service in the United States Peace Corps.

In 1998 the legislature amended Chapter 44 (AS 23.40.10 et.seq) to provide that the spouses and dependents of students, military personnel, and certain other Alaska residents who are temporarily out of Alaska and who would otherwise qualify for a PFD would not be disqualified by reason of such absence. At the same time, however, the exemption for Peace Corps service in a foreign country on behalf of the United States was deleted. Thus the spouse of a college student going to school in New York, or a wife (and all the children) of a person in the military who is assigned to Kaneohe Naval air base in Hawaii or in Guam, etc., would continue to receive a PFD and a Peace Corps volunteer working on behalf of the United States in a remote village in Zambia or Uzbekistan would not. This is not rational, logical or reasonable.

Peace Corps volunteers have in the past and continue to play a critical role in advancing the national interests of the United States and do so at significant personal risk to the volunteer, including disease, assaults, banditry, and in some cases kidnapping and murder. During my recent two years in the Peace Corps in East Africa(1999-2001) virtually 90% of the volunteers in my group of 42 were either robbed, burglarized, assaulted, mugged or shot at ---some several times.

Serving in Mali, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Uzbekistan or any of the many other third world areas where Peace Corps people work can, to say the least, be very hazardous to your health.

The events of September 11 have dramatically emphasized the lack of understanding by much of the third world of the views regarding equality, freedom, openness, ethnic diversity, human rights and other core principles of the United States. It is equally as important for the people of the United States to understand the thinking of people in other parts of the world, their religious beliefs and their basic needs for survival under extremely difficult circumstances.

President Bush, in his recent State of the Union address, strongly emphasized the major national interests advanced by Peace Corps volunteers serving in developing countries. He also noted the significant contributions made by each volunteer in furthering this national interest, and stated his intent to expand the program.

Having spent a significant amount of time outside of the United States including my recent two years in the Peace Corps in Africa in a remote village with no electricity, running water, sewerage, etc., I can assure you that the Peace Corps programs, where the volunteers live in the local village at the same local subsistence level and work with and are assimilated into the village, are tremendously effective in reaching the local people.

A Peace Corps volunteer fields literally hundreds of questions daily about life in the United States (and in my case also Alaska), our political and justice systems, human rights and many other social issues. The Peace Corps volunteer who actually lives for two years in the village under the same conditions as the villagers is truly the most "hands-on" representative of our country there to help alleviate the devastating poverty and health conditions that exist. Many times they themselves succumb to the risks --malaria, AIDs, typhoid, robbery, etc., and in some cases murder.

During my service I provided training to villagers in small enterprise development, such as how to seek small amounts of funding (to buy a cow, make and sell mud bricks, etc.) from various embassies and NGOs, and other ways to generate a small amount of money in a environment with no electricity, no running water, and no indoor sanitation. I also arranged for a 15 year old student to spend a year here in Anchorage (Dimond high school) as a Girdwood Rotary international exchange student, and am currently paying the school fees for a very bright young orphan girl who was forced to leave school because her aunt, who is raising her own and several other children could not pay the school fees that must be paid by all students. If the fees are not paid the children are sent back to their village where, if a girl, she will be sold for a "bride price" or in many cases end up on the street.

The majority of Peace Corps volunteers are recent college graduates who leave college burdened with a large education debt, which is accruing interest during their absence. If they stayed in Alaska and did nothing to further U.S. interests abroad, they would receive a PFD and could apply it to the debt- if they went to Haiti to represent the United States, the debt increases.

It is also well to note that because of the timing of the mid year commencement of service (27 months), the volunteer currently loses four (4) years of the permanent fund dividend. There are but a very few Peace Corps volunteers who come from Alaska at any given time and granting qualification would not only be rational and fair, it would have absolutely no impact at all on the state treasury as all amounts paid would come 100% from the permanent fund--not from the general fund.

We would therefore urge the legislature to do the right thing and reinstate the exemption from PFD disqualification for service in the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,


Russell W. Walker

16995 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Feb. 18, 2002

Representative John Coghill, chairman
House State Affairs Committee

Dear Representative Coghill:

Although there are many critical issues facing the legislature I urge you to pass HB 314, introduced by McGuire and Davies, thereby rectifying a serious injustice done to Alaskans serving in the U.S. Peace Corps.

After living in Juneau for 40 years I entered the U.S. Peace Corps as a retired teacher. Throughout the two years and three months that I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay I considered it a great honor that my country had given me the opportunity to live and work in another country. Of course, I also considered it an honor and my good fortune to be a U.S. citizen. I never wondered where home was. The beauty of this land and the strength of friendships in Alaska helped me to fulfill my duties and to live happily in my Paraguayan village.

Importantly I had a home to come home to after 2 1/2 years. I had been able to pay my property taxes with the help of the Permanent Fund Dividend. Soon after my return to Alaska Peace Corps service was removed from being an allowable absence for qualifying for a dividend. If serving in the armed forces of the United

States for pay is an allowable absence, certainly service in the United States Peace Corps ought to qualify as well.

One of the established goals of Peace Corps is for volunteers to return home to share their understanding of the life and culture of their country of service with their community in the United States. With the help of other returned Peace Corps volunteers, we have made more than 150 presentations in Juneau classrooms in the last three years. Once a Peace Corps volunteer, always a Peace Corps volunteer.

It is the same spirit that brought many of us to Alaska in the first place that takes us out into the world as Peace Corps volunteers. I hope that this legislature will honor the work of Alaskans who serve their country through their service in the U.S. Peace Corps by allowing Peace Corps volunteers to receive the Permanent Fund Dividend to which they are surely entitled.

Please let me know how former Peace Corps volunteers, of whom there are many in Alaska, can assist you in the passage of HB 314.

Sincerely,
Judith Maier
Judith Maier

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB314
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Revenue
 Title PFD Eligibility for BRU Revenue Operations
Peace Corps Volunteers Component Permanent Fund Dividend
 Sponsor Representative McGuire
 Requester House State Affairs Component No. 981

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)
 Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 This bill would re-establish service in the Peace Corps as an allowable absence in determining eligibility for the Permanent Fund dividend.

 The division does not expect that this legislation would have a fiscal effect on its operations.

Prepared by: Nanci A. Jones, Director Phone 465-2323
 Division Permanent Fund Dividend Date/Time 1/30/02 11:25 AM
 Approved by: Larry Persily, Deputy Commissioner Date 01/30/2002
 Agency Department of Revenue

Kimberly J. Stohr
Attorney at Law

828 E Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

HB 314

Legislative Information Office
716 W 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

Attn: Joan

Fax 269-0229

Re: Peace Corps/PFD

Our daughter Adrienne is a PCV in Zambia involved in establishing an aquaculture program. While she was born and raised in Alaska and will be returning when her commitment is finished in December of this year, that is not why we feel the PFD program should be restored for Peace Corps volunteers.

