

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy,

As former diplomacy and national security professionals, we write to you to convey our strong support for passage of a State Department authorization bill this year.

We appreciate your work to include the Department of State Authorization Act of 2021 (H.R. 1157) in the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 117-81). The successful enactment of the Department of State Authorization Act for the first time in almost twenty years is particularly notable due to its bipartisan support at an especially partisan time, and we are grateful for your work to prioritize diplomacy in America's foreign policy toolkit. It is critical that Congress build upon this momentum and pass another State Department authorization bill this year.

As you know, State Department authorization legislation is essential for Congress to exercise its critical oversight function and influence of American foreign policy. As the United States confronts a critical juncture in world affairs, the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 presents an important opportunity for Congress to articulate American foreign policy objectives and approach. This bill has strong bipartisan support and will make important updates and improvements to State Department authorities, functions, and practices such as the Accountability Review Board process, recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce, cyber diplomacy capabilities, and the United States' global diplomatic posture.

The world has changed dramatically in the twenty years that elapsed between the two most recent State Department authorization bills. Yet, until last year, the State Department was still operating under the authorities granted to it in the 2002 iteration of the State Department authorization legislation.

One-off authorization every two decades is not nearly enough to keep up with today's global challenges, and we cannot afford to lose this opportunity to pass another State Department authorization bill. By not regularly passing authorizing legislation, we harm our national security, we weaken our ability to agilely respond to new international threats, and we handicap our U.S. foreign service professionals.

We sincerely thank you for your commitment to principled American foreign policy. We stand ready to work with you, and we respectfully urge you to show decisive leadership and support swift passage of a State Department authorization bill this year.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral (ret.) Sandy Adams, USN
*Former Reserve Deputy Commander, Navy Region
Midwest*

Ambassador (ret.) Frank Almaguer
Former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras

Rear Admiral (ret.) Jamie Barnett, USN
*Former Deputy Commander of Navy Expeditionary
Combat Command and Director of Naval Education
and Training*

Ambassador (ret.) Robert M. Beecroft
*Former Ambassador and Head of OSCE Peacekeeping
Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Lieutenant General (ret.) Ronald Blanck, USA
Former Surgeon General of the United States Army

Ambassador (ret.) Michele Thoren Bond
*Former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho
and Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs*

Ambassador (ret.) Eric J. Boswell
*Former Director of the Office of Foreign Missions and
Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security*

Ambassador (ret.) Kenneth C. Brill
Former U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus and the IAEA

Ambassador (ret.) George Bruno
Former U.S. Ambassador to Belize

Ambassador (ret.) A. Peter Burleigh
*Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Sri
Lanka, and the Maldives*

Ambassador (ret.) Judith Cefkin
*Former U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru,
Tonga, and Tuvalu*

Ambassador (ret.) Herman Cohen
*Former U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and The Gambia
and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs*

Dr. Chester A. Crocker
Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) James B. Cunningham
*Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Israel,
and Afghanistan*

Ambassador Ruth A. Davis
*Career Ambassador, former U.S. Ambassador to Benin
and Director General of the Foreign Service*

Ambassador (ret.) Greg Delawie
Former U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo

Ambassador (ret.) Frank Baxter
Former U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay

Ambassador (ret.) James Bishop
*Former U.S. Ambassador to Niger, Liberia, and
Somalia*

Ambassador (ret.) Barbara Bodine
Former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen

Ambassador (ret.) Amy Bondurant
*Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for
Economic Cooperation and Development*

Ambassador (ret.) Aurelia Brazeal
*Former U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Kenya, and the
Federated States of Micronesia*

Ambassador (ret.) Steven Browning
Former U.S. Ambassador to Uganda and Malawi

Ambassador (ret.) Susan Burk
*Former Special Representative of the President for
Nuclear Nonproliferation*

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*Former U.S. Ambassador to Botswana and the
Kingdom of Lesotho*

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Former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan

Ambassador (ret.) William Courtney
Former U.S. Ambassador to Georgia and Kazakhstan

Mr. Robert B. Crowe
International Attorney

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*Former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand and Executive
Secretary of the National Security Council*

Vice Admiral (ret.) Dirk Debbink, USN
Former Chief of Navy Reserve

Ambassador (ret.) Anne Derse
Former U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania and Azerbaijan

Ambassador Kathleen Doherty
Former U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus

Brigadier General (ret.) John Douglass, USAF
Former Deputy U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee

Ambassador (ret.) Karl Eikenberry
Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army

Ambassador (ret.) John B. Emerson
Former U.S. Ambassador to Germany

Brigadier General (ret.) Robert Felderman, USA
Former Deputy Director of Plans, Policy, and Strategy for USNORTHCOM

Ambassador (ret.) Robert L. Gallucci
Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large

Ambassador (ret.) Robert Gelbard
Former U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia and Indonesia, Presidential Special Representative to the Balkans, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement

Vice Admiral (ret.) Kevin Green, USN
Former Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

