

**Statement for Timmy Davis  
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Qatar  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
June 16, 2022**

Chairman Cardin, Ranking Member Young, distinguished members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the State of Qatar.

I am honored by this nomination and grateful to the President and Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have shown in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee and Congress to advance U.S. foreign policy and national security interests in Qatar.

I want to thank my family, Patti and Parker; I am so grateful for their support and sacrifice. It exemplifies the dedication and service of all our Foreign Service families. My father, Carlie, served as a Marine for over 30 years, with service from Vietnam to Lebanon, and my mom, Eddie, has been the foundation of a family of Marines, including my sister, Yolanda, her husband, Marc, and two of my uncles. My sister, Tammy, is a university research nurse. My grandparents, Clotee and Jack Davis; Edna and Reverend Arthur Johnson built a foundation in Mississippi out of hard work and faith. That I sit before you today is a testament to their belief in an America of great possibility. If confirmed, I would be only the 8<sup>th</sup> African American Ambassador posted to the Middle East. My son, Parker, asked last week if my nomination was a big deal for the Davis family. I told him his great grandparents would not believe it, but they worked hard every day to make it possible.

As a New Orleanian, I know firsthand the benefits of a strong bilateral relationship with Qatar. When Katrina destroyed communities and killed thousands in 2005, Qatar donated \$100 million in humanitarian aid for medical care, reconstruction of homes and places of worship, and educational scholarships. I have stood in the Boys and Girls Club in Pass Christian, MS that was rebuilt with Qatari funds. Their generosity helped rebuild lives.

Our partnership with Qatar again yielded dividends when the United States withdrew from Afghanistan and Qatar opened its doors as a critical transit site for over 75,000 U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, and Afghans. Qatar is still helping with our efforts to resettle Afghans, and if confirmed, I would work to deliver on President Biden's commitment to take on Afghans who worked side-by-side with U.S. forces by continuing our cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, I know from my decade of service as a Marine, including overseas deployments, that we cannot defend our country without support from our allies and partners. Security and defense cooperation is vital to our strong relationship with Qatar. Since 1996, Qatar has hosted Al Udeid Air Base, our largest base in the region and the home of USCENTCOM's forward operating headquarters. Qatar is a safe, secure, and welcoming home to 8,000 U.S. military personnel. President Biden designated Qatar as a Major Non-NATO Ally earlier this year as a testament to our long-standing strategic partnership.

The President and the Secretary have been clear that human rights are a pillar of our foreign policy. If confirmed, a primary focus of our bilateral engagement will be to advance human rights and encourage full implementation of labor reforms Qatar has made in previous years. I believe honest conversations about human rights will make our relationship stronger and more resilient.

Qatar plays an important role in bolstering global energy security as our European partners look to reduce their dependence on Russian oil and gas in the wake of Russia's brutal and unprovoked war in Ukraine. If confirmed, I would encourage Qatar's positive contributions. I also would make it a priority to continue working together to address the climate crisis, including by working with Qatar to continue its progress on reducing domestic methane emissions.

Qatar's economic assistance to and diplomatic engagement with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza helps reduce tensions in the region. If confirmed, I would work to further develop the pragmatic relationship between Qatar and Israel, and further regional stability and security underpinned by the Abraham Accords. Our commercial relationship with Qatar directly benefits the American people, and if confirmed, I would seek to deepen commercial ties. Qatar has already invested tens of billions of dollars in the U.S. economy and wants to increase, including through engagement with state governments. Recent deals between Qatari and American companies like Boeing's sale of cargo planes to Qatar Airways have created tens of thousands of American jobs. I would also advocate on behalf of American companies pursuing opportunities in Qatar.

Finally, as Qatar hosts the FIFA Men's World Cup tournament this year, my highest priority would be ensuring the safety, security, and dignity of visiting U.S. fans.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to your questions.