We believe the PFD should be restored because it makes sense to the State of Alaska and the USA. These are some of our brightest and most dedicated young adults. They are the best ambassadors we have at a time when the American image abroad needs all the support it can muster. Adrienne's decision to return to Alaska will not be impacted by the current action or nonaction of the legislature on this issue. She got one of the toughest and most remote assignments in Zambia in part because she is from Alaska and loves our cabin in Skwentna where she learned to live without modern amenities. She's right at home in her mud hut w/o water or electricity in Zambia. She is serving in the Peace Corps as a result of her passion, commitment and patriotism. She does not expect to be rewarded for her efforts through the payment of a PFD. Her service and experiences are her rewards.

The foregoing may not be true for all potential volunteers, however, and to the extent someone's future decision to either enter the Peace Corps or return to Alaska after their service may be impacted by their eligibility for the PFD, it's a small price to pay. These educated and extremely dedicated individuals will be an asset wherever they live, work and raise their families. If eligibility to the PFD program can either encourage them to volunteer in the first place and/or return to Alaska after their service, then the State of Alaska got a great return on its investment. It's a win win proposition for the State. A promoter of Alaskan and American values while they are away and solid productive citizens when they return. If they don't return, you still can't buy the good will and PR they display during their service for the price of a PFD in any other medium.

Following the events of September 11th I was glued to the TV like the rest of the civilized world. Of course I'll never forget the images of that date, however, I'll never forget something else that many who heard it may or may not recall. Walter Cronkite was being interviewed and he was asked a question about how we can counter terrorism. His reply was that we need to change the world's image of America and that starts with programs like the Peace Corps. He said that it is hard to recruit terrorists from a village that's been exposed to American Peace Corps volunteers. I will remember Mr. Cronkite's statement because I was never prouder of my daughter. She doesn't need the PFD to survive and with or without it she will progress and prosper. But it would be a nice way for the State of Alaska to say "Thank you."

Kim & Jeanne Stohr

Tel (907) 274-0265 Fax (907) 274-5926

Kimberly J. Stohr
Attorney at Law

828 E Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: Legislative Information Office

~~Acting Secy~~

FAX 269-0229

RE: PPD eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers

DATE: 28 February 2002 TIME: 9:45 AM AST

This transmission consists of 2 pages including this page.

MESSAGE:

Please have the following statement transmitted
herewith made part of the record of todays hearing
on the above refernced issue. Thank you.

Kim Stohr

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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If there are any problems or questions concerning this transmission, please call (907) 274-0285.

SITE: ANCHORAGE LIO

**COMMITTEE: House State
Affairs**

DATE: 2-28-2002

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

HB 314

UPDATE #: 1



DO YOU WANT

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

P R I N T YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	TO TESTIFY? Y or N
Russell Walker			Y-HB 314
Email address:			
Karen Maskarinec			Y-HB 314
Email address:			
Joe Sullivan			Y-HB 314
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Contact:**

Interim Address:

465-3719

119 N. Cushman, Suite 211

3258

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Capitol

(907)-456-5081

Room 102

Fax# (907)-456-8245

Session

(907)-

FAX# (907)-465-

State

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

Date: February 28, 2002

To: Tam Cook, Leg Legal

From: Rynniva Moss, Legislative Aide

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rynniva Moss".

Re: Work Order # LS1129\C

House State Affairs is requesting a final for CSHB 314(STA) adopted by the committee today. This is Version C.

Thanks.

Kimberly J. Stohr
Attorney at Law

828 E Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

HB 314

Legislative Information Office
716 W 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

Attn: Jean

Fax 269-0229

Re: Peace Corps/PFD

Our daughter Adrienne is a PCV in Zambia involved in establishing an aquaculture program. While she was born and raised in Alaska and will be returning when her commitment is finished in December of this year, that is not why we feel the PFD program should be restored for Peace Corps volunteers.

We believe the PFD should be restored because it makes sense to the State of Alaska and the USA. These are some of our brightest and most dedicated young adults. They are the best ambassadors we have at a time when the American image abroad needs all the support it can muster. Adrienne's decision to return to Alaska will not be impacted by the current action or nonaction of the legislature on this issue. She got one of the toughest and most remote assignments in Zambia in part because she is from Alaska and loves our cabin in Skwentna where she learned to live without modern amenities. She's right at home in her mud hut w/o water or electricity in Zambia. She is serving in the Peace Corps as a result of her passion, commitment and patriotism. She does not expect to be rewarded for her efforts through the payment of a PFD. Her service and experiences are her rewards.

The foregoing may not be true for all potential volunteers, however, and to the extent someone's future decision to either enter the Peace Corps or return to Alaska after their service may be impacted by their eligibility for the PFD, it's a small price to pay. These educated and extremely dedicated individuals will be an asset wherever they live, work and raise their families. If eligibility to the PFD program can either encourage them to volunteer in the first place and/or return to Alaska after their service, then the State of Alaska got a great return on its investment. It's a win win proposition for the State. A promoter of Alaskan and American values while they are away and solid productive citizens when they return. If they don't return, you still can't buy the good will and PR they display during their service for the price of a PFD in any other medium.

Following the events of September 11th I was glued to the TV like the rest of the civilized world. Of course I'll never forget the images of that date, however, I'll never forget something else that many who heard it may or may not recall. Walter Cronkite was being interviewed and he was asked a question about how we can counter terrorism. His reply was that we need to change the world's image of America and that starts with programs like the Peace Corps. He said that it is hard to recruit terrorists from a village that's been exposed to American Peace Corps volunteers. I will remember Mr. Cronkite's statement because I was never prouder of my daughter. She doesn't need the PFD to survive and with or without it she will progress and prosper. But it would be a nice way for the State of Alaska to say "Thank you."

Kim & Jeanne Stohr

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 380

My name is Merritt Olson. I am a long-time Alaskan who served as a member and chair of the Teachers' Retirement Board and currently am a trustee on the Alaska State Pension Investment Board.