Ambassador (ret.) William C. Harrop
Former U.S. Ambassador to Guinea, Kenya, Seychelles, Zaire, and Israel, Inspector General of the State Department and Foreign Service

Rear Admiral (ret.) Leendert Hering, Sr., USN
Former Commander of Navy Region Southwest

Major General (ret.) Sanford Holman, USA
Former Commanding General of the 200th Military Police Command

Brigadier General (ret.) David Irvine, USA
Former Deputy Commander for the 96th Regional Readiness Command

Ms. Susan R. Johnson
President of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, former career member of the Senior Foreign Service

Ambassador (ret.) Shaun Donnelly
Former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and Assistant U.S. Trade Representative

Ambassador (ret.) William Eacho
Former U.S. Ambassador to Austria

Ambassador (ret.) Luigi Einaudi
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States and Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States

Ambassador (ret.) Gerald Feierstein
Former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) Jeffrey Feltman
Former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, and Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Political Affairs

Vice Admiral (ret.) Michael Franken, USN
Former Deputy Director of Military Operations for USAFRICOM

Ambassador (ret.) Gordon Gray
Former U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia

Rear Admiral (ret.) Charles Harr, USN
Former Medical Officer of the Marine Corps Reserve

Ambassador (ret.) Patricia Haslach
Former U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, APEC, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ambassador (ret.) Bruce Heyman
Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada

Ambassador (ret.) Vicki Huddleston
Former U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar and Mali

Ambassador (ret.) Dennis C. Jett
Former U.S. Ambassador to Peru and Mozambique

Ambassador (ret.) Richard Jones
Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, and Kuwait

Ambassador (ret.) Laura Kennedy
Former U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

Ambassador (ret.) Michael Klosson
Former U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) Mark Lagon
Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Ambassador (ret.) Carmen Lomellin
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States

Brigadier General (ret.) Carlos Martínez, USAF
Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer

Brigadier General (ret.) Joseph Medina, USMC
Former Commanding General of the Third Marine Division

Ambassador (ret.) Allan Mustard
Former U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan

Ambassador (ret.) Wanda Nesbitt
Former U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Madagascar

Ambassador Anne Patterson
Career Ambassador, former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Pakistan, Colombia, and El Salvador

Ms. Annie Pforzheimer
Former Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Afghanistan

Ambassador (ret.) Steven Pifer
Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine

Ambassador (ret.) Jo Ellen Powell
Former U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Resources

Ambassador (ret.) Peter Romero
Former U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador and Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) Patrick Kennedy
Former Undersecretary of State for Management, U.S. Representative to the United Nations for Management and Reform

Ambassador (ret.) Tom Korologos
Former U.S. Ambassador to Belgium

Major General (ret.) Steven J. Lepper, USAF
Former Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Air Force

Major General (ret.) Randy Manner, USA
Former Acting Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau

Ambassador (ret.) Steven McGann
Former U.S. Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu

Senator Carol Moseley Braun
Former U.S. Senator from Illinois, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa

Ambassador (ret.) Larry Napper
Former U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan and Latvia

Brigadier General (ret.) J. Scott O'Meara, USMC
Former Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve

Ambassador (ret.) W. Robert Pearson
Former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Director General of the Foreign Service

Ambassador Thomas Pickering
Career Ambassador, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and Jordan

Major General (ret.) Gale S. Pollock, USA
Former U.S. Army Medical Commander and Acting Surgeon General

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Former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia and Zimbabwe

Ambassador (ret.) Eric Rubin
Former U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, President of the American Foreign Service Association

Ambassador (ret.) Tod Sedgwick
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

Ambassador (ret.) David Shear
Former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) Lawrence Silverman
Former U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait

Ambassador (ret.) Alan Solomont
Former U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra

Ambassador (ret.) Charles Stith
Former U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania

Ambassador (ret.) Harry Thomas
Former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and Bangladesh and Director General of the Foreign Service

Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne
Career Ambassador, Former U.S. Ambassador to Argentina and Mexico and Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) Pamela White
Former U.S. Ambassador to The Gambia and Haiti

Mr. Aaron Williams
Former U.S. Alternate Representative to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and Director of the U.S. Peace Corps

Ambassador (ret.) Kenneth Yalowitz
Former U.S. Ambassador to Belarus and Georgia

Ambassador (ret.) Mattie R. Sharpless
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic

Ambassador (ret.) Sally Shelton-Colby
Former U.S. Ambassador to Barbados, Grenada, and Dominica and Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development

Ambassador (ret.) Nancy Soderberg
Former Alternate Representative for the United States to the United Nations and Deputy National Security Advisor

Ambassador (ret.) Sylvia Stanfield
Former U.S. Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam

Ambassador (ret.) Patrick Theros
Former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar

Ms. Susan Thornton
Former Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Ambassador (ret.) David Wharton
Former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe

Ambassador (ret.) Barry White
Former U.S. Ambassador to Norway

Major General (ret.) Michael Wilson, USAF
Former Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, 3rd Air Force