

**Statement of Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath  
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Peru  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
May 4, 2023**

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, distinguished Members of the Committee, I am deeply honored to be here today and grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for placing their confidence in me to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. If confirmed, I commit to working with this committee and other Members of Congress to advance the interests of the United States, protect the safety of our citizens, promote democracy and human rights, and strengthen a bilateral relationship that has endured for close to 200 years.

As the daughter and granddaughter of career military officers who served our country in World War 2 and Vietnam, it has been an honor to dedicate the past 32 years of my life to U.S. government service, including four years as an officer in the Navy. My diplomatic career has allowed me to represent the United States in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the Arab world; and to bring American optimism, leadership, and values to diverse audiences.

My husband, Gautam, here with us today, has joined me in this adventure and in representing the diversity and opportunity the United States represents. My daughters, Malena and Sophia, joined us in this life of commitment to the Foreign Service. I am grateful to all three for their resilience, love, and support, as well as that of Gautam's mother, Subadra Ramnath, who has been an important part of our success.

I am honored to have my father, Col. Michael Syptak, with us today as I am eternally grateful for his example of devotion to faith, family, and country. I would also like to pay tribute to my mother, Aileen, who I know is looking down on us from heaven. She taught me to love God first and raised me with high expectations for excellence and service.

The call to service, specifically the Foreign Service, is a tremendous responsibility to both advance U.S. policy goals and represent the very best of American values in every interaction, both public and private. And that is my commitment to you, if confirmed, in leading U.S. engagement in Peru.

Peru is experiencing a transformational moment in its history. If confirmed, I will ensure the United States remains a steadfast partner for Peru's democratic institutions and the people they serve, prioritizing human rights and ensuring understanding, inclusion, and respect in all interactions. And we will continue to support the people and government of Peru as they work to overcome the current political instability and protect the democracy they have fought so hard to build.

Peru is home to many dual Peruvian and U.S. citizens, and an important destination for American citizen travelers, researchers, and students. It is also a key economic partner, with a two-way trade that surpasses \$22 billion and a destination for strategic U.S. investment. If confirmed, I will prioritize the protection of the more than half a million Americans who visit Peru each year. I will also work with the U.S. private sector to promote inclusive and sustainable growth and to highlight the benefits of doing business with the United States. Our companies

promote unparalleled transparency, cutting edge technology, quality engineering, and a commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

With Peru, we will continue to advance our shared climate and environmental goals, including the protection of Peru's diverse ecosystems; seek regional solutions to the challenges of irregular migration; and address the scourges of illicit drug and human trafficking and other transnational organized crime that rob communities of the security required for prosperity.

I thank the members of Congress for your steadfast support for USAID and State Department projects in Peru. If confirmed, I pledge to continue working with you to ensure that we are good stewards of the resources provided by the American people as we work with our municipal, state, and federal partners in Peru to create a more secure, more prosperous, and more inclusive society.

I look forward to leading the extraordinary interagency team in Lima and to benefitting from the wise counsel of our more than 600 locally employed staff in understanding the diversity of the country and how the United States can most effectively engage. Our locally employed staff are the heart of our diplomatic missions around the world, and any success I can claim as a U.S. diplomat is due primarily to their devotion and dedicated service.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions. Thank you.