I have long been concerned about the inequity that exists regarding health benefits for retired teachers and public employees in the state system. Member and employer contributions during the employment years pay for pension benefits and health insurance at retirement. Although retirees pay the required deductibles for health insurance, they are not assessed premium charges until age 65. Then Medicare automatically becomes their primary health insurance, and they must pay the Medicare premium

Older retirees, especially those who are in their mid- to late-80s or 90s, are particularly hard hit. Their pensions tend to be lower in amount as they retired earlier and, consequently, with lower salaries while, at the same time, Medicare premium charges increase each year. (Currently it is \$54 a month.) Without other income beyond their rather meager pensions, they can be hard pressed to pay those charges.

House Bill 380 addresses this problem. I urge that you give serious consideration to this legislation.

I wish to thank the Committee for providing the opportunity to express my thoughts on this issue.

Merritt C. Olson
1032 W. 11th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	2-28-02	# of pages	2
To	HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS-	From	KAREN MASKARINEC		
Co./Dept	HB 314 Acad.	Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	907-694-2505		
Fax #	465-3258	Fax #	907-222-4796		

I read this part of Christmas card
from Owen's 10th grade students:

Dear miss Guterth and
our friends from remote and
old country Alaska.
We want to wish you a
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year. The most sincere and
coldest wishes of love and happiness
in this wonderful Christmas day.
Let every day new year day will
be light and happy and will bring
joy and good mood.

Karen Maskarinec's testimony on HB 314
2-28-02

Peace Corps -- those who work there now, those who have been volunteers in the past, are current volunteers. We're honored that you serve our nation, and you're welcome here in the White House, and thank you for coming. (Applause.)

And finally, I think it's a great tribute to the Peace Corps that we've got a lot of members from the ambassadorial corps who are here. I want to thank you all for coming and taking your time. You understand the importance of the Peace Corps, and your presence here is a confirmation of its importance. And so we welcome you. Thank you for coming.

For more than 40 years, the Peace Corps has sent Americans to serve their country by serving the world. America has a new kind of force today.

I mean, we're not only a great country, a great economic engine, and obviously a great military, we're a great idea. The greatness of the country is in the values we believe in -- freedom and hope and opportunity.

We're a nation founded on just valuable principles. And the power of the idea cannot, and will not, be stopped at our borders.

I read these quotes from President Bush's Feb. 15 remarks at the swearing-in of the new Peace Corps Director.

opportunities in Muslim nations for us to spread the good story about the values, the universal values, we hold so dear.

I believe Americans are still willing to sacrifice for causes greater than themselves. And the Peace Corps offers such a fantastic opportunity to do so. Gaddi Vasquez understands this, as well. And so it's with pleasure I introduce the newly sworn-in Director of the Peace Corps to the American people.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

END 2:24 P.M. EST

Karen Markarian testimony on HB 314

2-28-02



the White House
President George W. Bush

- President *Oval Office*
- News & Policies *West Wing*
- Vice President *VP Office*
- History & Tours *White House*
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Printer-Friend

State of the Union *The President shall from time to time give to Congress* President George W.

"The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." Article II, Sec. 3, U.S.

What Americans Can Do to Serve

Find out how you can serve the cause of freedom. Visit USA Freedom Corps.

First State of the Union Live Webcast

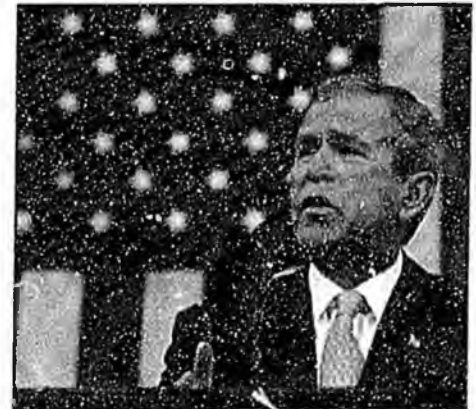
For the first time in history, the President's State of the Union message was available via a live webcast originating from the White House web site.

President George W. Bush State of the Union Address

January 29, 2002



- View the Transcript
- View the President's Remarks
- Meet the First Lady's Guests



White House photo President George W. Bush delivers the State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol, Tuesday, Jan 29, 2002.

Take a look at behind the scenes photo: Bush as he prepares for his State of the U

Winning the War on Terrorism



This war is being fought at home and abroad through diplomatic, military, financial and investigative actions.

Learn more about Winning the War on Terrorism.

Protecting the Homeland

Click on the map for contact information about Homeland Security in your state.



Creating Economic Growth

President Bush believes the best way to fight the recession is by creating economic growth and jobs. View the timeline to see his work economy.

Helpful Job Links:
America's Job Bank
U.S. Department of Labor

President's Message to Children

President Bush is proud of the youth of America and their displays of courage during this challenging time in history. Read his Message to Children.



View the results of America's Fund for Afghan Children.

Take the State of the Union Trivia Quiz for Kids.

History: The Tie That Binds

Vast and varied describe past State of the Union messages. One theme binds them together: National Unity



Guess the Quote



Test your wits and match the President to his State of the Union Quote.

State of the Union

What state did George Washington welcome into the union annual message in 1790?

- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- Florida
- Tennessee

answer

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applicant toolkit



applicant toolkit

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- Request Information
- Application Guide
- Apply Now
- Volunteer FAQs
- Nominees
- Invitees
- Family and Friends

Two years in the Peace Corps can help you redefine your world—and yourself. It will **test your ingenuity**, and **your idea of what "changing the world" is all about**. If you're ready to make a world of **your own**, join the Peace Corps.

Explore the applicant toolkit

Meet a Recruiter

Locate and contact a regional recruiter — your partner in the Peace Corps application process.

Request Information

Request a hard-copy brochure and application kit.

Application Guide

Helpful hints and information for applying to Peace Corps.

Apply Now

Apply online, and take the first step on the road to the toughest job you'll ever love.

Volunteer FAQs

Answers and information about frequently asked Volunteer questions.

Nominees

Information customized for Peace Corps Nominees.

Invitees

Checklists, information and ideas for soon-to-depart Peace Corps Invitees.

Friends and Family

Information for the family members and friends of applicants and Volunteers.

Read our [privacy](#) and [freedom of information](#) policies.

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peace corps

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Volunteer FAQs Qualifying

I hear it's very hard to get into the Peace Corps. Is that true? How competitive is it?

To become a Peace Corps Volunteer, an applicant must meet certain education and work experience requirements. When evaluating an applicant, the Peace Corps considers the "whole person" including your life experiences, community involvement, volunteer work, motivations, and even your hobbies. In most cases, applicants with a bachelor's degree in any discipline, strong motivation and a commitment to Peace Corps service will be competitive to become Peace Corps Volunteers.

