

NOMINATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:23 a.m. in Room SD-106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Gardner, Portman, Menendez, Shaheen, Murphy, and Kaine.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH, U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

Today the committee will hold the nominations hearing for four important positions. Our nominees today are: Ms. Lisa Kenna, to be Ambassador to Peru; Ms. Leora Levy, to be Ambassador to Chile; the Honorable Aldona Wos, to be Ambassador to Canada; and Mr. William Popp, to be Ambassador to Guatemala.

One of our own, Senator Chris Murphy, will be introducing his fellow—what do you call a Connecticut person, Chris? Connecticuteur? What is it?

Senator MURPHY. Nutmeggers.

The CHAIRMAN. Nutmeggers. I like that. All right.

He will be introducing another person from Connecticut, Ms. Leora Levy.

So with that, we will postpone our opening statements and give Senator Murphy the opportunity make the introduction. Senator Murphy?

STATEMENT OF HON. CHRIS MURPHY, U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT

Senator MURPHY. It is a raging debate, frankly, Mr. Chairman, as to what you call those of us from Connecticut. I grew up thinking it was Connecticutian. Others say Connecticuter. Nutmeggers is probably the safest. So maybe we have helped everybody learn something today.

I am really excited, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce to the committee Leora Levy, who is the nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Chile. Leora and I had the chance to sit down in my office a few months back, and I am glad that she is now before the committee for confirmation.

She was born in Havana, Cuba. She fled to America with her family in 1960, and she spent a lot of her childhood in North Carolina but came to Connecticut in 1988.

Before, though, coming to Connecticut, she went to Brown University and began a career on Wall Street where she became one of the first female commodity traders. And we were very glad that when she and her family located to Connecticut, she became incredibly involved in philanthropic endeavors. She has been very involved in the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, but in Connecticut has been on the board and co-chair actually of the board of the Bruce Museum of Art and a director of Soldiers Strong, which is a Connecticut-based organization that works with paralyzed veterans.

She is the finance chairman—has been the finance chairman of the Connecticut Republican Party. Admittedly I think she has raised a decent amount of money for my political opponents over the years. Though maybe politics does not stop exactly at the water's edge any longer, I think it really is important for us to support folks who have the qualifications that she does regardless of political party and political affiliation.

So thank you to the chairman for bringing her before the committee today. I look forward to her testimony and our committee's questions.

And can I just add? Senator Blumenthal was planning to be here to also offer an introduction, but he is caught up between another committee and votes on the floor. So he asks me to send his regards.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. It frequently happens here.

So today we will consider the nominations of these four individuals to serve our nation in four important posts in the western hemisphere. I welcome each of you to the committee and thank you each for your commitment to public service and, importantly, your family who will share in your sacrifices.

First, we have Ms. Lisa Kenna, nominated to be Ambassador to Peru. Ms. Kenna is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service who serves as the Executive Secretary of the Department of State. Her diplomatic career has included assignments in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Before joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Kenna practiced law.

Peru and the U.S. are approaching 200 years of diplomatic relations. Our partnership rests on shared interests in democracy, respect for human rights, mutually beneficial trade and security. All of us encourage the administration to continue collaborating with Peru to confront the pandemic and promote transparent governance and investment rules, quality infrastructure, and effective law enforcement.

I look forward to hearing about your plans to steer this important diplomatic relationship through any challenges that might occur ahead.

Ms. Levy has already been introduced, but she will go to Chile. Chile is one of our closest partners in Latin America and, as a successful free market democracy, is a beacon of hope in the region. Chile has had a free trade agreement with the U.S. since 2004 and is the only Latin American country in the visa waiver program.

Many of us are concerned about Chile's participation in the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. Chilean institutions have repelled the worst aspects of China's state-directed financing for now, but that can change as Chile seeks to finance growing demands for public services. I look forward to hearing from you on the best course of action to strengthen U.S. interests in Chile.

Third, we have Dr. Aldona Vos, nominated to be Ambassador to Canada. Dr. Vos is Vice Chair of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. She previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Estonia, a position for which she was confirmed unanimously by the Senate in November 2004. She is also a licensed physician with a distinguished career in health care and has served as Secretary of Health and Human Services for the State of North Carolina.

Canada is a top trading partner, a NATO ally and a critical partner in the defense of democratic principles around the globe. In 2027, we will celebrate 200 years of formal diplomatic relations. Every day billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of people cross the U.S.-Canadian border, the longest undefended border in the world. Whether it is competition with China, Russian belligerence in the Arctic, the homeland defense mission against ballistic missile threats or cybersecurity, we must ensure our unique relationship with Canada adapts to emerging strategic challenges and opportunities. In the short term, our pandemic response must account for the particular characteristics of and minimize the economic cost to communities on both sides of our shared borders.

On a parochial matter, Ambassador Vos, I want to specifically call your attention to the current negotiations over the Columbia River Treaty. I have been closely engaged in that with my partner, Senator Maria Cantwell, and between the two of us, we have partnered with the State Department as negotiations continue over the Columbia River Treaty. This treaty is of primary importance to the people of Idaho and to the Pacific Northwest. It will greatly impact our water and our economy. I am following it very closely, as is Senator Cantwell, and we are working closely together on that issue. I ask that you make the successful and speedy conclusion of those negotiations a top priority of your service, should you be confirmed. I look forward to hearing your views on ways we can better address our shared challenges.

Fourth, we have Mr. William Popp, nominated to be Ambassador to Guatemala. Mr. Popp is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. embassy in Brazil. Before his time in Brazil, Mr. Popp served in several economic-related diplomatic posts. As fellow democracies, the U.S. and Guatemala share an interest in responding to our citizens' expectations for good governance, economic prosperity, and public safety, including through effective border security and an orderly migration system. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on advancing this important partnership.

With that, Senator Menendez.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

Senator MENENDEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am forced to note that this is another in a series of hearings that you have noticed unilaterally and over Democratic objections.

Earlier this week, I mentioned more than 60 oversight requests I sent to Secretary Pompeo, requests that have almost entirely gone unanswered. After 4 years, the administration's policy on oversight requests is crystal clear: a complete rejection of Congress' constitutional authority in foreign affairs and corresponding responsibility to conduct oversight. And unless they absolutely have to engage with us, they will not.

The only way to change that dynamic is if we stick up for ourselves, we do not let ourselves be bullied either by the President or the Secretary of State. Unfortunately, that is not happening.

Ms. Kenna, a senior aide to Secretary Pompeo and one of the nominees on today's panel, is a case in point. Chairman Engel and I have joint outstanding requests to interview Ms. Kenna in relation to two separate and corrosive episodes. The first relates to the political targeting of career employees at the State Department by Trump appointees, and the second concerns the firing of the State Department Inspector General while he had an active investigation into Secretary Pompeo. The Department is stonewalling as usual. They will not authorize Ms. Kenna to sit for an interview. So as a last resort, we urged you not to move forward with the nominations hearing for her.

Now, I sympathize with Ms. Kenna. The Department has put her in a terrible position, but why should we move forward with a nominee when the Department of State is refusing to authorize her to speak with Congress on critical oversight matters. The stonewalling is particularly egregious here given that the Secretary of State is seeking to hide his own possible wrongdoing in connection with the firing of Steve Linick. This undermines our role and our ability to do our jobs on behalf of the American people and it should not have happened regardless of how much pressure the Secretary has put.

I need to make one last point before I turn to some country-specific issues.

Mr. Chairman, you have frequently indicated that my objections to your handling of certain nominations are related to political or policy differences. And I am honestly not sure what you mean by that. Is asking for an interview with Ms. Kenna to find out what she knows about the firing of the State Department Inspector General a political or policy difference? Is urging Michael Pack to acknowledge and fix his false statements to the committee and the IRS a political or policy difference? Is asking for more information concerning allegations that Doug Manchester engaged in blatantly sexist behavior and created a hostile work environment for female employees a political or policy difference? I do not think so.

Now, we are reviewing the nomination for Canada at a particularly turbulent time in U.S.-Canada relations. The Trump administration's approach has included the levying of tariffs due to supposed national security considerations, a half-baked attempt to

block the export of protective masks during the pandemic, and the occasional insult hurled by a White House senior advisor at Prime Minister Trudeau. I think we can agree that these are the tactics we aim at an economic adversary, not at one of our top trading partners. That is how we treat our enemies, not an ally whose sons and daughters have fought and died alongside American soldiers in multiple theaters over the last century.

