

Date of Hearing: March 23, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 135 (Laird) – As Introduced February 25, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 34-0

SUBJECT: Peace Corps Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims March 1, 2026, to March 7, 2026, inclusive, as Peace Corps Week, in recognition of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Peace Corps; and, supports awarding Peace Corps volunteers a Congressional Gold Medal to honor their distinguished service to the United States. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The United States Peace Corps, established by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961, by signing Executive Order No. 10924, is celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2026 in recognition of nearly 240,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served our nation in more than 140 host countries since the program began.
- 2) The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to promoting international peace, encouraging progress, creating opportunity, and expanding development at the grassroots level in the developing world.
- 3) Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health, and environmental preservation, and have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the globe.
- 4) The State of California has contributed 32,503 Peace Corps volunteers, the most of any state, including 329 in 2025. A substantial number of returned Peace Corps volunteers have served as members or staff of the Legislature.
- 5) The Peace Corps Volunteers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2025, introduced as H.R. 5521 on September 19, 2025, and supported by bipartisan cosponsors, is the highest honor that the United States Congress can bestow on a group of civilians for distinguished service to the United States.
- 6) Awarding a Congressional Gold Medal will recognize the outstanding achievements of Peace Corps volunteers, will educate our nation about the value of Peace Corps service at the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and will serve as a significant opportunity to encourage individuals to join the Peace Corps.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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