

Statement of Denise Campbell Bauer
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco
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Thank you, Senator Kaine, for that very kind introduction.

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. It is my great honor to be President Biden's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to France and Monaco. I am deeply grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for their confidence in me.

And of course, I am thankful for my husband of nearly 30 years, Steven; our wonderful daughters, Katherine and Natalie; my extended family; and everyone who has supported me through the years.

If confirmed, I will work closely with this Committee and the Congress as I dedicate myself to protecting and advancing U.S. interests in France and Monaco. I would be proud to join the talented, dedicated State Department and interagency teams hard at work pursuing those goals.

I saw firsthand the superb commitment our embassy teams provide U.S. citizens and businesses when I served as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium from 2013 to 2017.

On March 22, 2016, my daughter Natalie was already on the bus on her way to school when Brussels was attacked by terrorists. I raced into the office as our team rallied to coordinate with and support our Belgian colleagues to help victims and guard against follow-on attacks.

This challenging time left no doubt why American embassies matter. Our team worked hand in glove with the Belgians. And we were there for our fellow Americans -- so that they weren't alone, far from home, during perhaps the worst time in their lives.

It would be my great honor to again serve the American people as Ambassador to France. I'd like to highlight just a few of the pillars of our partnership that I would bolster as Ambassador.

France is among our most capable and reliable military Allies. As NATO Allies, France and the United States have built and sustained the post-war global order, promoting freedom and prosperity. France has the second-largest global troop footprint after the United States and is the second-largest troop contributor to the D-ISIS Coalition. France

has reached the NATO goal of 2% of GDP on defense spending and contributes to NATO missions and exercises.

The United States and France exchange information and share best practices on countering violent extremist threats, and France leads on countering terrorism in the Sahel, where it has eliminated leaders of ISIS, Al-Qa'ida, and their affiliates.

If confirmed, I will not only ensure our cooperation continues, but will look for ways to strengthen that partnership.

France welcomed the United States' return to the Paris Agreement and is eager to engage in closer cooperation and strategic alignment on climate issues, particularly climate finance, clean energy, green recovery, and using trade and financial flows to further Paris Agreement objectives.

The United States and France share a deep economic relationship. France and the United States traded \$99 billion of goods and services in 2020, making France the United States' third-largest trading partner in Europe.

France works in coordination with the United States and other partners to hold Russia and China accountable for their destabilizing activities, human rights abuses, and violations of international norms. France has played a significant role in shaping the EU's policy towards the PRC, and supports the U.S.-E.U. Dialogue on China, where we seek a values-driven approach. If confirmed, I will advocate strongly with the French government that we must hold Russia accountable for its actions, and maintain pressure on the Kremlin to adhere to its international commitments and obligations, including the Minsk agreements.

And finally, the United States shares many of the same goals with France when it comes to Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. On all the challenges facing these countries, France seeks deeper collaboration with the United States.

If confirmed, I also look forward to **fostering our relationship with the Principality of Monaco** and working together with His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and his government to further our joint goals.

Of course, if confirmed, I will consider it my primary responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the Embassy community and all Americans in France and Monaco.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to answering your questions.