

ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY, CHAIRMAN

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
TIM Kaine, VIRGINIA  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON  
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY  
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO  
MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA  
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
MIKE ROUNDS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
BILL HAGERTY, TENNESSEE

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY  
MM-117-117

Date: May 6, 2022

## **Background Memo Full Committee Hearing:**

**Nominations (The Honorable Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine).**

---

On May 10, 2022, at 2:30 pm in SD-106 E and via videoconference, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing to consider the nomination of The Honorable Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine.

Attached are the following:

- List of Recent Incumbents
- Biographical Summary
- Certificate of Demonstrated Competence

---

*For more information, please contact:*

*Staffer (majority): Nury Gambarrotti, (202) 340-4185; (minority): Katie Chaudoin, (202) 655-6721*

## **I. List of Recent Incumbents**

### Ambassador to Ukraine Incumbents for the Last Ten Years

Marie L. Yovanovitch	2016 – 2019
Geoffrey R. Pyatt	2013 – 2016
John F. Tefft	2009 – 2013

## II. Biographical Summary

### BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY (Highlights)

NAME: Bridget Ann Brink

POSITION FOR WHICH CONSIDERED: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine

PRESENT POSITION: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Slovak Republic

LEGAL RESIDENCE: District of Columbia

FOREIGN SERVICE GRADE: Minister-Counselor

OFFICE ADDRESS: U.S. Embassy, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: July 18, 1969  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

MARITAL STATUS: Married

NAME OF SPOUSE: Nicholas B. Higgins

NAMES OF CHILDREN: Jack Higgins  
Cole Higgins

EDUCATION: London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom, 1994  
– 1995, M.Sc.  
  
London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom, 1992  
– 1993, M.Sc.  
  
Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, 1987-1991, B.A.

MILITARY SERVICE: None

FOREIGN LANGUAGES: Russian  
Slovak  
Serbian  
Georgian  
French

EXPERIENCE:  
2019 – Present Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

2018 – 2019	Senior Advisor, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
2015 – 2018	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
2014 – 2015	Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Tashkent, Uzbekistan
2011 – 2014	Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia
2010 – 2011	Russian Language Study (in-country), Tbilisi, Georgia
2009 – 2010	Director for the Aegean and the Caucasus, National Security Council, The White House, Washington, D.C.
2008 – 2009	Deputy Director, Office of Southern Europe, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
2005 – 2008	Political-Economic Chief, U.S. Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia
2004 – 2005	Russian Language Study (in-country), Tbilisi, Georgia
2002 – 2004	Special Assistant, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
1999 – 2002	Cyprus Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.
1997 – 1999	Consular/Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Belgrade, Serbia
1996 – 1997	Entry Training and Serbian Language Study, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, Arlington, Virginia
1995 – 1996 & 1993 – 1994	Paralegal, Law Office of John C. Brink, Minneapolis, Minnesota
1991 – 1992	Volunteer in Service to America, Blanding, Utah
HONORS/AWARDS:	Senior Performance Awards: 2021, 2018, 2016, 2014 Superior Honor Awards: 2014, 2009, 2008, 2004, 2002 Meritorious Honor Awards: 2012, 1999 (2) Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic Military Medal for Humanitarian Assistance, 2021

PUBLICATIONS:

“Ambassador Brink: A New Chapter in our Story of Freedom,”  
The Slovak Spectator, September 12, 2019

“We have the Key to Winning the Fight of Our Generation,”  
The Slovak Spectator, August 24, 2021

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

2021 – Present	Board Member, Slovak American Foundation
1996 – Present	Member, American Foreign Service Association
2017 – 2019	Advisor, Una Chapman Cox Foundation
2016 – 2018	Member, Cleveland Park Historical Society
2012 – 2014 (est.)	Board Member, Tbilisi International Players, Tbilisi, Georgia
2012 – 2014 (est.)	Donor, State Ballet of Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia

### III. Certificate of Demonstrated Competence

#### REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### UNITED STATES SENATE

**SUBJECT:** Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service Act, Section 304(a)(4)

**POST:** Ukraine

**CANDIDATE:** Bridget A. Brink

Bridget A. Brink, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, currently serves as the U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the Department of State, with responsibility for issues related to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the protracted conflicts in Europe. Her broad foreign policy experience, demonstrated leadership skills, and expert knowledge of Europe and Eurasia make her well qualified to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine.

She also served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and in Tbilisi, Georgia. Brink has spent her twenty-five-year career in the Foreign Service focused on advancing U.S. policy in Europe and Eurasia. She was the Director for the Aegean and the South Caucasus at the National Security Council and served in the State Department as the Deputy Director for Southern European Affairs, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, and Cyprus Desk Officer. She began her career in Belgrade, Serbia. Originally from Michigan, Brink is the recipient of numerous performance awards. She holds Master's degrees in International Relations and Political Theory from the London School of Economics and Political Science, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kenyon College. She speaks Russian and has studied Slovak, Serbian, Georgian, and French.