I'm not a U.S. citizen. Can I join Peace Corps?

We appreciate the interest of our friends from other countries, but the answer is no — only U.S. citizens may join the Peace Corps. You may wish to learn about [other volunteer opportunities](#).

Do I need to speak another language to get into the Peace Corps?

The Peace Corps teaches more than 180 languages and dialects. During your pre-service training, you will receive intensive language instruction to prepare you for living and working in your overseas community. While some countries where Volunteers serve prefer people who have studied French or Spanish, it is not always a requirement.

Does the Peace Corps accept senior citizens?

You're never too old to serve in the Peace Corps. Volunteers must be at least eighteen years old, but there is no upper age limit. The oldest Peace Corps Volunteer ever was 86 when he completed his service. The Peace Corps, and the countries where Volunteers serve, welcome and value the wealth of experience that older Americans bring to their overseas assignments.

Can married couples join the Peace Corps? Can I serve with my boyfriend or girlfriend?

Peace Corps service can be a rewarding, enriching experience for married couples. Today, about 10 percent of Peace Corps Volunteers are married. In all cases, both spouses must serve as Volunteers and live and work in the same community. The Peace Corps is unable to place couples with dependent children and cannot guarantee placement in the same country of couples or friends who are not legally married. Applicants can begin the Peace Corps application process while engaged, but must be married before departing for their overseas assignment.

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a place in Peace

Are you qualified? A 5-minute quiz can help you determine how you can help you qualify for Peace Corps assignments. [more](#)

related :

College students: how to prepare for Peace Corps service. [more](#)

a diverse volunteer

You don't need a degree -- Peace Corps Volunteers come from different backgrounds and have different educational experiences. [more](#)

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Volunteer FAQs

Our frequently asked questions provide answers about [volunteering](#), [serving](#), and [life](#) in the Peace Corps.

Categories

Select a link to view FAQs by category, or choose a specific question from the list below.

- [Qualifying](#)
- [Applying](#)
- [Volunteering](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Benefits](#)

Questions, by Category

Qualifying

- I hear it's very hard to get into the Peace Corps. Is that true? How competitive is it? [read](#)
- I'm not a U.S. citizen. Can I join Peace Corps? [read](#)
- Do I need to speak another language to get into the Peace Corps? [read](#)
- Does the Peace Corps accept senior citizens? [read](#)
- Can married couples join the Peace Corps? Can I serve with my boyfriend or girlfriend? [read](#)

Applying

- When is the application deadline? [read](#)
- How far in advance should I send in my application? [read](#)
- I am worried that one of my references won't complete my reference form on time. Can I substitute someone else? [read](#)
- What is a nomination? [read](#)
- I've moved since my nomination. Who should I call to update my address? [read](#)
- Where do I go for my Peace Corps medical exams? [read](#)
- I've been fingerprinted several times for previous employers. Can Peace Corps just use these? If not, where can I get my fingerprints done? [read](#)
- I don't have a passport. Should I apply for one now? [read](#)

Volunteering

volunteer and security
Learn how Peace Corps and Volunteers work together to ensure personal safety overseas [see more](#)

for family and friends
Common questions from family and friends about Peace Corps Volunteers at home [see more](#)

for returning volunteers
Career resources, benefits, and how to get back to work [see more](#)



- Will I leave for my Peace Corps country alone? [read](#)
- Can I choose the country where I'll serve as a Volunteer? How long is a Peace Corps assignment? [read](#)
- Will I be the only Peace Corps Volunteer in my community? Will I be in an isolated spot? Can I have a roommate? [read](#)
- When I'm in training, will I have a choice in where I'll be placed for my two years—a rural site as opposed to an urban site? [read](#)
- Do I get vacation time while I'm overseas? Can I come home for a visit? Can my family or friends visit me? [read](#)
- Will I have trouble overseas if I am a vegetarian? [read](#)
- Can I bring my pet? [read](#)

Health and Safety

- What immunizations do I need to obtain before I go overseas? [read](#)
- How is medical care provided during Volunteer service? [read](#)
- What kind of health insurance coverage will I have in Peace Corps? [read](#)
- What does the Peace Corps do to protect the health and safety of its Volunteers? [read](#)
- Does my health care coverage last after my Peace Corps service overseas? Are there any special plans I can join? [read](#)

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- How much will I get paid in the Peace Corps? What do I have to pay for as a Volunteer? [read](#)
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Application Guide Application Hints

applicant toolkit

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- Application Guide
 - Steps to Applying
 - Application Hints
 - Applying Online
 - Medical Clearance
 - Safety and Security
 - Checklist
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The selection process relies heavily on the information in your application. Consequently, accurate and complete information about your work experience, school history, interests and background is important. This will make it easier for your recruiter to match your abilities and skills with the needs of a given assignment. You may add supplemental information to ensure that your application contains the necessary information.

Please Proofread Your Application Carefully

Spelling and grammatical errors may hurt your chances for certain programs. Particular attention should be paid to the sections mentioned below. You may wish to contact a recruiter regarding your specific background prior to completing the application or if you have any questions.

The Basics

Use your full, legal name. Do not use nicknames. Indicate the earliest date you would be available to depart for overseas. You will be considered for assignments after this date.

Legal Information

It is critical that this section be completed. Your application may be delayed if the Peace Corps needs to contact you for additional information. If you answer "yes" to any of the items in this section, you must give full details.

Marital Status and Dependents

Answer all questions regardless of your marital status. Note: If you are married and plan to serve with your spouse, each person must complete an application. Peace Corps does not allow Volunteers to serve with their dependents.

Educational Background and Course Work

List all schools, including high schools, trade and vocational schools that you have attended. Include dates, your major and minor, type of degree or certificate — e.g. B.A., B.S., and date (month/year) received for expected.

Employment History

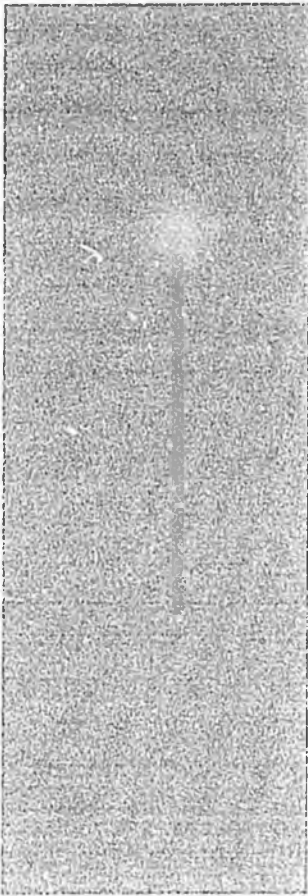
Include dates and descriptions of work performed as well as your reasons for leaving. Use additional pages if necessary. If retired, list your prior jobs. College students must list summer and part-time work. Be sure to give an accurate chronological listing of your employment by month and year. You must submit a resume but it cannot be used as a substitute for requested employment information. Account for "time gaps" of more than three months including unemployment and time not taken up by school, work or military service.

