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,

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress
Vicente González
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress