

**Statement of Dr. Peter Lamelas**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Argentina**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**July 22, 2025**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee for United States Ambassador to the Republic of Argentina.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump for his trust and Secretary Rubio for his support in granting me this privilege. Senator Scott, thank you for your introduction and friendship—you are truly a role model.

Before proceeding, I would like to recognize my wife of 35 years, Stephanie, and my mother, Mercedes Lamelas, whose unwavering support has been my foundation. My father, Pedro Lamelas, my hero, is watching from heaven. I also acknowledge my brothers, Dr. Joseph Lamelas, a leading cardiac surgeon, and Robert Lamelas, along with the rest of my family and friends watching from home.

I stand before you today as someone who is “Cuban by birth, American by the grace of God.” When my family fled Cuba and legally immigrated to the United States on a Red Cross boat, the communist regime took our few remaining possessions, spat on us, and called us “gusanos” or “worms”—traitors to the revolution. We left with little more than the clothes on our backs but arrived with hope and determination. We immediately experienced the stark contrast between socialist oppression and the freedom and liberty of the United States.

I learned the value of hard work from my parents, who tirelessly ran family businesses ranging from a New York City delicatessen to a restaurant and later a convenience store and gas station in West Palm Beach, Florida. Inspired by their sacrifice and determination, I pursued a career in medicine and later earned a master’s degree in business administration. Since then, I

have held key leadership positions, including serving on the State of Florida Board of Medicine and the Town Commission of Manalapan, Florida.

In 2021, I was honored to be appointed by President Trump to the Department of Justice Public Safety Medal of Valor Board. I am also proud to be a lifelong philanthropist.

As an emergency physician, medical director, and entrepreneur, I founded and led Florida's largest urgent care company, delivering quality, cost-effective care to over a million patients annually, employing thousands, and achieving the American dream. Managing and growing my company required leadership, crisis management, negotiation, and diplomacy—all skills transferable to leading a U.S. Embassy.

The United States and Argentina share close economic, political, and cultural ties. Argentina is a key partner in the Western Hemisphere, and our relationship is vital to regional stability.

If confirmed, I will prioritize an "America First" approach and work to align Argentina's interests with our own. A strong, stable, and prosperous Argentina benefits not only its citizens but also enhances regional economic and political stability. I will work to create opportunities for American businesses, ensure a level playing field, and promote economic policies that foster free, fair, and reciprocal trade and investment. Cooperation on security issues, fighting corruption, and fostering a climate favorable for U.S. business and investment are critical.

If confirmed, I will stand firm against the malign influence of adversarial powers in the region, including authoritarian regimes like Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Iran, and others that seek to undermine regional stability, security, and liberty.

I believe the U.S.-Argentina relationship can serve as a shining example to the rest of Latin America. Argentina's resources, including energy and critical minerals, can benefit both nations. The U.S. wants to be Argentina's "partner of choice" as it reopens to global markets. It is in our strategic

interest to lower trade barriers and secure partnerships that advance a fair, open, and transparent marketplace.

If confirmed, I will work to deepen diplomatic engagement and promote policies that reinforce security. Strengthening law enforcement cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat narcotics and transnational crimes will be a priority.

The safety and security of American citizens abroad is fundamental. I will take every measure to ensure U.S. citizens receive the highest level of protection, support, and service from our embassy. I will also ensure that our hardworking embassy staff are always acknowledged and supported.

I was honored when President Trump personally asked me to work with his friend, President Javier Milei, and the Argentine people to build an even stronger relationship between our two countries. Together, I am confident that the United States and Argentina will achieve greatness like never before.

I also recognize the critical role this committee plays in shaping U.S. foreign policy. If confirmed, I pledge to perform my duties with the guidance and oversight of this committee to ensure that U.S. policy in Argentina aligns with the vision laid out by President Trump and Secretary Rubio.

The United States and Argentina stand at a critical moment in history. The world is watching. Our allies look to us for leadership, and our adversaries test our resolve. I will stand firm in representing the United States with integrity, determination, and an unwavering commitment to American values.

Thank you for your time and consideration. God Bless America and God Bless Argentina!