Community, Volunteer Activities

Many volunteer assignments require recent experience demonstrating organizational ability, motivation, commitment to service and leadership skills. Please list all school, church or community activities. Be as specific as possible. Describe your participation in community service or improvement projects, whether paid or volunteer (e.g., Red Cross, service clubs, PTA). Provide dates and the amount of time committed to each project. This section plays a very important role in the evaluation of your application.

Geographic Preference

Although we ask for your geographic preference, Peace Corps' priority is to



place you where your skills are most needed. Flexibility increases your chances of placement.

Practical Experience

Do not underestimate your abilities even if informally gained. Include dates and time spent on your practical experience; add as much detail as possible.

Motivation Statement

Your reason(s) for wanting to join Peace Corps will be taken into account in the selection process. Please be thoughtful and honest in preparing your statement. Tell why you wish to become a volunteer and what you hope to accomplish.

Some Suggestions to Help Speed Processing of Your Application

- Make sure you keep copies of all your application materials.
- Respond to all requests from the Peace Corps for additional legal and medical information as quickly as possible.
- Select your references from people who are readily available, and urge them to complete their forms as quickly as possible.
- Keep in touch by phone or e-mail with your recruiter, and later your placement officer. Make sure you notify them of changes in your address or phone numbers.

Related Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions About the Medical Clearance Process](#)
- [Applying Online](#)

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Application Guide Safety and Security

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[Apply Now](#)[Volunteer FAQs](#)[Nominees](#)[Invitees](#)[Family and Friends](#)

Whether you are considering joining the Peace Corps, about to accept an invitation to serve in a particular country, or a family member or friend of a current or prospective Volunteer, it is important for you to understand the realities of Peace Corps service, particularly with regard to personal safety and welfare. If you or someone you know is about to accept an assignment to serve overseas, this is surely an exciting time, and we want your expectations to be as realistic as possible. The more you learn now about the realities of Peace Corps service, the better prepared you will be to handle the challenges and rewards ahead.

Because the Peace Corps works in some of the least developed countries and in some of the most remote areas in the world, health, safety, and security risks are an unavoidable part of life and of Volunteer service. While the majority of Volunteers serve their two years without major incident, it is important for you to know that Peace Corps service does involve certain risks, including road accidents, natural disasters, crime and civil unrest. The Peace Corps devotes significant resources to minimize safety risks to Volunteers and to ensure that they are given the training, support, and information they need for a safe experience. However, there are many variables beyond the agency's control that impact Volunteers' welfare and it is not possible to eliminate all the risks associated with Volunteers' service overseas.

Key Points about Safety and Security in the Peace Corps

In matters of safety and security, the Peace Corps makes the following key assumptions:

- 
- **Serving as a Volunteer Involves Safety and Security Risks**
Living and traveling in an unfamiliar environment, having a limited understanding of local language and culture, and being perceived as well-off are some of the factors that can put a Volunteer at risk. Many Volunteers experience varying degrees of unwanted attention and harassment. Petty thefts and burglaries are not uncommon, and incidents of physical and sexual assaults do occur.
 - **Volunteers Are Expected to Adopt a Culturally Appropriate Lifestyle to Promote Their Safety**
Being a Volunteer requires changes in lifestyle preferences and habits in deference to host country cultural expectations and in order to minimize security risks. Choices in dress, living arrangements, means of travel, entertainment, and companionship may have a direct impact on how Volunteers are viewed, and thus treated, by their communities. Navigating the differences in gender relations may be one of the most sensitive and difficult lessons to learn, but one which could have a direct impact on the Volunteer's safety and the protection provided by the local community. Mature behavior and the exercise of sound judgment will enhance personal safety.
 - **Each Peace Corps Post Maintains a Volunteer Safety Support System Designed to Minimize Safety Risks, as Prescribed by Peace Corps Policy**
Fundamental to the Peace Corps approach to Volunteer safety is the fact that Volunteers can most effectively minimize their safety risks by building respectful relationships with those in their community. The Peace Corps has instituted a broad and systematic approach to increase Volunteers' capacity to keep themselves safe during their two-year service. This approach is based upon several fundamental tenets of Volunteer safety and security, which are outlined below. These include: building relationships, sharing information, training, site development, incident reporting and response, and emergency communications and planning.

Building Relationships Is Key to Volunteer Safety

Like the Peace Corps mission, safety and security are predicated on the development of close interpersonal relationships between Volunteers and host-country community members. The agency recognizes that Volunteers' daily safety is, for the most part, best assured when they are well integrated into the local community, valued and protected as extended family members, and viewed as contributors to development. To this end, the Peace Corps strives to build and maintain the support of host country governments, authorities, and local communities for the Peace Corps' presence in country and the work the Volunteers have been requested to perform. The responsibility of Volunteers is to learn the local language and integrate into the host community. Volunteers are expected to build and maintain respectful relationships with sponsoring agency representatives, colleagues, and other community members. These relationships help Volunteers establish a presence in their new homes, pave the way for many work and social opportunities, and become the basis of their new support systems in country.

Knowing What to Expect Helps Applicants and Volunteers Make Informed Choices

The Peace Corps is committed to providing accurate information about Volunteer service to interested individuals. This information describes the nature and conditions of Peace Corps service; the challenges Volunteers face; the impact that serving in another culture will have on individual lifestyle, comfort, and safety (e.g., living with host families, conservative dress, restrictions on movement and night travel); and the support Volunteers will receive in their respective countries of service. From the moment an applicant is invited to serve in a particular country, specific information about potential challenges is provided from a variety of sources. These challenges often include unwanted attention; harassment; health and safety risks; and cultural behaviors that an American might find offensive, uncomfortable, or threatening. With this information, potential Volunteers can make informed decisions about whether Peace Corps service

is right for them and whether they are prepared to live at any site in their host country, where local community members will be their primary support system. Once the Volunteers are in-country, Peace Corps staff will keep them informed of security issues and provide guidance for maintaining their safety and well-being as appropriate.

