

## *The Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011*

### **Sexual Assault Risk-Reduction and Response Training**

- Requires the Peace Corps to develop training and protocol in consultation with experts that comply with best practices in the sexual assault field and are tailored to a volunteer's specific country.

### **Sexual Assault Response**

- Establishes sexual assault response teams made up of safety and security officers, medical staff, and a victim advocate that can respond to reports of sexual assaults against a volunteer.
- Establishes an Office of Victim Advocacy within the Peace Corps to help victims get the services they need.

### **Sexual Assault Review**

- Establishes a Sexual Assault Advisory Council made up of former volunteers (victims and non-victims) and experts in the sexual assault field to review Peace Corps sexual assault policy and implementation. The Council will meet once a year and report to Congress its findings.
- Tasks the IG office with reviewing the effectiveness and implementation of Peace Corps sexual assault policy and protocol.

### **Provides Volunteers with Whistleblower Protection**

- Requires the Peace Corps to establish a process for Volunteers to confidentially report incidents of assault, misconduct or mismanagement.
- Requires the Peace Corps to educate and train Volunteers and staff on this process.
- Ensures the safety of Volunteers by requiring the consent of the Volunteer before the release of any personally identifying information.

### **Reports to Congress**

- Requires the Peace Corps to submit annual reports on assaults against Volunteers, on the monitoring and evaluation of Peace Corps programs and Country Directors, and a report on the costs of providing all Volunteers with adequate access to communications.
- Requires a GAO report on the quality and accessibility of health care provided through the Department of Labor to returned Volunteers.