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January 07, 2008

The Honorable Ronald A. Tschetter
Director, Peace Corps
Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters
1111 20th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Director Tschetter,

I am writing to you regarding concerns with the ability of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to receive compensation from the Office of Workers' Compensation Program for illnesses and injuries sustained while serving in the Peace Corps overseas.

I have recently been contacted by a significant number of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have expressed deep concerns with the performance of the Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) in managing their medical claims. It is my understanding that a number of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have experienced inordinately long delays in claim processing by the OWCP as well as a lack of continuity in claimant care.

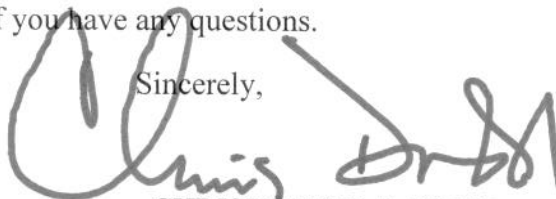
While I recognize that it is the Department of Labor, not the Peace Corps, that administers the OWCP claims of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, I request that you and your office work to assist OWCP claimants in any way possible to ensure that Returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive the care they deserve.

To that end, I respectfully request that you assist Returning Peace Corps Volunteers who are OWCP claimants by establishing an information center that can track the process of pending OWCP claims and can assist claimants in securing adequate and timely responses from the OWCP. Information regarding such a center as well as straightforward contact information for claimants should be prominently displayed on the Peace Corps' website, in order to ensure that claimants can easily access the center's services.

I am sure that you share my belief that our Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are an important part of the Peace Corps community, and that those who have suffered injury or illness during their time abroad deserve the best care possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Joshua Blumenfeld on my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
Chairman, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere,
Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs
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