

**Statement of Erik D. Ramanathan**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden**  
**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
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Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you. I am honored to be the nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, and I thank President Biden and Secretary Blinken for their confidence in me.

Endless gratitude goes to my husband of more than 30 years, Ranesh Ramanathan, the love of my life and constant companion on life's journey, whose kindness, humor, and devotion in the face of the countless challenges we've navigated are unparalleled. And to my 16-year-old, Chris, who inspires me every day with fresh perspective and boundless potential, and who drives me to want to make our country and the world we share a better place for future generations.

With Chris' future in mind, I made the decision 15 years ago to pivot from a successful private sector career in law and life sciences to a portfolio of service roles where I felt I could have a larger-scale impact. Combining my fire-tested corporate and legal experience with lessons learned fighting for the civil rights and well-being of the LGBTQ and HIV+ communities, I reckoned that I could be an effective leader bringing stakeholders from disparate backgrounds together in pursuit of bigger missions.

Collaborative service became my compass as I built an academic platform at Harvard Law and took on a constellation of nonprofit leadership roles, culminating in a decade leading the board of Heluna Health. With perseverance, Heluna grew tenfold larger and transformed into a true catalyst to meet the public health and community resilience challenges facing tens of millions of Americans, including the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am deeply proud of the diverse and talented team of professionals who join together every day to make this life-changing work possible.

If confirmed, I plan to apply and foster a similarly vigorous service ethic, creative and collaborative mindset, and seriousness of purpose to expanding and deepening our historic close friendship and like-minded partnership with Sweden.

The relationship and diplomacy between our people - both bilaterally and on the global stage - can have a tremendously positive impact on our shared prosperity over the course of decades to come. I look forward to continuing to listen and learn from many stakeholders and if confirmed, I see three core priorities at the outset:

**First, enhancing bilateral and regional security efforts.** If confirmed, my foremost priority will always be the safety and security of Americans in Sweden, including personnel and family members of Embassy Stockholm. But our shared security interests

extend further. As a NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner, Sweden has made robust contributions on the international stage. If confirmed, I look forward to building on this history and on our bilateral Statement of Intent to support interoperability and coordination as Sweden increases its investments in its defense and security infrastructure and capabilities.

**Second, growing and deepening bilateral economic ties.** The U.S. and Sweden are two of the world's leading innovators, with robust business and technology ecosystems deeply intertwined with academic, civil society, and government collaboration. As both nations recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we should focus not only on reopening for business but also unlocking new sources of job opportunity and mutual prosperity such as joint pursuit of green technologies. Increasing bilateral exports and job-creating foreign direct investment in the U.S. can contribute to economic prosperity in both nations, while providing a stronger and more secure counterbalance to trade and investment with partners who may seek to compromise intellectual property or sensitive infrastructure.

**Third, collaborating to address key existential challenges of our time on the global stage.** Not only is Sweden a strong partner in foreign policy, but it is also an ideal collaborator in many unprecedented challenges facing the world, most notably fighting climate change, combating COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics, promoting democracy, protecting human rights, and safeguarding the rules-based international order. Among other efforts, Sweden has pledged over \$500 million for global vaccine equity. Sweden is a respected leader in combating climate change and pledged to double its climate aid to over \$1.8 billion by 2025. If confirmed, I look forward to strengthening our partnership with Sweden to address these global challenges.

If confirmed, I eagerly await working with the talented team at Embassy Stockholm to build on their successes and advance these shared goals, together. I look forward to partnering with Congress to further U.S. priorities in Sweden. And I enthusiastically await hearing from people across Sweden, sharing our ideas, and deepening people-to-people ties as we strive toward a better tomorrow.

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