

**Statement of Brian K. Stimmler**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**September 19, 2024**

Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic. I am deeply grateful for the trust President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me with this nomination.

I am also grateful to share this day with my family – my wife Sunny and my two daughters Story and Sariah. Anyone who knows us would attest that I would not be here today without Sunny's constant support and matchless example of service and leadership. She and my children have shown love, patience, and a sense of adventure as we have spent the past two decades living in seven countries together, including in the Kyrgyz Republic.

I would also like to thank my mother Emmy, who taught me my earliest lessons in service; my late father Ken, who served with the Navy during the Vietnam War; and my brothers Mark and Zach, who served with the Air Force in Afghanistan and Iraq.

If confirmed, my highest priority will be the safety and welfare of Embassy personnel and American citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic. I look forward to strengthening the already close community that is U.S. Embassy Bishkek. The Embassy's local staff have a special place in my heart; they have protected and served the Embassy community through countless crises. I will always remember their sacrifices to keep Embassy personnel safe during the 2020 revolution and to help us evacuate hundreds of Americans during the COVID pandemic.

The United States has a willing partner in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz government recognizes that the best way to avoid being a pawn of its great-power neighbors is to diversify its economic, political, and security relationships. Similarly, our goal is to ensure it is free to make its own decisions and pursue its own partnerships. Today I would like to highlight three lines of effort I will prioritize if confirmed: expanding our economic relationship, broadening our security partnership, and supporting democratic institutions.

The Kyrgyz Republic is working to diversify its economy and reduce its reliance on Russia and China. These goals are also in our interest. If confirmed, I will partner with the Kyrgyz government, business leaders, and civil society to foster a more equitable and transparent business climate to attract American investors. I will also continue our efforts to ensure that the Kyrgyz Republic complies with U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia for its unprovoked war against Ukraine.

My second priority, if confirmed, will be the continued expansion of our bilateral security partnership. We are already working together to counter terrorism, strengthen borders, and

repatriate and reintegrate family members of Kyrgyz foreign terrorist fighters from northeastern Syria. There is space to do more.

Finally, the Kyrgyz Republic has long stood out among its neighbors in media independence, political engagement, and civil society activism, thanks to its freedom-loving, independent-thinking citizens. If confirmed, I will work to protect fundamental human rights and strengthen the ability of civil society and independent voices to engage with the Kyrgyz government and play their essential role in the country's development.

Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member, Members of the committee, if confirmed, I look forward to working with your committee to deepen our partnership with the Kyrgyz Republic on our many shared priorities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.