



AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND INFORM

VIA EMAIL

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Ian G. Brownlee
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
600 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Chairman Doggett, Chairwoman Eshoo, Ranking Member Burr, Ranking Member Nunes, Ranking Member Guthrie and Acting Assistant Secretary Brownlee,

On April 12, American Citizens Abroad, Inc. (ACA), a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(4) representing the millions of Americans that live and work overseas, wrote your offices to request information on vaccination services available to Americans living abroad as well as to urge the US State Department to provide clear guidance on the options available to Americans living overseas who may wish to be vaccinated in the United States.



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Unfortunately, ACA has not received any response to our request and continues to hear from the community of Americans living and working overseas who are struggling to obtain a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in the foreign countries where they live and work. The issue has received wide-spread media coverage, in Reuters, the New York Times and various radio stations across the country:

- Reuters (May 12, 2021)
[Far-flung U.S. citizens clamour for vaccines from embassies](#)
- Various Radio Shows (May 12, 2021)
[ACA featured on various radio shows discussing vaccines for US citizens abroad](#)
- Voice of America (VOA) (May 10, 2021)
[Overseas and Overlooked, Americans in Thailand Seek Vaccines](#)
- Yahoo!News (May 9, 2021)
[Why an Estimated 100,000 Americans Abroad Face Passport Problems](#)
- The New York Times (May 6, 2021)
[Why an Estimated 100,000 Americans Abroad Face Passport Problems](#)
- The Atlantic (April 19, 2021)
[The Americans Who Still Can't Get Vaccinated](#)

As ACA noted in our letter to you on April 12, Americans resident overseas are subject to the same US taxation requirements as US stateside residents, these individuals should have access to the same healthcare opportunities, including free and expedited access to vaccines developed against the novel SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus.

ACA has asked for clarification from the US Government and US State Department on opportunities that Americans may have for vaccinations at US embassies and consulates in their country of residence. The U.S. State Department last month reported that it had already shipped doses to embassies and consulates in 220 locations worldwide to vaccinate its own diplomats and other employees and the same access should be made available to US taxpayer residents. Additionally, recent media reports indicate that the United States has surplus vaccines of 80 million doses, representing 30 percent of the vaccines produced by the United States, that it is shipping to foreign countries by the end of June. With increased supplies of the vaccine going to foreign countries and the availability of vaccines being made to US government employees overseas, the same access to vaccination must be made available to US taxpayer living and working overseas.

Many Americans overseas are living in countries and jurisdictions where the supply of vaccine is limited, where access to the FDA pre-approved vaccines is not available and where there is little confidence in the delivery systems for vaccines. For the safety and fairness of all Americans seeking the SARS-CoV-2



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vaccines, the United States should do all it can to make vaccinations available to all Americans no matter where they live and work.

We continue to await your response and would also be happy to discuss the issue further by phone or video conference at your convenience. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Marylouise Serrato
Executive Director
American Citizens Abroad, Inc.

CC: Karen King, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services, U.S. Department of State
Jeremy Cassano, Overseas Citizens Services special assistant, U.S. Department of State
Dean Kaplan, Director American Citizen Services & Crisis Management, U.S. Department of State