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RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
CORY GARDNER, COLORADO  
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH  
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA  
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA  
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ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
TIM KAINE, VIRGINIA  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON  
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

November 12, 2019

The Honorable John J. Sullivan  
Deputy Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Brian Bulatao  
Under Secretary of State for Management  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Under Secretary Bulatao:

This week, at least three State Department officials are expected to provide testimony to Congress in response to the House of Representatives' impeachment inquiry. Since the launch of a congressional inquiry into President Trump's Ukraine scandal, we have become increasingly alarmed by the Department's lack of support and utter silence for veteran diplomats and career public servants who are putting their careers and reputations on the line to stand up for their country.

We call on you to emphatically and unequivocally support and protect these employees to your fullest abilities, including by issuing statements of support and ensuring they are not subject to any act of reprisal.

We are writing you, and not Secretary Pompeo, because his silence to date speaks volumes. He has failed to stand up for his Department's own people, despite their steadfast service to our country, despite their dedication to public service without regard to party, president, or politics.

Instead, the Department has focused on preventing and dissuading its personnel from providing information and testimony to Congress. Many have decided, boldly, courageously, to stand up and testify nonetheless—at great personal, financial, and reputational expense.

Each of the officials scheduled to testify are individuals who have served the nation with distinction. They represent our nation's finest: a distinguished career servant who dedicated 33 years of her life as a Foreign Service Officer, a diplomat who started his fifty-year public service as a West Point cadet and served in every Administration since 1985, and a foreign service officer with multiple postings throughout the Department since 1992. They are putting their careers on the line, paying for their own attorneys, and being subjected to attacks—all to testify publicly on behalf of their country.

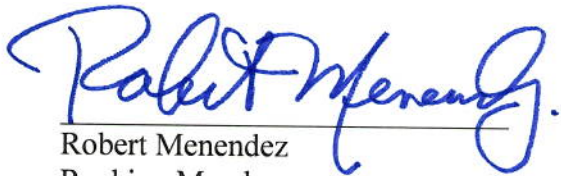
Given Secretary Pompeo's dereliction of duty in protecting Department personnel from these attacks, we call on you to take all necessary steps to protect them, and other officials who come before Congress, including addressing any threats to their safety and ensuring they do not suffer any retaliation or reprisals.

Your efforts will send a strong message to employees across the Department and the world who have watched as a respected U.S. Ambassador fell victim to an unfounded smear campaign. A strong statement of support from senior Department officials will also provide a needed boost to public servants who have watched colleague after colleague depart or resign from the Department in a spiral of plummeting morale. According to Ambassador Pickering, a seven time Ambassador under six different presidencies, "the prevailing mood is low and getting lower, if it can."<sup>11</sup>

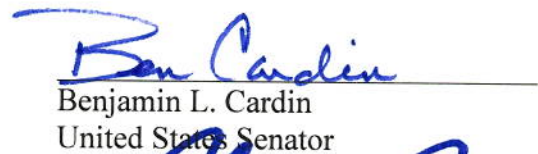
We request that you do your part to show employees that the Department stands with them, and remains supportive of their sacrifices in the name of our national security.

We also request that you provide an update within three business days of the steps you are taking in support of Department personnel.

Sincerely,



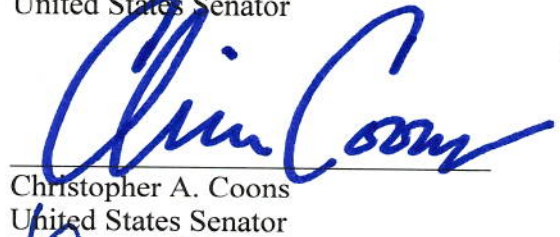
Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



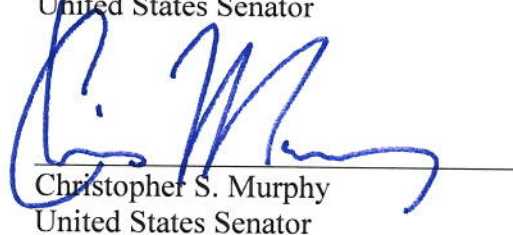
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



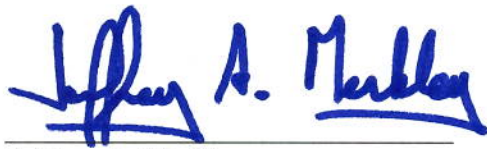
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

<sup>11</sup> Karen DeYoung, et al., “Demoralized State Department personnel question Pompeo’s role in Ukraine crisis,” *The Washington Post*, Oct. 7, 2019.