

175 W - Hemmerich House

Rep Lisa Barton
112-5

Senator Dave Kerr

PRESIDENT 359 E
STATE CAPITAL
+ opcha 66612

Ref: KSA-74-4919p Purchase of **prior service** for certain service in the United States **Peace Corps**.

Dear Senator Kerr:

Near the end of the previous session, I stopped by your office to discuss the above referenced Statute and to inquire about the possibility of amending it to cover other programs that provide American volunteers to work on person-to-person programs with people of other countries. International Voluntary Services was chartered in 1953. **International Voluntary Service (I.V.S.)** and the Peace Corps both work in the field broadly defined as **community development**.

The objectives of both Peace Corps and International Voluntary Services are similar in that they attempt to recruit talented, educated and idealistic American's to serve their country. In the case of both Peace Corps and International Voluntary Services, this service is around the world. At the present time, International Voluntary Services has had requests from development organizations in Cambodia and Viet Nam for English-speaking volunteers to teach English and help local volunteers with computer training. Historically, volunteers have assisted with rural public health, community development, education, and agricultural development projects in many emerging countries.

President Kennedy kicked off the Peace Corps, seven years junior to International Voluntary Services with the statement: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country". It is with this in mind that motivates many young and talented Americans to consider volunteer service abroad.

This service serves to benefit the volunteer with multi-cultural experiences, travel, language and education. In turn, this service benefits the host country and it's people by providing opportunities to learn English, health, and enhances community development by teaching new skills in agriculture, home economics, and in other areas. America benefits as does Kansas by providing these opportunities to the volunteer and then utilizing this experience upon their return to the United States or to Kansas. Many of these volunteers end up in government service. Others return to their prior occupations and help their own communities with economic development projects using some of the skills that they learned while a volunteer.

I respectfully request that you consider an amendment to K.S.A. 74-4914p to allow former I.V.S. volunteers like myself **an equal opportunity** to purchase service credit as allowed by former Peace Corps volunteers. The fiscal impact is minimal as there are less than ten former I.V.S. volunteers in Kansas and not all of them would benefit from the proposed amendment.

Some clarification of the benefits for each such period of service may be helpful as the statute refers to 1% of the final average salary of such member. Is that 1% of the Peace Corps monthly salary which was \$80 per month? The salary was the same for International Voluntary Service volunteers. Does this refer to the final average salary of any such member or is it based on the final average salary with the State of Kansas?

I will appreciate you leadership and assistance in this matter.

u

Busley
347-N

JACKSON
458-E