But amidst this chaos, there have been some positive advances. Thanks to Democratic leadership, we were able to include stronger provisions on labor and environmental standards in the new U.S.-Canada-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, provisions that will directly benefit American workers and families.

So I hope to hear a new approach from our nominee on how we can actually strengthen our alliance and economic partnership with Canada.

I am pleased that at my request the nominee for Guatemala has been added to this panel. The challenges in Guatemala require steady leadership, but again I have been deeply troubled by the President's policies. For a year, the administration suspended foreign assistance to Guatemala, the very funding we need to advance our national interests and address the violence and poverty forcing people to flee their country. We coerced the Guatemalan Government into a supposed safe third country agreement so that we can transfer asylum seekers from the United States to pursue protection in Guatemala, an agreement that endangers the lives of vulnerable people and appears to conflict with U.S. law. And we have deported dozens of COVID-positive individuals back to Guatemala during the pandemic and threatened Guatemalan officials with visa sanctions if they refuse the flights.

It is disturbing yet hardly surprising that the Guatemalan President said in May, quote, I don't believe the U.S. is an ally to Guatemala because they don't treat us like one.

So I look forward to our nominee's thoughts on that.

Aside from the oversight matters I mentioned, I am also pleased we are reviewing a nomination for review, a close diplomatic, economic, and security partner in addressing the political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela even as they have experienced their own political turmoil in the last 2 years and struggled with COVID-19.

And lastly, I am looking forward to having a conversation with Ms. Levy about some of her previous comments that she has made. I want to understand if that is the nature of what we can expect if she were to be confirmed as the United States Ambassador.

With that, I look forward to the nominees' testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. To each of the nominees, thank you again for your willingness to serve.

Your full statement will be included in the record. So we would ask that you keep your remarks to about 5 minutes, and then you will be asked to answer questions. We will start with Lisa Kenna. The floor is yours for your opening statement.

STATEMENT OF LISA S. KENNA, OF VERMONT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU

Ms. KENNA. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. I thank the President and Secretary Pompeo for placing their trust in me. And if confirmed, I will work diligently with members of this committee and other Members of Congress to advance American interests, strengthen cooperation with our friend Peru across all sectors, and to further promote our shared values of democracy, prosperity, and greater security throughout the region.

I would like to thank my two daughters, Amelia and Isabel, who are here with me today for understanding and supporting my commitment to public service. These two young women are the embodiment of resilience, and I could not be more proud of who they are and what they represent. I also thank my sister Julie; my mother-in-law, Connie Kenna; and my incredible group of professional colleagues and friends and family for the support they have given me and Amelia and Isabel, particularly in the many years since the death of my husband Roger and my mother Marjorie who were so central to my life.

I am blessed to come from a family that believes in serving our country and others. My mother was raised by her own single mother on a tiny farm in Indiana and dedicated her life to caring for nursing home residents as a volunteer social worker for 40 years. My father served for decades as a pilot in the Air Force. I myself began my government service in my final year of college and have served faithfully across both Republican and Democratic administrations ever since. The longer I have been in public service, the more I am convinced that America is the world's most exceptional nation.

Over the past 5 years as a senior staffer for three different secretaries of state, I have had the great privilege of working on virtually every issue of foreign policy consequence, including those concerning the western hemisphere and Peru specifically. If confirmed, I will maintain the United States' vital relationship with Peru which has long been one of our closest partners in the region.

Recently, Mission Peru has performed heroically to sustain our strong partnership and serve our fellow Americans in these challenging times. As you know, when the Government of Peru closed its borders to stem the spread of COVID-19, thousands of American citizens requested support in returning to the United States. The State Department and my team in the Operations Center that staffed the Repatriation Task Force worked closely with Peruvian authorities, local partners, and airlines to repatriate over 12,000 American citizens and legal permanent residents. We will not rest until the last American who wishes to return home from Peru has the opportunity to do so.

In terms of further fighting the virus, President Trump and President Vizcarra recently affirmed their intention to intensify cooperation, and the United States has offered additional support to meet Peru's health care needs. As we move to reopen our econo-

mies, we hope to again focus on more traditional areas of cooperation, including security, democratic governance, trade, and cultural and educational ties.

We must also expand our joint efforts to tackle the scourge of transnational organized crime that threatens both of our countries, including by cutting off the sources of illicit financing. American investments to dismantle the narcotics trade and reduce the cultivation and production of coca and cocaine have paid some dividends. Although there is considerably more work to be done, the Government of Peru has committed to eradicating coca with U.S. support in the country's highest-yield areas.

Illegal mining, which is linked to narcotrafficking and transnational criminal networks, endangers public health, damages Peru's environment, and promotes human trafficking. To better fight the problem together, our governments signed an agreement in 2017 that will provide economic development alternatives and enhance Peru's capacity to prosecute cases connected with illegal mining.

The U.S. and Peru are also growing our shared support for a peaceful return to democracy in Venezuela. Maduro's manmade crisis has driven millions to flee their country. And Peru, as founder of the Lima Group, has shown leadership in generously hosting nearly 1 million displaced Venezuelans and frequently calling out the regime for its flagrant human rights abuses.

Trade, tourism, and educational exchanges have drawn our two countries closer together in recent years. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual number of U.S. visitors to Peru exceeded 580,000, and the United States remains a primary destination for Peruvian students seeking to study abroad.

So too are we growing closer in trade. 2019 marked the 10th anniversary of the U.S.-Peru Trade-Promotion Agreement, a cornerstone of our bilateral relationship that sets high standards for both countries concerning market access and protections for both investments and the environment. If confirmed, I will continue to build the important bonds, economic and otherwise, for the peoples of both countries.

I would look forward to working with this committee to achieve our shared goals, and I am happy to answer all of your questions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Kenna follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LISA KENNA

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and distinguished members of the committee, It's an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. I thank the President and Secretary Pompeo for placing their trust in me. If confirmed, I will work diligently with this committee and other Members of Congress to advance American interests, strengthen cooperation with our friend Peru across all sectors, and further promote our shared values of democracy, prosperity, and greater security throughout the region.

I would like to thank my two daughters—Amelia and Isabel—for accepting my commitment to public service. I also thank my sister Julie, my mother-in-law Connie Kenna, and my incredible group of friends for the support they've given me, Amelia, and Isabel, particularly in the many years since the deaths of my husband Roger and my mother Marjorie who were so central to my life.

I am blessed to come from a family that believes in serving our country and other people. My mother was raised by her own single mother on a tiny farm in Indiana

and dedicated her life to caring for nursing home residents as a volunteer social worker for 40 years. My father served for decades as a pilot in the Air Force. I myself began my government service in my final year of college and have served faithfully across both Republican and Democratic administrations ever since. The longer I've been in public service, the more I am convinced America is the world's most exceptional nation.

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Recently, Mission Peru has performed heroically to sustain our strong partnership and serve our fellow Americans in these challenging times. As you know, when the Government of Peru closed its borders to stem the spread of COVID-19, thousands of American citizens requested assistance to return to the United States. The State Department, and my team in the Operations Center that staffed the Repatriation Task Force, worked closely with Peruvian authorities, airlines, and local partners to repatriate over 12,000 U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents. We will not rest until the last American who wants to return from Peru has an opportunity to do so.

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We must also expand our joint efforts to tackle the scourge of transnational organized crime that threatens both our countries, including by cutting off sources of illicit financing. American investments to dismantle the narcotics trade and reduce cultivation and production of coca and cocaine have paid some dividends. Although there is considerably more work to be done, Peru is committed to eradicating coca, with U.S. support, in the country's highest-yield regions.

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I look forward to working with the committee to achieve these shared goals, and I am happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Ms. Kenna.
We will now hear from Ms. Levy.

**STATEMENT OF LEORA ROSENBERG LEVY, OF CONNECTICUT,
TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE
REPUBLIC OF CHILE**

Ms. LEVY. Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and distinguished members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before this committee seeking your confirmation to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of

Chile. I am humbled and grateful to have the trust and confidence of President Trump and Secretary Pompeo. If confirmed, I will work every day to be a champion of American diplomacy.

I would like to recognize my family: my husband Steve and son David behind me; and my sons, Michael and Ben, who could not be with me today but are here in spirit; and my parents, Zava and Tom Rosenberg, who brought me to America and instilled in me a fierce love for our country and our freedoms. Their love and support have enabled me to pursue this lifelong dream to serve my country.

I was born in Cuba and escaped Castro's Communist revolution with my family in 1960. My family history also includes the perilous escape of my mother and her parents from Lithuania to Cuba in 1940.