In addition, for the welfare of Volunteers, Peace Corps policy requires that Volunteers report their whereabouts when they travel away from their sites or change residences, and that they obtain Peace Corps authorization if they intend to leave their country of assignment for any reason.

On-Going Training Equips Volunteers for a Safe and Productive Service

The Peace Corps takes an integrated approach to Volunteer training. Through language, cross-cultural, and health and safety instruction, training is designed to raise the Volunteer's awareness of their new environment, build their capacity to effectively cope with the many challenges they will face, and provide the tools the Volunteers need to adopt a safe and appropriate lifestyle. Volunteers are also instructed in Peace Corps policies and procedures and the Volunteer's responsibility to abide by them.

Before reporting to the communities where they will live and work, Volunteers participate in 8-12 weeks of intensive training in their country of service. During pre-service training, Peace Corps typically places Volunteers with local families to aid in cultural integration and language acquisition. This early home-stay experience begins the process of building and maintaining various networks of friends and contacts with host country nationals and fellow Volunteers that will support each Volunteer's efforts for a successful service. The Peace Corps provides this integrated safety training throughout the Volunteer's tour of service to help Volunteers better understand their surroundings, how to cope with unwanted attention, and how to develop personal safety strategies.

Volunteer Sites Are Assessed to Meet Safety and Security Criteria
Peace Corps staff in-country are responsible for assessing and approving the communities where Volunteers will live and work to ensure that placements are appropriate and safe and that secure housing and work sites are available. Site selection is based on established safety and security criteria that reflect consideration of site history; access to medical, banking, postal, and other essential services; access to communication, transportation, and local markets; availability of adequate housing and living arrangements; and the potential for obtaining and maintaining the acceptance and consent of host country authorities and the population-at-large. During their service, Volunteers are visited periodically at their sites by Peace Corps program managers and medical staff members to monitor issues related to Volunteers' site assignments. If a Volunteer's safety or well-being is placed at risk or compromised, the Peace Corps staff will try to resolve the situation or move the Volunteer to another location.

Peace Corps Responds to Volunteers' Safety Concerns
Volunteers are strongly encouraged and expected to report safety concerns or incidents to the appropriate Peace Corps staff member. Staff members are prepared to provide appropriate medical, emotional, and administrative support as each case warrants. In such cases, Volunteers' need for confidentiality will be respected. The Peace Corps also maintains a collaborative relationship with the U.S. Embassy and host government officials in order to respond to Volunteers' safety and security concerns as they arise. Improvements in safety reporting have allowed the Peace Corps to identify associated risk factors (time of day, location, alcohol use, means of transportation, etc.) and develop strategies to help Volunteers address them. Volunteers are urged to be aware of their environment and to adopt a safe lifestyle and exercise judgment in a manner that reduces their exposure to risks.

Emergency Communications and Planning

Typically, Volunteers live and work with community members, at some distance from the Peace Corps office in the capital city. Volunteers are expected to stay in touch with the Peace Corps office on a periodic basis. They are required to report their whereabouts when they travel away from their sites, and are required to receive Peace Corps authorization if they

intend to leave the country of assignment for any reason. Although some Volunteers consider notification of movement and regular contact with the Peace Corps office restrictive, it is necessary to ensure that Volunteers can be contacted in case of emergency.

The Peace Corps addresses larger security concerns through country-specific Emergency Action Plans (EAP) that are in place in each Peace Corps country. These plans, developed to address such events as natural disasters or civil unrest, set forth the strategies developed by each Peace Corps office to prepare for, respond to, and recover from such crises. The plan defines roles and responsibilities for staff and Volunteers, explains standard policies and procedures, and lists emergency contact information for every Volunteer in country. These plans are tested and revised annually. A critical element of the EAP is a comprehensive locator form for each Volunteer, which ensures that Volunteers can be contacted in case of emergency and for important notices. Volunteers receive training about the EAP, are provided a copy of the EAP, and are expected to familiarize themselves with their roles and responsibilities during times of crises.

The Peace Corps works very closely with the U.S. Embassy to share information, develop strategies, and coordinate communications in a crisis. If a situation arises in country that poses a potential threat to Volunteers, the Peace Corps will immediately assess the nature of the threat and respond in a manner that ensures the Volunteers' safety and well-being. If the decision is made to evacuate Volunteers from a country, the Peace Corps will commit every resource at hand to safely move each Volunteer and staff member out of harm's way. Although the Peace Corps does not automatically contact family members in all crisis situations the Peace Corps will, in the event of an evacuation, initiate calls to the emergency contact persons each Volunteer has identified.

Safe Journey

Every staff member at the Peace Corps is committed to providing Volunteers with the support they need to successfully meet the challenges they will face to have a safe, healthy, and productive service. We hope that the information provided here will help you gain a sense of these challenges, the changes in attitude and lifestyle that may be required to adapt to a new environment, and the level of support that can be expected from the Peace Corps, local colleagues, and host communities. The success of each Peace Corps Volunteer is our goal. We rely on Volunteers to exercise personal responsibility, demonstrate a keen awareness of the world around them, and a willingness to adjust their behavior in a manner that will enhance their safety and well-being. In the end their efforts will be rewarded with an incredible, unique experience.

Read our [privacy](#) and [freedom of information](#) policies.

Brian Keith Brubaker

Hello!

My name is Brian Brubaker. I am a resident of Fairbanks and an alumnus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am writing to ask that you please support HB 314 and SB 232, which would restore eligibility to Peace Corps Volunteers to receive Permanent Fund Dividends.

Some of my best friends, Theresa and Leif Vick (shown at right), served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines in 1995-1997. Today they're back in Fairbanks, where she is an English middle school teacher and he sells furniture for Sadler's.



Since then I've known others who have served as well. They include LJ Evans who is in the Philippines now and used to work for the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center. Denny and Lisa Wells are college friends I knew in the UAF United Campus Ministry and are now serving in Thailand. Another college friend of mine, Amber Hopkins, served in Macedonia. And the younger sister of my college friend Kate (Korvola) Ziesmer served in Togo.

Our Alaska Peace Corps Volunteers are few, but the work they do is important to our national interests - especially since the events of September 11. My father fought in Vietnam and my grandfathers went to war in Europe to preserve our freedom so that their children and grandchildren could live in a safer, free world. Now we're at war again, and this time it is not world war nor is it a cold war. President Bush recognized the importance of the Peace Corps in our national strategy for today when he called on the nation to double the number of Peace Corps Volunteers in his State of the Union Address.

These people from our community who are volunteering and serving our country deserve our support and recognition. Please restore to them the privilege of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend.

