

Statement of Brandon Judd
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Chile
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
April 08, 2025

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Committee Members, it is an honor to be here with you today.

I am grateful to be nominated for the position of U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Chile by President Trump, and grateful to Secretary Rubio for his support and the Department of State's support throughout this process. With your concurrence and approval, I look forward to beginning my work in Chile and continuing my service to the people of the United States of America.

I appreciate the opportunities I've had to meet with many of you to discuss our bilateral relationship with Chile. We are at a crucial juncture in that relationship, so I approach this opportunity to serve as Ambassador with the utmost seriousness, humility, and a clear sense of purpose. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing our dialogue on our shared national priorities--promoting safety, strength, and prosperity.

I want to thank my spouse, who is here today, she is my sweetheart, love of my life and best friend, and my children for their unwavering support. I also want to express gratitude for the generations of my family who came before me and set the example for me. They truly loved and served their country.

My maternal grandfather served in the United States Army during World War II and fought in Europe. My father was drafted into the military in 1969 during the Vietnam War. After completing his tour, he joined ROTC at Arizona State University, graduated, and was commissioned as a Second

Lieutenant in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2004.

My mother supported my father throughout numerous relocations every two to three years. Though she couldn't establish a stable career or long-term home, she maintained her commitment to her family and country.

These examples influenced who my four brothers and I became. Each of us have a firm belief and commitment to service to our country, family, faith, and community. Two of my brothers served in the United States military, one followed me into the United States Border Patrol, and another served as a police officer in Benson, Arizona.

The U.S.-Chilean diplomatic relationship spans more than 200 years. The foundation of our relationship is our commitment to democracy. We also share a belief in the individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These common beliefs create a deep solidarity between Americans and Chileans. I saw this every day during my time living in Chile in the 1990s. It informs the way we see each other and it informs the way we see the world. It strengthens our diplomatic ties and drives us to work together to call out violations of democratic rights in the Western Hemisphere, from Maduro's illegitimate regime in Venezuela to the Ortega-Murillo dynastic dictatorship in Nicaragua.

As neighbors, the United States and Chile also share a common commitment to keeping our hemisphere and our citizens safe from harm. Chile is experiencing a historic rise in violent crime as transnational criminal organizations exploit vulnerable populations and infiltrate porous borders across the Western Hemisphere. As an American, I recognize this challenge. As a career border patrol agent, I have dedicated my working life to

safeguarding borders and protecting my fellow citizens. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as U.S. ambassador to Chile, that is the ethos and the experience that I would bring to the job. I would make it a cornerstone of my ambassadorship to work with Chile to deepen our ability to work together in curbing illegal immigration, combatting violent criminal organizations, and enhancing border security in support of this Administration's priorities.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of this committee, our relationship with Chile has a direct impact on the safety, security, and prosperity of the American people. That is why I am so excited at the prospect of serving as the U.S. ambassador to Chile, if you choose to give me the opportunity to do so. Thank you very much for your time today. I look forward to answering your questions.