At Brown University, I majored in international relations and passed the Foreign Service exam as a senior. But I took a different path and became one of the first women commodity traders on Wall Street as an international sugar trader, steel trader, and copper concentrates traffic executive, shipping hundreds of thousands of tons of copper concentrates from Chile to ports around the world.

As a patriot, civic leader, philanthropist, and businesswoman, my leadership experience and demonstrated ability to achieve results make me a strong candidate to represent the American people as a U.S. ambassador. If confirmed, I would be proud to lead the embassy in Santiago with representatives from seven cabinet-level agencies and outstanding locally employed staff who make it possible to advance U.S. interests and values delivering important results for the American people.

Chile is one of our strongest allies in the hemisphere. The United States and Chile hold deeply shared values and commitments to democratic governance, regional security, human rights, rule of law, and free markets to create economic opportunity and prosperity for all. In a recent telephone call, President Trump thanked President Pinera for Chile's unwavering support for democracy and freedom in the region. As the United States, Chile, and many countries around the world battle the COVID-19 pandemic, President Trump also offered U.S. assistance to help Chile provide critical care to its citizens. The President praised Chile's proactive and balanced approach to protecting the health and livelihoods of Chileans. If confirmed, I would strive to enhance this cooperation between our countries in the fight against COVID-19.

Having followed developments of the civil unrest in Chile since October 2019, it is encouraging to see that the Chilean Government, opposition parties, civil society, and groups who feel disenfranchised have made steady progress toward resolving outstanding issues through civil discourse, balanced legislation, and the rule of law grounded in strong democratic institutions, as they approach an October referendum on the question of whether to write a new constitution.

Chile has been a regional model of the transformational possibilities of democratic governance and free markets to achieve stable economic growth and enduring prosperity. Both the United States and Chile support free, fair, and reciprocal trade. Since our free trade agreement went into effect in 2004, bilateral trade has tri-

pled. Supporting U.S. businesses in Chile and Chilean businesses investing in the United States will further enhance economic opportunity and prosperity for both countries.

Chile is home to the oldest and largest Fulbright program in the hemisphere. The 2,700 Chileans who study at U.S. colleges and universities contribute to our mutual understanding and provide substantial support to our higher education sector. Thousands of American travelers visit Chile to discover its rich culture and marvel at its natural beauty every year. Prior to the pandemic, the number of Chileans visiting the U.S. increased more than fourfold in the last 5 years. When it is once again safe to travel, I would, if confirmed, work to encourage even more robust and wide-ranging trade, tourism, and people-to-people engagements between our countries.

From collaboration in science and technology to educational and cultural exchanges, investment in sustainable energy, support for entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises, and the promotion of democratic values, U.S.-Chile cooperation benefits both of our countries and reaffirms the United States as Chile's likeminded, reliable partner of choice.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Chilean Government and Chilean people to build upon our strong relationship and to promote our shared values. I would also look forward to working with your committee, your colleagues, staff, and all U.S. stakeholders to advance the interests of the United States and to deepen the bonds between our countries. If given the honor of serving as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, my top priority will always be the safety and security of embassy staff and all Americans in Chile.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Levy follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LEORA LEVY

Good morning, thank you Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and distinguished members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before this committee seeking your confirmation to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Chile. I am humbled and grateful to have the trust and confidence of President Trump and Secretary Pompeo. If confirmed, I will work every day to be a Champion of American Diplomacy.

I would like to recognize my family—my husband Steve and sons David, Michael and Ben; and my parents, Zava and Tom Rosenberg, who brought me to America and instilled in me a fierce love for our country and our freedoms. Their love and support have enabled me to pursue this lifelong dream to serve my country.

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If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Chilean Government and the Chilean people to build upon our strong relationship and to promote shared values. I would also look forward to working with your committee, your colleagues, staff, and all U.S. stakeholders to advance the interests of the United States and to deepen the bonds between our countries. If given the honor of serving as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, my top priority will always be the safety and security of Embassy staff and all Americans in Chile.

Thank you, I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Ms. Levy.
We will now turn to Dr. Wos.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ALDONA Z. WOS, OF NORTH CAROLINA,
TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA**

Ambassador WOS. Thank you. Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez and distinguished members of this committee, I am honored to be with you here today as President Trump's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Canada. I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Pompeo for their trust and confidence in me to lead our engagement with our neighbor and important ally Canada.

I am appreciative of the time that the members of this committee and staff have spent with me.

The United States-Canada relationship is one of enduring strength. It is built on broad and deep ties between our peoples, shared value, extensive trade, strategic global cooperation, and defense partnerships.

If confirmed, my priorities will be to actively support our national security, encourage economic growth and prosperity, and promote resilience at Mission Canada.

Canada is one of our most important partners and allies. As a member of NATO, the organization of America States, the United Nations, and many other forums, Canada has served valiantly to advance missions in Iraq, the Baltics, and Central and Eastern Europe. If confirmed, I will encourage Canada to continue to provide critical capabilities to the alliance by meeting the commitments that all NATO leaders agreed to in the 2014 Wales Pledge. As the former United States Ambassador to Estonia, I have firsthand witnessed the value of NATO.

The United States and Canada share continental security through NORAD, the only bi-national military command in the world. To date, we take on many international priorities, including issues concerning China, Russia, the Ukraine, Iran, Venezuela, counterterrorism, and the Arctic. Canada is also one of our closest intelligence partners and a member of the Five Eyes alliance.

If confirmed, I will build on our existing bilateral cooperation to counter China's malign activities and to continue to raise concerns regarding authorization of access to the 5G networks by Huawei and other untrusted vendors. I will make clear the United States Government's deep concern over China's retaliatory and arbitrary detention of two Canadian citizens.

The United States-Canada bilateral trade and investment relationship is one of the world's largest. Each year we exchange over \$700 billion in goods and services. Canada is the largest market for export goods for 30 States.

Prior to the pandemic, about 400,000 people and \$2 billion worth of goods and services crossed our borders daily. More than 14 million Americans crossed the world's longest land border to visit Canada each year.

Our countries share highly integrated supply chains, electrical grids, and energy transmission. The USMCA will strengthen and expand our economies in the digital age. And we must continue to promote transparent and reliable sources of critical minerals through open and sustainable supply chains.

Throughout the pandemic, our governments have worked together at the highest level. My experiences battling emerging health threats such as HIV and AIDS as a doctor in New York City and the Ebola virus threats as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services revealed the importance of collaboration and communication with all stakeholders to ensure the health and welfare of our citizens.

For me, Mission Canada is personal. I was born under imposed Communist rule to parents Wanda, a slave labor survivor, and Paul, Pablo, a righteous gentile and a concentration camp survivor. We left everything behind in our native Poland seeking political freedom, and we emigrated to the United States on board the MS Batory. In 1961, we landed in Montreal, Canada.

The United States by way of Canada gave us freedom, dignity, and the opportunity to work towards a secure and prosperous future.

As a naturalized citizen, I have deep respect for our fundamental American values of freedom and democracy.

I will use what I have learned through my diverse life experiences to represent the interests of the United States and all its citizens with strengthening our critical alliance with Canada.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for their unwavering love and support and to introduce my son Andrew who was able to accompany me here today.

To the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering all your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Wos follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. ALDONA ZOFIA WOS

Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez, I am honored to be with you today as President Trump's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Canada. I am grateful to President Trump, and Secretary Pompeo, for their trust and confidence in me to lead our engagement with our neighbor, and important ally, Canada.

I am appreciative of the time that members of this committee and staff have spent with me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you.

The U.S.-Canada relationship is one of enduring strength. It is built on broad and deep ties between our peoples, shared values, extensive trade, strategic global cooperation, robust defense partnerships, and good governance.

If confirmed as Ambassador, my priorities will be to actively support our national security, encourage economic growth and prosperity, and promote resilience at Mission Canada.

We share over 5,525 miles of the world's longest border, of which 40 percent is water, and hundreds of land and sea border crossings. Our partnership in the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty is considered a model for cross-border cooperation on water issues. More than 14 million Americans visit Canada each year, relying on our Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency, which work tirelessly to safeguard our citizens, while ensuring the free flow of legitimate goods.

Canada is one of our most important partners and allies, as a member of NATO, the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and many other bilateral, regional, and global forums. If confirmed, I will encourage Canada to honor its NATO commitments. While serving as Ambassador to Estonia, I witnessed firsthand the significance and value of NATO.