Sincerely,
Brian K. Brubaker

www.akpeacedividends.org

To All Alaskans:

People here in Thailand ask me where I'm from, and I proudly answer Alaska, even though I know perfectly well that they are expecting me to say what *country* I am from. I feel however, that maybe Alaska is not as proud of me as I am of it, as I am denied the PFD because I am a Peace Corps Volunteer. I am not considered a resident of Alaska despite the fact that I have all my belongings, furniture, etc. in storage in Alaska, my car and truck are there, my bank account is there, my permanent address is there, and I have a post office box there. I am registered to vote in Alaska. My driver's license (still valid) is

Alaskan. After I finish my service in the Peace Corps, I will return to live in Alaska. If I'm not a resident of Alaska, then just exactly where *do* you consider me to be a resident? Thailand? The Thais would disagree with you wholeheartedly. I cannot vote here, nor can I acquire a driver's license here. I need a separate visa every time I enter the country, even if I've just stepped across the border to visit a market for the day. I do not qualify for any of the public health plans, I do not pay income tax to the Thai government. The



Peace Corps itself considers me an Alaskan resident. "...Peace Corps volunteers are considered residents of their Home-of-Record state," (Peace Corps Administrative Guide, March 2001).

Now, I will be perfectly honest. I joined the Peace Corps knowing full well that I would be denied the Permanent Fund Dividend, but I joined anyway because principles are more important to me than money. If you don't believe that, consider this: I make \$170 a month here (that works out to \$2040 per year), and I will quote the Peace Corps Administrative Guide regarding our leave policy: "*Volunteers are deemed to be on duty seven days a week...volunteers accrue annual leave at the rate of two days for each month of service.*" That leave policy is the same as standard military personnel, who, I might add, are eligible to receive the PFD. I am obviously not in this job for the money, but to be completely honest, it bothers me that if I volunteer to carry a gun for my country, I get the PFD, but if I volunteer to help others and promote understanding of Americans, I am denied that money.

In addition to the work that I do locally here, I also participate in the Peace Corps World Wise School program, in which volunteers "adopt" a class back in the States in order exchange cultural information. I send Marilyn Siedschlag's 2nd grade class at Hunter Elementary (in Fairbanks) letters, post cards, photos, and other miscellaneous things from Thailand, while she arranges for her students to then ask me questions about my life here. This is all done at my own expense.

It is almost inconceivable to me that I do not qualify for the permanent fund, despite the fact that I consider myself an Alaskan resident AND the Peace Corps considers me an Alaskan resident. I just wish that Alaska considered me a resident. It gets a little lonely out here when no one's willing to claim me.

Sincerely,
Lisa Wells, PCV
ONPEC Sangkha
Amphur Sangkha
Surin, 32150 - Thailand

Box 104106
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Representative John Davies
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: House Bill 314 (PFD Eligibility for Peace Corps Volunteers)

February 13, 2002

Dear Representative Davies:

I write in support of HB 314 that restores Peace Corps service as a permitted absence from Alaska in the determination of a person's eligibility for a permanent fund dividend. Although we have met through my current position as the executive director of the Alaska Judicial Council, I am writing to you as a private citizen.

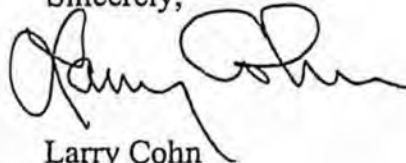
In 1979-1981, after law school, I worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in a legal aid clinic in Kingston, Jamaica. Based on my experience and the experience that other volunteers have shared with me since then, I am confident that the Peace Corps is an important and cost-effective component of American foreign policy. I understand that this bill is not a referendum on the value of the Peace Corps. However, President Bush's proposal to double the size of the Peace Corps is evidence that Peace Corps service promotes a level of cross-cultural understanding that is vitally important in the world today. I do believe that Peace Corps service is as important as many of the other absences from Alaska that do not disqualify a person for a permanent fund dividend.

Any doubt I may have had about the value of Peace Corps service was allayed by my recent visit to Jamaica with my wife and two children. It was my first visit in seventeen years. The warmth with which my former neighbors, friends, and fellow Jamaican workers greeted me and my family was overwhelming. We could go nowhere without being offered a meal, fruits from a garden, a handicraft, and other tokens of appreciation from people whose annual incomes do not amount to a single permanent fund dividend. It was one of the most uplifting experiences of my life.

Public service and civic responsibility are important traditions in Alaska. Irrespective of their eligibility for a permanent fund dividend, I like to think that Alaskans will continue to volunteer for Peace Corps service. I do think though that Alaska should support and encourage Peace Corps service by not adding to the sacrifices that people weigh in deciding whether to volunteer.

Thank you very much for sponsoring this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to support your efforts.

Sincerely,



Larry Cohn

Subject: HB 314 Restoration of PFD to Alaskan Peace Corps Volunteers

Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2002 16:53:40 -0900

From: Don & Carolyn Gray <dcgray@mosquionet.com>

To: Representative_Joe_Hayes@legis.state.ak.us

-- HB 314 Restoration of Permanent Fund
Dividend for Alaskan Peace Corps Volunteers

My husband, Don, and I came to Alaska 32 years ago after serving in the Peace Corps in India and Panama respectively and meeting afterwards in graduate school at Stanford University. The program, a Secondary Education Masters degree program, reserved fellowships for people with Peace Corps experience because the School of Education viewed this experience as an asset for those leading the education of students in this country. The only reason we ended up coming to Alaska was that we met a man doing research on setting up the Alaska State Foundation Formula for schools and he talked about teaching in Alaska. Coincidentally, the National Council for the Social Studies had their national meeting in San Francisco and we interviewed with a representative from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. After arriving, we took classes at the University of Alaska and participated in teacher in-services regarding Alaskan cultures as well as visited some of our rural students from the Boarding Home program of the 1970's. Thus we were able to learn and include diverse cultural information for our Fairbanks social studies classes.

We believe that Alaska has potential PCV residents who know Alaskan cultures, often learned in Alaskan schools. These residents are prime candidates (if they return to Alaska) to serve as teachers in rural and urban areas. The Department of Education reports there is a shortage of teachers. Restoration of the PFD to Alaskan Peace Corps Volunteers would act as incentive to return and teach here. Such recruitment at little cost to the state or taxpaying districts also makes sense.

Returned Volunteers can apply their work experience in teaching, business, agriculture and forestry, environment, health and community development to the challenges of life in Alaska.

