

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We thank you for your ongoing efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and urge you to expand efforts to vaccinate the nine million Americans living abroad. We have made significant progress in the fight against COVID-19 here at home. However, we remain concerned that Americans living abroad still face obstacles in accessing these life-saving vaccines.

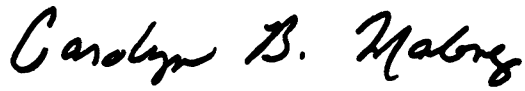
The Administration has made great strides to ensure that any eligible American who wants to receive a vaccine is able to receive one. More than 75% of Americans aged 12 years and older have received at least their first shot. The United States is also leading efforts to expand vaccine access around the world, committing to sharing over 580 million doses with other countries to support global health efforts.

The Delta variant still poses a significant health risk, both in the United States and abroad, and Americans living abroad have not been able to easily access vaccines. The guidance from the Department of State's website currently indicates that those living abroad should rely on vaccination programs implemented by the nation in which they are currently residing. In some countries, Americans living abroad can access vaccines; however, in others, they may be ineligible due to local citizenship requirements or the country may not have a sufficiently robust vaccination program. Though these Americans pay taxes and maintain citizenship, they do not currently receive the same free access to vaccinations that all other Americans stateside have been able to access for months.

We believe it is important for Americans abroad to have timely access to vaccines and believe the United States government can play an instrumental role in ensuring these U.S. citizens are vaccinated, including through the infrastructure of our U.S. Embassies and Consulates. We ask that you provide details of any plans currently being developed by the Department of State to implement the direct distribution of vaccines to American citizens living abroad or any efforts to ensure Americans living abroad can access vaccines from their local governments. America will never be fully vaccinated if we do not also provide a way for those living abroad to access the vaccines meant for all Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the health and safety of the millions of Americans living abroad.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

/s/

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/

Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

/s/

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/
Dina Titus
Member of Congress