The U.S. and Canada share continental security through the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the only bi-national military command in the world. Together, we tackle many international priorities, including issues concerning China, Russia/Ukraine, Iran, Venezuela, counterterrorism, peacekeeping, and the Arctic. Canada is one of our closest intelligence partners, a member of the Five Eyes alliance. The United States and Canada are vigilant in protecting our cyber security. Serving in Estonia, I saw the importance of a robust cyber security system, and subsequently we all witnessed the devastating cyber-attacks Estonia suffered.

If I am confirmed, one of my priorities will be to build on our existing bilateral cooperation with Canada to join in countering China's malign activities and continuing to raise concern regarding authorization of Huawei's and other untrusted vendors' access to 5G networks. Additionally, I will make clear the U.S. Government's deep concern over China's retaliatory and arbitrary detention of two Canadian citizens, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

The U.S.-Canada bilateral trade and investment relationship is one of the world's largest and most comprehensive, supporting millions of jobs. Each year, we exchange over \$700 billion in goods and services. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 400,000 people and \$2 billion worth of goods and services crossed our borders daily. Canada is the largest market for export goods for 30 states, including my home state of North Carolina.

Our countries share highly integrated supply chains, electrical grids, and energy transmission. Canada is the United States' leading supplier of energy, including crude oil, electricity, and uranium. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has shown us that, now more than ever, we must promote a transparent and reliable source of critical minerals and open and sustainable supply chains.

I am looking forward to the implementation and future successes of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which will drive growth and economic prosperity for all of North America.

The modernizations of the USMCA will strengthen and expand our economies in the digital age. I am dedicated to ensuring the USMCA's success by working with partners across government.

If I am confirmed as Ambassador, in addition to strengthening our economic prosperity, I will work with our Canadian counterparts to continue to modernize NORAD. I will also work to improve information sharing between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement and border agencies. I appreciate the continued cooperation and collaboration with Canada on Arctic issues, such as health, search and rescue, energy, science, economic development, and security. If confirmed, I will work to build resilience and preparedness at Mission Canada.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our governments have worked closely together at the highest levels. My experiences battling unknown emerging health threats such as HIV/AIDS while caring for patients as a doctor in NYC—and later, the Ebola virus threat in North Carolina as Secretary—have shown me the importance of collaboration and communication with all stakeholders in an ever-changing unknown environment. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will continue the collective efforts to secure the welfare and safety of our citizens, while maintaining our open supply chains.

For me, Mission Canada is very personal. I was born under imposed Communist rule to parents who were slave labor and concentration camp survivors. We left everything behind in our native Poland, seeking political freedom. In 1961, we emigrated to the United States aboard the MS Batory and landed in Montreal, Canada. My father, Paul Wos, a Righteous Gentile, and mother, Wanda Wos, instilled in me the importance of freedom, democracy, and respect for others.

The United States, by way of Canada, gave me, and my family, freedom, dignity, and the opportunity to work towards a secure and prosperous future.

As a naturalized citizen, I have a deep respect for our fundamental American values—freedom, democracy, free enterprise and religious freedom—as they have guided my path in both the private sector and public service.

As a Medical Doctor practicing in NYC at the height of the AIDS epidemic; a former U.S. Ambassador to Estonia; and former Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, responsible for 18,000 employees and a \$20 billion budget, I brought my bicultural background and diverse life skills to address many complex and impactful challenges, including advocating for and representing the interests of the United States and all its citizens.

If confirmed, I will continue my public service for our country and its citizens, which I love.

I would like to thank my family—my life partner and amazing husband, Louis DeJoy, and our twins, Ania and Andrew, for their unwavering love and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Dr. Wos.

We will now turn to Mr. Popp.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM W. POPP, OF MISSOURI, 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 THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

Mr. POPP. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, distinguished members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala.

I would like to begin by recognizing my family. In particular, I want to thank my wife of 21 years Milena and my daughter, Alicia Pilar. I am grateful to both of them for joining me in the privilege, joys, and sacrifices of serving our nation overseas.

As a career Foreign Service officer, I have been honored to represent the United States in six postings across Latin America and Africa. From Nicaragua to Angola, Colombia to Brazil, Kenya, back

to Brazil, I have advanced U.S. interests and worked with partner nations to achieve shared goals. Most recently, I served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Brazil, our sixth largest diplomatic mission in the world, including 21 months as Chargé d'affaires. If confirmed, I believe this experience will be valuable in leading our mission and deepening our partnership with Guatemala.

The United States and Guatemala share a historic relationship, strong economic ties and mutual security interests, as well as deep people-to-people bonds. As close neighbors and democratic nations, we both gain immensely from enhanced cooperation.

Since his inauguration in January, President Giammattei has prioritized partnering with the United States. He has demonstrated commitment to increasing security, curbing irregular migration, fighting corruption, supporting private sector-driven growth, and supporting democracy.

We are at a moment of important opportunity to maximize our partnership. At the same time we face the tremendous challenge of COVID-19. More than ever, it is vital that we work together.

First, protecting our citizens' security, combating crime, and addressing the regional challenge of irregular migration must be priorities. It is key to work together to dismantle transnational criminal organizations, increase border security, strengthen justice institutions, and highlight the dangers associated with the long journey to the U.S. border. With U.S. partnership, Guatemala is making progress. New courts have been established for prosecuting human traffickers, extortion cases, and femicide. Strong cooperation with the Guatemalan Navy Special Forces has reduced maritime narcotics trafficking. And migrant encounters of Guatemalans at the U.S. southern border have significantly fallen over the last year. Notwithstanding this progress, more capacity building is needed as well as the sustained commitment of all branches of the Government of Guatemala.

Second, it is vital that we broaden prosperity for both countries by unleashing private investment, expanding trade, and increasing formal sector employment. With one of the youngest populations in the world, the lowest tax revenue collection rate in the Americas, and nearly 60 percent of the population living in poverty, generating opportunities for Guatemalan youth, women, and the indigenous community is imperative. Our assistance is an important part of the solution, but so is working with the public and private sectors to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. If confirmed, I will seek to create more opportunities that benefit both Guatemalan and U.S. businesses.

Third, it is crucial to promote the rule of law, fight corruption, respect human and labor rights, and end impunity. U.S. assistance is strengthening Guatemala's judicial institutions, and President Giammattei has taken an important step to establish a new anti-corruption commission in the executive branch. Together we are fostering a dialogue with indigenous communities and civil society in Guatemala. We should deepen efforts to build the integrity of public institutions and enhance access to justice, as well as bolster space for civil society. A more just and inclusive Guatemala will help address challenges for both our countries.

Finally, Guatemala is an ally in creating a hemisphere for freedom. President Giammattei's recognition of Venezuela's legitimate government and democratically elected National Assembly, as well as his breaking of ties with the illegitimate Maduro regime and his reinforcement of relations with Taiwan are powerful statements. Closer U.S.-Guatemala cooperation will benefit our citizens as well as increase freedom more broadly.

In conclusion, if confirmed, I will work steadfastly to advance U.S. interests and values. That begins with protecting the over 60,000 U.S. citizens who reside in Guatemala, as well as the thousands who visit each year. It also means pursuing a shared agenda with Guatemalan partners for security, prosperity, good governance, and democracy.

If confirmed as Chief of Mission, I will lead the nearly 550 American and Guatemalan professionals in Mission Guatemala to advance this agenda by creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful workplace. I will vigilantly safeguard resources and maximize effectiveness across U.S. agencies to build a more secure and prosperous future with Guatemala.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Popp follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF WILLIAM W. POPP

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala.

I would like to begin by recognizing my family, without whose support I would not be here. In particular, I want to thank my wife of 21 years, Milena, and my daughter Alicia Pilar. I am grateful to both for joining me in the privilege, joys, and sacrifices of serving our nation overseas.

As a career Foreign Service Officer, I have been honored to represent the United States in six postings across Latin America and Africa. From Nicaragua to Angola, Colombia to Brazil, and Kenya back to Brazil, I have advanced U.S. interests and collaborated with partner nations to achieve shared goals. Most recently, I served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Brazil, our sixth-largest diplomatic mission in the world. This assignment included serving as Chargé d'Affaires for 21 months, helping to drive an unprecedented expansion in bilateral relations. I believe, if confirmed, this experience will be valuable in constructively leading our Mission and deepening our partnership with Guatemala.

The United States and Guatemala share a historic relationship, strong economic ties, mutual security interests, and deep people-to-people bonds. As close neighbors and democratic nations, we both gain immensely from enhanced and sustained cooperation.

Since his inauguration in January, President Giammattei has prioritized partnering with the United States. He has demonstrated commitment to increasing security, curbing irregular migration, fighting corruption, and supporting private sector-driven growth. He has also underscored Guatemala's commitment to democracy, stood up for freedom in Venezuela, and reinforced relations with Taiwan.