Peace Corps Recruiters have had difficulty finding qualified Alaskan volunteers partly due to the removal of the Permanent Fund Dividend. Many qualified applicants have incurred heavy State and Federal student loans in the course of their career preparation and must begin paying them off before or immediately upon graduation.

In his 2002 State of the Union Message, President Bush asked that the number of Peace Corps Volunteers be doubled in service overseas. George Tenet, Director of the CIA in Congressional testimony on 2/06/02 called on U.S. officials "to work at the root causes of poverty, alienation and ethnic tensions, conditions exploited by terrorists to gain recruits". Skilled Peace Corps Volunteers can both help through the aforementioned programs and satisfy Alaskan needs upon their return to

the state.

The PFD should be restored to eligible Alaskans who make the sacrifice of two years of public service (or up to five years as currently limited by Federal Statute) as Peace Corps Volunteers or Staff members.

A personal note: I was paid \$90/month for 27 months of service--from that I paid \$60/month rent. I did not have electricity or running water in 1967 and received the sum total of \$2000 as a readjustment allowance after completing service.

Today a PCV in Panama receives \$300/month and may or may not have those utilities. The readjustment allowance is \$225/month and the usual service term is 24 months.

Thank you, M. Carolyn Gray, RPCV Panama 1965-67
399 Hillside Drive-Fairbanks, AK 99712 dcgray@mosquionet.com
tel. 907-457-5737

Bush supports Peace Corps, while Alaska should be ashamed

I don't always agree with President Bush's approach to things, but in the State of the Union address, he joined with every president since John F. Kennedy and supported the Peace Corps, promising to double the number of volunteers.

Several years ago, the Alaska Legislature took away the Permanent Fund from Alaska Peace Corps volunteers for God only knows what reasons and what warped logic. Fortunately, Alaskans will suffer that insult in order to do the right thing and join anyway. The Peace Corps is a fundamentally good thing. We represent our country and our state when we go overseas to help people live a better life, and they think better of us for the sacrifices we make to help them. The Legislature should be embarrassed and ashamed that it would punish people ready to go the extra mile to make this world a better place.

— Joseph R. Sullivan, Ph.D.

Returned Peace Corps volunteer, Zambia,

1999-2001

Anchorage

Letter to the Editor
ADN - 02-05-02

Subject: support for HB 314

Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2002 13:29:16 -0900

From: "Rebecca Kyle" <rkyle@emeraldnc.com>

To: <Representative_Lisa_Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Eric_Croft@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_John_Davies@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator_Loren_Leman@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Senator_Ben_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Senator_Gene_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 314 sponsored by Rep. McGuire and Rep. Davies.

As an Alaskan recently returned from college I am in the process of asking myself how I may best contribute to my community to promote understanding in these confusing times. Since my return I have started attending my community council meetings, signed-up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anchorage, and have donated free time to Habitat for Humanity. But on January 29, 2002 President Bush sent a personal appeal in his State of the Union Address to join the Peace Corps. As President Bush urged, I too wish to "extend the compassion of our country to every part of the world," to aid our goal of national security.

Recently I was told that if I was inclined to help our country through the Peace Corps I will lose eligibility for the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). I have been a resident of Alaska since I moved here at age eight and have received the PFD since at least 1988. Throughout my stint Outside, I fought the College Registrar's office and the Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division to convince everyone that I still indeed am a resident and have always had the intent to live, raise a family, and retire in Alaska. Now after years of dreams and loyalty if I enter into the voluntary government service of the Peace Corps, depending on the beginning of my 2-year minimum commitment, I will not collect the PFD privilege that every other Alaska resident receives for approximately 4-5 years.

I have completed some research and discovered that according to the Peace Corps Administrative Guide (March 2001), "Peace Corps volunteers are considered residents of their Home-of-Record state." Since 1961, 711 Alaskans have or are volunteers in the Peace Corps. If the current volunteers were added to the list of eligible PFD recipients in 2000 and 2001 the amount of each check would have been reduced by a miniscule 8 cents.

At the moment I have school and car loans, plus other financial obligations such as my individual retirement account that I probably won't be able to cover with an average of \$2,000 yearly compensation as a volunteer. Even though I am at an excellent time in life and have those special characteristics (single status, optimism, international experience, a bit of naiveté) to volunteer, the desire to keep my residency and PFD is pressure enough to stay home.

I have heard from returned volunteers that the benefits of their service were not only bestowed upon the communities they helped, but upon them as individuals, and the communities to which they returned and the people with whom they shared their experiences.

Please help me extend the compassion of our great state to others in our world community by approving House Bill 314.

Sincere thanks,
Rebecca E Kyle

Subject: FW: HB 314

Date: Tue, 26 Feb 2002 16:38:13 -0900

From: "Gary A. Zipkin" <gzipkin@guessrudd.com>

To: <Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative McGuire,

I am forwarding a copy of the e-mail message I previously sent to Representative Coghill regarding House Bill 314, which I support. I wasn't sure that his office forwarded a copy of my message to the other members of the State Affairs Committee. I understand that the continued hearing on this bill will be at 8:00 a.m. this Thursday, February 28, but I may not be able to attend in view of my busy work schedule. Thank you for sponsoring this bill! Gary A. Zipkin

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary A. Zipkin [mailto:gzipkin@guessrudd.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2002 8:42 AM

To: Representative_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: HB 314

Dear Representative Coghill,

My name is Gary Zipkin. I am an attorney in Anchorage and a 28-year resident of Alaska. I write in support of House Bill 314, regarding "allowable absences" from the state for Peace Corps volunteers so that they may qualify for permanent fund dividends. As you know, President Bush -- during his State of the Union Address -- called on young people in this country to dedicate themselves to public service and to make a two-year commitment to serving this nation. He specifically referenced the Peace Corps and recommended it to young men and women. My daughter Sarah (age 23) is one of the people answering President Bush's call for public service and she has just learned that she has been accepted into the Peace Corps beginning this coming May. I understand that some 17,000 people visited the Peace Corps website the day following the President's address -- indicating the extent to which he has motivated young people towards public service. Now I ask that the State of Alaska similarly help motivate our young people and recognize the value of their national service by extending our permanent fund dividend program to include, and not to exclude, these fine young citizens. Thank you for your consideration of my views. I had hoped to participate in the hearings on this bill but just learned that they have been postponed until February 21, when I will be flying out of state on business. Finally, I ask that this message be share^d with the other members of the House State Affairs Committee. Again, thank you for considering my views. Gary Zipkin, 3515 Cottonwood St., Anchorage, Ak., 99508 -- (907) 276-0043 (H) -- and (907) 793-2200 (W).