To provide Peace Corps volunteers whose service was terminated as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic with unemployment compensation, health insurance, and expedited employment opportunities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MURPHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide Peace Corps volunteers whose service was terminated as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic with unemployment compensation, health insurance, and expedited employment opportunities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Utilizing and Sup-porting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers Act”.

SEC. 2. APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.

In this section, the term “applicable individual” means an individual—
(1) who was serving as a Peace Corp volunteer before the date of the enactment of this Act;
(2) whose period of service was subject to early termination as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
(3) who is unemployed and not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or extended unemployment benefits under State or Federal law, including an individual who has exhausted all rights to regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF INCLUSION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Labor shall deem applicable individuals as covered individuals for purposes of section 2102 of the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act (subtitle A of title II of division A of Public Law 116–136).

SEC. 4. HEALTH INSURANCE CONTINUATION FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.

Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(e)) is amended—
(1) by inserting “(1)” after “(e)”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:
“(2) A volunteer whose period of service was subject to early termination as a result of the COVID–19 public health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) shall receive—

“(A) 2 months of health insurance that provides similar coverage to the coverage provided through health insurance for volunteers upon their return to the United States; and

“(B) an opportunity to extend such health insurance, at the expense of such volunteer, until the last day of the last week for which the volunteer is eligible for payments under section 3 of the Utilizing and Supporting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers Act.”.

SEC. 5. EXPEDITED HIRING FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS.

(a) NONCOMPETITIVE ELIGIBILITY HIRING STATUS.—Every Federal department and agency facing critical hiring needs as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic shall establish a process by which their staff with hiring authority receive information from the Office of Personnel Management about the noncompetitive eligibility hiring status of former Peace Corps volunteers, including an expedited process for hiring such individuals who meet the minimum qualifications of a vacant position.
(b) CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.—The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, in coordination with the Director of the Peace Corps, shall establish an expedited process by which applicable individuals can procure employment through AmeriCorps, FEMA Corps, or affiliated programs to help address the COVID–19 pandemic.

SEC. 6. RESUMPTION OF PEACE CORPS OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the Director of the Peace Corps Director determines, as a result of the cessation of the COVID–19 pandemic, that it is safe to resume Peace Corps operations worldwide, the Director shall resume all of its programs in every country in which it operated as of January 1, 2020.

(b) EXPEDITED REENROLLMENT PROCESS.—The Director of the Peace Corps shall establish an expedited process for the reenrollment of former Peace Corps Volunteers whose service was interrupted as a result of the COVID–19 outbreak.

SEC. 7. COORDINATION.

The Director of the Peace Corps shall coordinate with the Secretary of Labor to implement this Act and the amendments made by this Act.
SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and section 5(e)(2) of the Peace Corps Act, as added by section 4(2) such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2020 and 2021.