



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
March 23, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C. Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are extraordinarily proud of our men and women who serve on the front lines as American diplomats at the State Department in Washington, D.C. and at our Embassies and Consulates around the world. These courageous civilians work tirelessly to serve and protect our country by promoting and advancing American interests abroad. Increasingly, civilian foreign affairs and development professionals serve in dangerous and transitional environments, and in those contexts, put themselves at considerable risk.

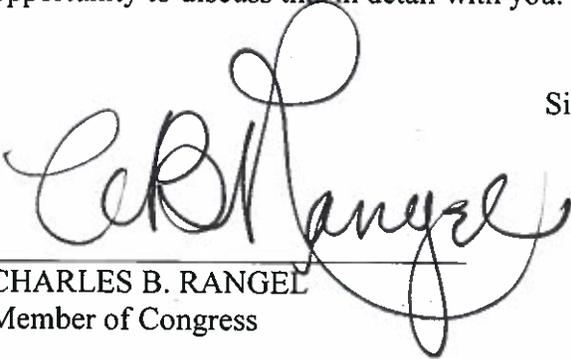
It is important to honor the many sacrifices and contributions our American diplomats, civilian foreign affairs and development professionals make to keep America safe. We feel it is important to recognize the service of these outstanding patriots by establishing a "Foreign Affairs and Development Professionals Awareness Day."

Establishing such a day will allow us to acknowledge the public service, sacrifice, and hard work of the individuals who serve as America's face to the world. We would like your support in creating such a day. Recognition of our foreign affairs and development professionals, including members of the U.S. Foreign Service from the Department of State, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Commerce, International Broadcasting Bureau, or U.S. Agency for International Development, and Foreign Service Specialists, as well as civil servants who serve overseas, would also demonstrate the overall importance of our diplomatic and development efforts abroad.

As the Secretary of State, we are confident that by dedicating a specific day each year to recognize civilian foreign affairs and development professionals, you will inspire the next generation of leaders into pursuing a lifelong career in foreign policy and underscore to the American people the important work of the civilian aspect of our presence abroad.

We look forward to learning of ideas or diplomacy initiatives that you might have to establish a "Foreign Affairs and Development Professionals Awareness Day" and to the opportunity to discuss this in detail with you.

Sincerely,



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



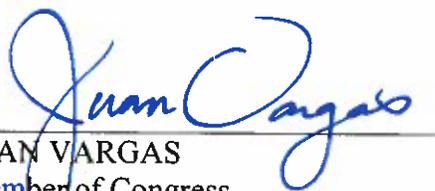
SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



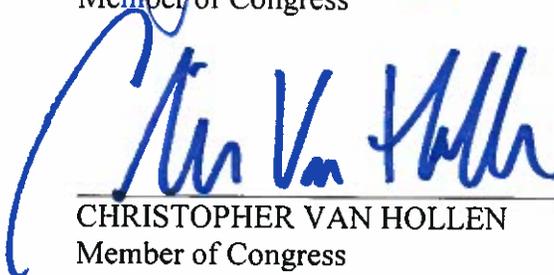
PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress



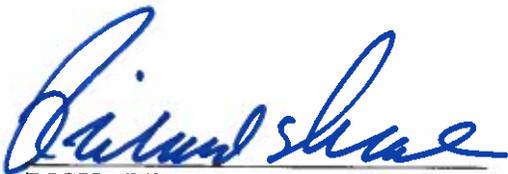
JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



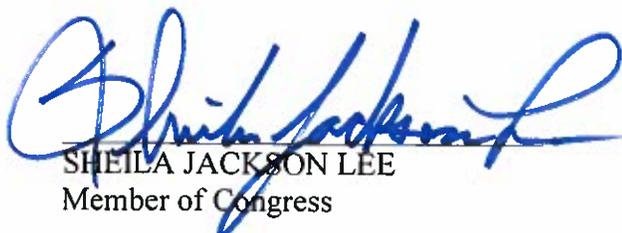
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GWENDOLYNNE MOORE
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SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY WALZ
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



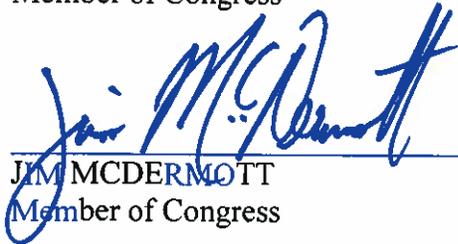
ROBERT L. RUSH
Member of Congress



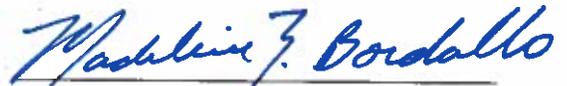
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
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JIM MCDERMOTT
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MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
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BETO O'ROURKE
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