As such, we are at an important moment of opportunity to maximize our partnership for security, prosperity, good governance, and democracy. At the same time, we face the tremendous challenge of COVID-19, with its painful human toll and economic impact. More than ever, it is vital that we work together.

First, protecting our citizens' security, combating transnational crime, and addressing the regional challenge of irregular migration must be priorities. To protect U.S. and Guatemalan citizens, and our respective homelands, it is key for us to work together to dismantle transnational criminal organizations, increase border security, strengthen justice institutions, and highlight the dangers associated with the long journey to the U.S. border. With U.S. partnership, Guatemala is making progress. New courts have been established for prosecuting human traffickers, extortion cases, and femicide. Strong cooperation with the Guatemalan Navy Special

Forces has reduced maritime narcotics trafficking. And migrant encounters of Guatemalans at the U.S. southern border have significantly fallen since the peak of the humanitarian and security crisis in May 2019. Notwithstanding this progress, more capacity building is needed as well as the sustained commitment of all branches of the Government of Guatemala.

Second, it is vital that we broaden prosperity for both countries by unleashing private investment, expanding trade, and increasing formal sector employment. With one of the youngest populations in the world, the lowest tax revenue collection rate in the Americas, and nearly 60 percent of the population living in poverty, generating opportunities for Guatemalan youth, women, and the indigenous community is imperative. Our assistance is an important part of the solution, but so is working with the public and private sectors to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, especially small and medium enterprises. If confirmed, I will seek to create more opportunities that benefit both Guatemalan and U.S. businesses.

Third, underlying security and prosperity is the crucial need to promote rule of law, fight corruption, respect human and labor rights, and end impunity. U.S. assistance is strengthening Guatemala's judicial institutions, and President Giammattei has taken an important step to establish a new anti-corruption commission to uncover corruption within the executive branch. Together, we are fostering dialogue with indigenous communities and civil society in areas of high migration. We should deepen these efforts to build the integrity of public institutions, enhance access to justice, and bolster space for civil society. A more just and inclusive Guatemala will have a positive effect on the challenges both our countries face.

Finally, Guatemala is an ally in the defense of democracy and creating a hemisphere of freedom.

President Giammattei's recognition of Venezuela's legitimate government and the democratically-elected National Assembly, his breaking of ties with the illegitimate Maduro regime, and his reinforcement of relations with Taiwan in the face of pressure from the PRC are powerful statements. Closer U.S.-Guatemala cooperation will benefit our citizens as well as increase freedom more broadly.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, members of the committee, if confirmed, I will work steadfastly to advance U.S. interests and values. That begins with protecting the over 60,000 U.S. citizens who reside in Guatemala, as well as the thousands who visit each year. It also means pursuing a shared agenda with our Guatemalan partners for security, prosperity, good governance, and democracy.

If confirmed as Chief of Mission, I will lead the nearly 550 American and Guatemalan professionals who comprise Mission Guatemala to advance this agenda by creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful workplace. I will vigilantly safeguard resources and maximize effectiveness across U.S. agencies to build a more secure and prosperous future with Guatemala.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. And, again, thank you to all of our witnesses.

We are in the middle of three votes on the floor. I think all of us have voted on the first one. What I am going to do is get down to the end of the second one, and we will recess while we all go down and vote on the second one and the beginning of the third. And then we will be done with the three votes.

In the meantime, we will start questions. With that, Senator Menendez.

Senator MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, a procedural question if I may. Are we not close to the end of the second vote?

The CHAIRMAN. Fifteen minutes left, Senator.

Senator MENENDEZ. Oh, 15 minutes left. Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Kenna, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, while I am pleased that we have a nominee for Peru, I am dismayed that you are appearing at this hearing without having complied with a request by Chairman Engel and I, outstanding since February, to be interviewed on critical matters. And while I put the onus of the responsibility on the State Department, the failure to comply with a

congressional request on critical oversight matters is also a reflection on you, one that I hope you can correct.

So let me start off by asking, will you commit to complying with all outstanding congressional requests for an interview and testimony, which include political retaliation and events surrounding the firing of the State Department Inspector General?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, thank you for your comments.

I am happy to appear and to cooperate and to comply with the requests. I have already offered a date, August 7th, to the committees for that interview.

Senator MENENDEZ. All right. That is the first of my knowledge. And when you say to the committee, this is a joint request. So I want you to understand that as far as I am concerned, yes, Chairman Engel has a request and I have a request as the ranking member to join in that.

Ms. KENNA. I understand that, Senator, and it is my understanding as well that this was a joint request, and our offer was to the joint committee.

Senator MENENDEZ. So you are committing to appearing to answer all of these questions on August the 7th. Is that correct?

Ms. KENNA. That was my offer, yes. The offer was extended by the State Department to the committees. I believe it was part of a larger package.

Senator MENENDEZ. Okay. I am going to review that because at 10:11 today, 4 minutes before this hearing began, which is a complete insult to send us a message 4 minutes before the hearing began, the State Department said that you were ready to answer questions today, which of course in a 5-minute interval that I have and with 4 minutes? notice would not deal with the breadth and scope of issues that we seek to review with you. So I am going to hold you to that commitment to August 7, and I am going to judge the ability of proceeding with your nomination based upon your conformance with that.

While I have you here, let me ask you. You served in the Secretary's office during some of the most questionable events in U.S. foreign policy. Chief among them was the administration's withholding of U.S. security assistance to Ukraine. As we all now know, our U.S. policy towards Ukraine was hijacked by unofficial channels influenced by rogue actors with their own financial interests at heart and Russian disinformation that was peddled into the highest levels of the State Department. But you were there in the middle of it at the time. As Ambassador Sondland infamously testified, everyone was in the loop about Rudy Giuliani's involvement in Ukraine. And when he said everyone, he specifically named you.

Now, you have been a career Foreign Service officer for 20 years. You are no novice to the Secretary's office of how foreign policy is run. Was there ever any point where you stopped and thought to yourself this is not okay?

Ms. KENNA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

I was not part of any policy discussions on Ukraine. So it is true that I was copied on some emails that Ambassador Sondland sent. I understand I was copied largely because I was being asked to handle follow-up in terms of requesting phone calls. Certainly

when he says everyone was in the know, that would not include me. I was not a part of policy discussions on Ukraine.

Senator MENENDEZ. Were you a part of policy discussions on anything?

Ms. KENNA. Sorry.

Senator MENENDEZ. Were you a part of policy discussions on anything?

Ms. KENNA. Part of my role as the Executive Secretary is to review memoranda both for information and for decision that go to the Secretary of State to ensure that they have received proper review by other offices in the Department. I rarely joined policy discussions.

Senator MENENDEZ. Interesting.

What about when Ambassador Yovanovitch was recalled early for no reason other than she was subject to false attacks? Did you think that that was okay?

Ms. KENNA. It was a very painful and difficult time, Senator. I absolutely respect Ambassador Yovanovitch, who is one of our strongest career ambassadors. She is a consummate professional. It was very difficult to see what she went through at that time.

So it is my understanding that she was recalled because the President lost confidence in her, and every ambassador understands that we serve at the pleasure of the President. That does not mean that that experience was not very, very painful.

Senator MENENDEZ. So if you achieve this goal and somebody loses confidence with you simply because of politics, do you accept that as a career Foreign Service officer that that is the way you should be dispelled?

Ms. KENNA. We have no other choice, Senator.

Senator MENENDEZ. Really.

Ms. KENNA. We serve at the——

Senator MENENDEZ. So let me ask you this. As Executive Secretary, you see essentially all the memos and paper that go to the Secretary. Correct?

Ms. KENNA. Nearly all, yes.

Senator MENENDEZ. And you are aware of the calls coming into the Secretary's office and the calls that he makes through you. Is that correct?

Ms. KENNA. I am aware of the vast majority of them, yes.

Senator MENENDEZ. You were fully aware that Rudy Giuliani was communicating with and providing documents to the Secretary in March of 2019. Is that correct?

Ms. KENNA. I was not aware of what the documents were about, no.

Senator MENENDEZ. But that he was providing documents. You were aware of that.

Ms. KENNA. I was aware that he delivered a package. I was not aware of the contents nor did I review that package.

Senator MENENDEZ. So as you sat in the Secretary's office, you were aware that Rudy Giuliani was bringing documents to the Secretary not long before Ambassador Yovanovitch was recalled early from Kiev, and you thought nothing of it.

Ms. KENNA. At the time, I did not know what the documents were about.

