

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

We appreciate your steadfast work to ensure Americans have access to vaccinations to protect them from the severe impacts of COVID-19. As we consider booster shots and continue to encourage unvaccinated Americans to get shots, we would like to direct your attention to our fellow Americans overseas that want to get vaccinated but do not currently have access. We ask that you take urgent executive action to ensure Americans living abroad have access to vaccinations.

There are nearly 9 million Americans living overseas, including tens of thousands of veterans, who may not have access to a vaccine. While we appreciate that the federal government does not normally play a role in the provision of health care for Americans living overseas – this is not a normal time in our history. We have dedicated a considerable amount of federal government funding to ensure Americans have access to a vaccine. Our citizens living overseas, who are subject to federal taxation, should have access to these resources.

Americans abroad currently face numerous barriers in trying to obtain a vaccine. Many of our constituents overseas are living in countries with a limited supply of vaccines, where vaccine access is not yet available and where the healthcare infrastructure does not have the capacity to administer them. In some countries, Americans are not eligible to receive the vaccine as they are deemed ineligible as noncitizens or low priority. In other instances, the financial hardship of flying back to the United States to be vaccinated or quarantining for a period in the host country is too burdensome.

Our government made a pledge to secure enough vaccines for all Americans and that pledge extends to Americans overseas. We urge you to establish additional means by which Americans abroad can be vaccinated including the use of military installations, embassies, as feasible, to ensure quick and safe distribution to the individuals that cannot currently access a vaccine. We have already witnessed both the Department of State and Department of Defense successfully vaccinate personnel abroad which gives us the reassurance that we have the capacity and can do more.

As our country continues to make progress at home in the fight against COVID, we must not allow our fellow constituents overseas, including many veterans who have served and protected our nation, to be left behind. We can and must ensure they have access to the vaccine which is why we urge you to use all the tools at your disposal to fulfill that critical promise to Americans.

Sincerely,



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**Raúl M. Grijalva**  
Member of Congress

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**Carolyn B. Maloney**  
Member of Congress

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**Chris Pappas**  
Member of Congress

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**Ann Kirkpatrick**  
Member of Congress

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**Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Member of Congress

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**Peter A. DeFazio**  
Member of Congress

/S

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**Marcy Kaptur**  
Member of Congress

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**André Carson**  
Member of Congress

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**Greg Stanton**  
Member of Congress

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**Dina Titus**  
Member of Congress

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**Susan Wild**  
Member of Congress

/S

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**Ted W. Lieu**  
Member of Congress

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**Jahana Hayes**  
Member of Congress

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**Jamie Raskin**  
Member of Congress

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**Jimmy Gomez**  
Member of Congress

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**Mike Doyle**  
Member of Congress

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**Gerald E. Connolly**  
Member of Congress

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**Peter Welch**  
Member of Congress

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**J. Luis Correa**  
Member of Congress

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**Alan Lowenthal**  
Member of Congress

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**Juan Vargas**  
Member of Congress

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**Jason Crow**  
Member of Congress

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**Vicente González**  
Member of Congress

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**Steve Cohen**  
Member of Congress

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**Katie Porter**  
Member of Congress

/S

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**Betty McCollum**  
Member of Congress

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**Nikema Williams**  
Member of Congress

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**Jim Costa**  
Member of Congress