Senator MENENDEZ. Well, what do you make of it now?

Ms. KENNA. It is deeply disturbing.

Senator MENENDEZ. Is there anything you would have done in hindsight that you would have wished you had done?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, my role as Executive Secretary is to run the Operations Center, which staffs the task forces that mitigate crises ranging from natural disasters, to COVID-19, to threats of violence against our embassies. I run the unit that reviews the memos that go to the Secretary. I do my best every day to run a professional operation that is based on integrity and respect for processes. I am not a policy advisor to the Secretary of State, and I was not included in discussions regarding the recall of Ambassador Yovanovitch or our general policy about Ukraine.

Senator MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I have many other questions for Ms. Kenna, and I have questions for the other panelists. My time is well over. I will wait for a second round.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Portman?

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for having this hearing. Once again we have an opportunity to help fill some positions that are crucial for our country's national security, in this case some key ambassadorships, and I appreciate your willingness to step forward.

I do have some questions for you. Ms. Levy, I would like to start with you. I really appreciated the opportunity to talk to you at least by phone in these virtual days about your views on Chile. And we talked a lot about issues and politics and policy. I have had the opportunity to visit, as you know, a few times. We talked about that. I know you know the country well. You know the culture. You know the language. Se puede hablar español, verdad?

Ms. LEVY. Si. Yo hablo español. Soy Cubana—Cubana Americana.

Senator PORTMAN. [Spanish spoken.] Well, you were born in Cuba.

Ms. LEVY. Yes, I was.

Senator PORTMAN. And came to the United States with your family, as you said.

I think it is really important we have somebody in these countries right now who really gets it, understands the culture, the language, and can immediately hit the ground running.

One of my concerns has been Chinese influence, as you know, in Latin America and particularly in Chile. I know the fruit growers, as an example, are interested in an arrangement with China, and there are other discussions of additional investments. And I think it is important that the United States have a strong position and that our presence is assertive and helpful to the Chilean people.

I know that President Piñera has worked well with this administration, and I know that their commitment to human rights, to democracy, to free markets really lines up with us better than other countries, including China.

So I wonder if you have any thoughts on that, how we can ensure that the U.S. presence—and this would go really to the other members of the panel also because all of you will be dealing with this issue. How can we be sure that the relationships, the shared values

that we have with these countries are emphasized to increase America's role in these countries? Maybe you can speak to that a little bit.

Ms. LEVY. Thank you very much for that important question, Senator Portman.

Yes. In fact, China's increasingly aggressive diplomatic posturing and what I call their hegemonic economic encroachment in Chile, in the region, and in other countries throughout the world will be a challenge for the next ambassador. And if confirmed as Ambassador to Chile from the United States, I will make it one of my priorities to engage in productive dialogue with our ally and partner Chile about the shared values that we hold as citizens in free countries, politically free, economically free. We value the rule of law. We value the citizens' rights to petition their government and to governments who respond to their citizens' wishes, not the other way around. Human rights. That is something that the United States and Chile both hold dear, and you cannot say the same for China.

It is evident from the success of our free trade agreement since 2004, which has tripled the trade between our countries, as well as new exciting programs like America Crece which supports U.S. investment in infrastructure and energy projects in Chile, as well as the very exciting public-private partnership in science and technology which harnesses the efforts of governments, the private sector, academia, as well as armed forces, in creating new and exciting scientific and technological projects in Chile.

Those are all platforms and tools that the next ambassador will be able to use to not only increase the trade and the mutual benefits of trade between our countries and also increase the closeness of our partnership. And those are the tools that I look forward to using in order to improve—sorry—to strengthen our already very robust and close relationship.

Thank you very much for that question.

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Ms. Levy.

Just quickly to Ms. Kenna, the opioid epidemic has obviously hit America hard, as well as crystal meth and other drugs coming in, including cocaine. Unfortunately, Peru is one of those countries. I visited Peru. I think Peru and the United States have so much in common and the opportunity to increase that relationship in positive ways and to improve it.

But in terms of tackling the scourge of transnational organized crime, can you give us a sense of what you would do as Ambassador?

Ms. KENNA. Yes. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

This is obviously a core priority, and we have seen recently that the statistics concerning drug production have not improved for 2019. And unfortunately, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that we are going to face a similar situation in 2020.

So if confirmed, I would make it my priority to support the Government of Peru to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic just as quickly as possible so that we could get back to focusing on issues such as transnational organized crime and our counternarcotics effort.

So the U.S. is supporting Peru in the counternarcotics effort in a number of ways, most specifically with interdiction, eradication, and alternative development. We have seen Peru playing a leading role in terms of financing that effort in recent years. We would want to continue that trend while the United States would continue its role in terms of providing technical assistance, training, and intelligence sharing.

What I understand is that the political will is there to take on this challenge. We know that President Vizcarra committed to pacifying the VRAEM Region by 2021, which is a high-yield area for drugs. And so we would want to support the President's efforts in that respect. I understand that September and October of this year is another critical opportunity for the Peruvian Government in terms of resuming its operations in that high-yield area.

Illegal mining and illegal logging are other areas that are linked to transnational organized crime. So our support in all of those areas is going to be critical. We are working with the Peruvians to increase their police presence in areas that are currently undergoverned, and we support their efforts to restore areas that have been subject to environmental deforestation. And we are also working as an interagency group right now here in Washington to explore ways that we could better track the flow of the finances that are going to illegal mining, illegal logging, and counternarcotics because that is so critical to ensuring that those funds do not reach the criminal networks.

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Ms. Kenna. I appreciate it. And I think those are all critical issues.

My time has expired, and I know members need to run and vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Portman.

As advertised, we are going to take a brief recess while I go down and vote. They tell me I am the last one. So I am going to go down and vote, be back as quickly as I can. Feel free to visit amongst yourselves, wear your masks, keep a social distance, and we will take it back up again as quickly as I can get back here.

The committee will be at ease, subject to call of the chair.

[Pause.]

The CHAIRMAN. By popular demand, Senator Portman is going to chair the committee while I go vote. So carry on. And Senator Portman, we will have the list here. And Senator Shaheen, it is up to you. You have the floor.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Portman for making that alteration.

I would like to begin with asking each of you—I want to pick up on the concerns that Senator Menendez raised about the work environment at the Department of State. And I share the concern about the OIG report, that some political appointees have acted improperly toward career officials on the basis of their perceived political or ideological views. And so I wonder if each of you would answer me the question, if confirmed, will you commit to treat career employees in a manner that is consistent with federal laws, regulations governing the management of State Department personnel? And I will begin with you, Ms. Kenna. I heard you say that you try and act professionally in your current role, but I wonder if you could just answer that with a simple yes or no.

Ms. KENNA. 100 percent, Senator. Yes, you have my commitment. I operate my office with absolute respect for every single individual every day. We are an office that embraces inclusivity and differences and diversity, and you have my commitment.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Ms. Levy?

Ms. LEVY. Thank you for that question, Senator.

Absolutely yes. I appreciate the question tremendously because I wanted to incorporate into my remarks but did not have enough time to incorporate it, and I would really like to say what an honor and a privilege it has been to work with the professional career officers both in the State Department and the Foreign Service Institute. Every single person with whom I have interacted and worked has been dedicated to America, to the United States, to promoting American foreign policy, and to teaching me, as best they can, to be able to take this role as U.S. Ambassador to Chile. I have nothing but praise for them, and I look forward to continue learning. Thank you.

Senator SHAHEEN. Dr. Wos?

Ambassador WOS. Thank you, Senator.

Yes, absolutely. I commit to treating every person at Mission Canada and, of course, the Department of State with enormous respect. And I have sheer admiration for them, and I will continue to do so as I have previously in my professional career. Thank you.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Mr. Popp?

Mr. POPP. Thank you, Senator.

Yes, absolutely. I have done so throughout my career over multiple assignments overseas and in Washington and would absolutely continue to do so, if confirmed.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you all very much.

Dr. Wos, I would like to begin with questions for you because New Hampshire has a very strong historic relationship with Canada. We have about a third of our citizens who are descendants of French Canadians who have come down to the United States. We have a very strong trading relationship back and forth every day across the border with Canada. And obviously, there are currently significant strains on that trading relationship, and we have a number of companies, also hospitals and medical providers in northern New Hampshire who are affected by the border closures because of COVID-19.

So can you talk about what we might be able to do that would better engage the Canadian Government and relevant U.S. agencies to ease some of the restrictions that have been detrimental to U.S. businesses in our northern border regions?

Ambassador WOS. Senator, thank you very much for that rather complicated question.

Because of the nature of the pandemic that we all face, it is currently, by mutual decision, beneficial to both our countries to continue to have restrictions at our border. But those restrictions are mostly for tourists and recreational activities of travel through the border.

It is critical for both our countries to continue to have our goods and services be able to flow freely through the borders. Prior to the

pandemic, we would have over \$2 billion worth of goods and services across it. And our goal is to continue to make it as easy as possible for trade. And we also need to make sure that we have an ability to have our critical supplies for our supply chains go back and forth between our borders.

It is not only a State Department but it is across our agency at the highest level of government that we all have the same goal to increase trade, increase our economies, and increase our trade between the borders.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, thank you. I would urge you—I am out of time, but I would urge you to continue to work very hard on that issue because it is having an impact on my State and I know other States that border Canada and really depend on that trade. As you pointed out, one of our oldest and best neighbors—it is unfortunate to have not just COVID-19 but some of the tariff issues interfere with that relationship in the way that it has. Thank you.

Senator PORTMAN [presiding]. Senator Murphy?

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much.

Thank you to all of our witnesses for their testimony today.

I wanted to start with you, Mr. Popp. I wanted to talk to you for a moment about the issue of corruption and freedom of the press in Guatemala. The International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala was widely considered one of the most successful efforts there to curb criminal threats to democratic rule, but about a year ago, it was effectively disbanded. And since then, you have seen a rise in attacks, malicious lawsuits against prosecutors, judges, civil society actors, but we have also lost a tremendous tool with respect to promoting the rule of law and fighting corruption.

What do you foresee as our ability to try to reconstruct some of the entities that had been successful? What is the ability for Congress to appropriate funds to State Department accounts that would assist you in those efforts there?

Mr. POPP. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

It has, as you know, been a challenge in Guatemala for some time around corruption, rule of law issues, impunity. And I believe it is critical that the United States continue to partner with not only Guatemalan Government institutions but also civil society, the private sector, and institutions across the country to deepen the capacity of those that are fighting for access to justice, ending of impunity, and increasing the transparency within Guatemala. It is good for business. It is good for access for Guatemalans to achieve justice.

And the U.S. Government with support from Congress has obviously provided assistance to Guatemala for some time to help develop that capacity. I believe that it is critical to continue to build support for institutions and the prosecutors that have made some progress on combating corruption in Guatemala. There is much more to be done. If confirmed as Ambassador, I think there is much that can continue to be done, including using our voice as the U.S. Government in support of those actors that play such a crucial role in civil society and outside of government, including independent media, to call for transparency and to end impunity.

I also believe that there are tools that the Congress has given us, including visa revocations, Global Magnitsky sanctions, and other

tools that might be necessary to use at times to underscore the importance of access to justice in Guatemala.

Senator MURPHY. I sometimes worry about our overuse of those punitive measures, and so I hope that you will keep in touch with this committee about ways in which we can help support and fund some of the domestic initiatives to root out corruption.

Ms. Kenna, thank you for being here. I was glad to introduce one of my constituents, but I should note your Connecticut connections, having attended the University of Connecticut and spent some time in New Haven. So glad to have at least two folks with Connecticut connections before us today.

Ms. Kenna, I am deeply concerned about the overclassification of information. I think it is a problem that has become worse in this administration but, frankly, has been a tool that Presidents of both parties have used. And there are very strict requirements as to what information can be classified, and it all is connected to whether the disclosure of that information would be damaging to the security of the United States.

But I want to ask you a question because I understand you may have sent a communication in your role as Executive Secretary for internal deliberations regarding sensitive decisions being made by the Department to be classified regardless of whether it met the actual requirements in statute regarding classification of national security data.

Did you send a communication suggesting that internal communications within the agency regarding sensitive decision-making be classified?

Ms. KENNA. Thank you for the question, Senator.

I am not familiar with the particular message that you are referring to. So I would have to go back and take a look for that.

What I would say in terms of classification is we adhere to the law, and that is our goal.

Senator MURPHY. But you would agree that internal deliberations, regardless of how sensitive they be, are not inherently allowed to be classified. There is a strict set of requirements as to what is classified, and things that are politically embarrassing or politically sensitive are not in that set of criteria.

Ms. KENNA. Well, I would not think that simply because something is politically sensitive, that would not make it classified, no. So my role as Executive Secretary is to ensure that we have processes in place so that those determinations can be made by the proper authorities. And so when we get requests for guidance or when I have questions myself, I make sure that I go to the experts.

Senator MURPHY. I hope that if I have further questions for the record on this topic, that you will respond to them.

Ms. KENNA. Thank you, Senator. I will.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much.

Ms. KENNA. Thanks.

Senator PORTMAN. Senator Kaine?

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Senator Portman.

Ms. Kenna, I want to follow up on an issue that you were discussing with Senator Menendez. So my understanding is as Executive Secretary, you do review correspondence coming in to the Secretary of State?

Ms. KENNA. I review, yes, many memos, correspondence coming in. Yes, Senator.

Senator KAINE. And you testified that you were aware of a package of documents that came in from Rudy Giuliani but you did not review them. Why did you not review that package?

Ms. KENNA. It is not my specific role to review every document before it goes into the Secretary's office. My role is to—my office reviews the decision memos, the information memos, the letters that the Secretary is going to sign, other memos that are going to the Deputy Secretary and our Under Secretaries of State. So it is not my responsibility, however, to review every single package or document before it goes into the Secretary's office.

Senator KAINE. Were you told not to review correspondence from Rudy Giuliani?

Ms. KENNA. No, Senator, I was not.

Senator KAINE. Describe for me the kinds of correspondence that you do not review. So you have told me the kinds that your office does review. So if something comes into the office, I guess there is a go/no go decision. This is something that we review. This is something that we do not review. So describe for me the kinds of materials you do not review.

Ms. KENNA. Sure. If something would be marked ?eyes only? for the Secretary, I would not review it. If it is in a sealed envelope—you know, occasionally we get things from other cabinet secretaries, from the President that are marked ?eyes only.? If something is marked ?personal and confidential? I would not review it.

Senator KAINE. What was the Giuliani package? A sealed envelope, eyes only, or personal only?

Ms. KENNA. I do not know, sir. I am sorry.

Senator KAINE. Do you have a recollection of that package coming in?

Ms. KENNA. I have a recollection, yes, of the package arriving at the State Department. I cannot recall exactly how.

Senator KAINE. And do you have a recollection of your thinking about whether this was something you should review or should just go directly to the Secretary?

Ms. KENNA. I did not, no. In that particular case, no one brought it to me and said here is this package.

Senator KAINE. So you were not in a position to make a decision about what to do with that package. It just got right to the Secretary without routing through the Executive Secretary's office.

Ms. KENNA. Yes.

Senator KAINE. Thank you.

Mr. Popp, I want to ask you a question to follow up on Senator Murphy because this one troubles me. The CICIG was established by the U.N. and the Guatemalan Government with significant positive pressure from the United States under the administration of George W. Bush because of the massive corruption and impunity challenges in Guatemala. And in that sense, it was a little bit similar to the MACCIH, which was established in Honduras during the Obama administration between the U.S., the Honduran Government, and the Organization of American States.

So in the last year, the Honduran president has pulled the plug on MACCIH and the Guatemalan president has pulled the plug on

CICIG. And in both instances, it has been widely reported that the U.S. basically gave them a green light to do that, that the effort of the U.S. to help establish these anti-corruption investigative tribunals, which were bipartisan, that the Trump administration basically decided that it is okay, you can terminate them.

In the case of Guatemala, it has been widely reported that because Guatemala agreed to move their embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and also because I think they were helpful with U.S. policy regarding Taiwan that the Trump administration basically said do whatever you want with CICIG and we do not care.

And in the instance of Honduras, while the State Department was advocating for MACCIH to be re-upped with the OAS, the DHS was in Honduras trying to cut a third party deal so that asylees and refugees from Honduras to the United States could be immediately returned to Honduras.

So in both of those countries—I lived in Honduras for a while and still have some pretty strong ties in that region. In both of those countries, it is widely seen that anti-corruption efforts which were paying off that had been established with strong U.S. support were basically abandoned with U.S. consent.

Now, I get that in the relationship between the United States and other countries there are some trades. We want this; they want that. But I do not know that abandoning anti-corruption efforts that were hard fought and were initiated with U.S. support is ever something we should trade away. And it appears that that is what we have done in Guatemala and Honduras. And since corruption is one of the things that often drives bad living conditions and then leads to people leaving their countries to come to the United States, it is actually not just bad for those countries. It can be very counterproductive for us.

Tell me in your background—and you have been a longstanding career professional—why I should believe, if you are Ambassador to Guatemala, that you will really carry an anti-corruption banner in a dramatic and public way to help Guatemala deal with what is a very serious issue.

Mr. POPP. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

I agree. It is an extremely important issue for Guatemala—corruption. And it is true in many countries, including several that I have served in. Corruption has a pervasive, corrosive impact, and it is very, in my view, shortsighted and imprudent to separate the corruption fight in any of the countries, including particularly Guatemala, from other issues. By not addressing corruption, you are undermining oftentimes your other goals and U.S. national interests.

So if confirmed as Ambassador, I would firmly commit, as I have done in several other countries, to work assiduously to speak out against corruption, to engage not only entities and individuals within the host government that are fighting for corruption—fighting against corruption, but also other actors in society that have a vested interest in carrying the fight against impunity, for transparency, and access to justice. And I think a U.S. ambassador could play a very effective role in helping not only guide mission strategy on using assistance to build capacity, but also speaking out for what is oftentimes unacceptable behavior around corruption, as

well as use the tools that are provided through technical assistance, through at times punitive measures, if necessary. But I have worked in a number of countries where this has been challenged, and to me the thing that works the best is being engaged, being consistent, and using all those tools and working with all those partners, including our international partners, whether it be the U.N. agencies or other countries that are engaged in the fight against corruption.

Senator KAINÉ. Thank you, Mr. Popp.

Thanks, Mr. Chair.

The Chairman [presiding]: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

Senator Menendez?

Senator MENENDEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Kenna, let me return to you. I would like to recap the commitment you made earlier to make sure we are clear for the record. I appreciate that you are willing to appear for an interview, but I want to clear a few things up.

I understand that State offered a date of August 7th, which you referred to, to the House and they rejected the terms because they are tied to your appearance to Under Secretary Bulatau's appearance before the committee and because they tried to exclude staff from the interview.

So once again, to be clear, do you commit to appear for an interview with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House Foreign Affairs, the House Oversight, as requested with staff on political retaliation and the firing of the IG Linick? Period.

Ms. KENNA. Yes, Senator.

Senator MENENDEZ. Okay.

And regardless of what Under Secretary Bulatau does or does not do. Right?

Ms. KENNA. Yes. I am going to have to defer a little bit to my State Department colleagues to work out the modalities. I think the reason why they proposed that Under Secretary Bulatau go first was because I had absolutely no knowledge of the Inspector General's firing, no role in it whatsoever, had no discussions with anyone about his firing. And Under Secretary Bulatau was the primary point of contact on that—

Senator MENENDEZ. Regardless of what may be a reason, it seems to me that a request from Congress in oversight cannot be conditioned in a way that undermines the very essence of the request. So I understand when you say you will have to defer to— I do not want to hear at the end of the day that the commitment you are making to appear then can be quashed by some actions of the Department. You are committed to appear. Period.

Ms. KENNA. I am committed to appear. I want to cooperate.

Senator MENENDEZ. I appreciate that, and I look forward to that.

Now, while you are here, let me ask you one question. You just alluded to it. You were aware that the State Department Inspector General had requested records into the potential misuse of resources by Secretary Pompeo. Were you not?

Ms. KENNA. The Inspector General has requested to interview me in conjunction with an investigation into the misuse of resources. That is correct.

Senator MENENDEZ. Okay.

And did you discuss that request with the Secretary?

Ms. KENNA. I did not.

Senator MENENDEZ. Did you discuss it with Under Secretary Bulatau?

Ms. KENNA. No, I did not. Are you referring to in advance of the firing of the Inspector General, Senator?

Senator MENENDEZ. Yes. Did you discuss the request that the IG made of you to interview you with either the Secretary or Under Secretary Bulatau prior to his firing?

Ms. KENNA. No, Senator. The Inspector General came to me and requested an interview after the Inspector General was fired. That request came after. I advised the Inspector General that I am very happy to be interviewed, and we have a date for that interview.

Senator MENENDEZ. To your knowledge, was the Secretary aware of the existence of the investigation?

Ms. KENNA. To my knowledge, he was not, certainly not through me because I was not aware of that investigation.

Senator MENENDEZ. Was he aware that the IG's office had requested documents?

Ms. KENNA. No, not to my knowledge, certainly not from me.

Senator MENENDEZ. As you know, the appropriate use of resources has been a topic of scrutiny at the State Department. Were you ever instructed to engage in any use of resources you did not think appropriate?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, I try to run the Executive Secretariat with utmost integrity. When I have questions about the appropriate use of resources, we have a system in place where I refer to our experts, and we have a number of offices that are responsible for that. They give us guidance, and it is my commitment to follow that guidance each and every time.

Senator MENENDEZ. So let me repeat my question. I appreciate your answer. Were you ever instructed to engage in the use of any resources you did not think was appropriate?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, are you asking if I have knowingly misused resources? Is that your question?

Senator MENENDEZ. No. Were you ever instructed, meaning you were told by a superior, to use resources that you did not think was appropriate?

Ms. KENNA. No, Senator. I was not instructed to misuse resources.

Senator MENENDEZ. Have you ever personally witnessed any such inappropriate use of resources?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, what I have witnessed is that the use of resources is generally consistent with what I have seen in terms of the support we have provided to every Secretary of State since I have been in this office. But as I said, when I have had questions, I have asked for guidance, and I follow that guidance.

Senator MENENDEZ. So evidently there were times that you did have questions.

Ms. KENNA. Yes.

Senator MENENDEZ. So let me ask you one final thing before I just move to Ms. Levy.

As you know, there have been concerning reports under this administration of attacking and retaliating against career public serv-

ants at the State Department. Some have been reassigned based upon assumptions about their political affiliation or national origin. Others have been labeled disloyal or called radical unelected bureaucrats by senior administration officials. And I cannot think of anything that is more cancerous for the Department or career employees across the Government.

Are you familiar with some of these allegations?

Ms. KENNA. Senator, yes. Thank you for the question. I am familiar with the investigation into those reports and the Office of the Inspector General's report.

Senator MENENDEZ. And in your time in the Secretary's office, did you ever hear any career employee referred to as, quote, Obama holdovers or a reference that they could not be trusted because they had worked for the Obama administration?

Ms. KENNA. No, Senator. No one has said that to me in the Secretary's office.

Senator MENENDEZ. Let me turn to Ms. Levy, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

You have a colorful history of public remarks prior to your nomination. In 2010, in an interview you publicly stated, "I feel very strongly that Harry Reid and the Democratic Party are destroying our country and destroying our way of life. My family escaped the Communist revolution in Cuba and, through hard work, made a great life for ourselves in this country. Harry Reid is trying to deny that opportunity to others."

Now, as you may know, Senator Reid is a close personal friend of mine. And as you might imagine, I have strong opinions about using the Communist revolution in Cuba as a backdrop to attack Democrats and Senator Reid.

So I want to ask you, do you honestly believe the Democratic Party is trying to destroy the United States or your way of life?

Ms. LEVY. Thank you for that question and for the opportunity to clarify my remarks, Senator Menendez.

In 2010, I was a private citizen. I was not speaking in any official capacity. It was in the course of political elbow-throwing, and what I said then I do not believe today. I think it was in the heat of the moment and no personal offense was meant. It was simply policy disagreements.

Senator MENENDEZ. Well, there is a difference between a policy disagreement and suggesting that someone's actions or views and the Democratic Party are destroying our country and destroying our way of life.

When and if you are confirmed as an Ambassador, you ultimately represent the nation as a whole. It does not mean you represent only the Republican Party when you are at that country post. It does not mean you only respond to Republican Members of Congress and their requests for what is going on in your country. It does not mean that you only treat those members of your staff who might very well be Democrats differently than you would treat those who are Republicans. I mean, to characterize it as, well, I was a private citizen, but it is the beliefs that you held. I am sure you would not have made such a statement if you did not hold those beliefs. Our ambassadors are supposed to serve as representatives of all Americans.

Is this the type of comment, of diplomatic speech we would expect of you, if you are confirmed?

Ms. LEVY. Sir, if I am confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, you will find in me a very likeminded partner. I will be a representative for all of the American people. Politics is one thing, and at least in the campaigns and in the political arena, when I have been involved, there are times that elbows are thrown. But once the election is over, we unite for the good of our community, for the good of our State, and the good of our country. And that is what is very important, and that is what is needed today. I have always been a consensus builder and a bridge builder in my community in the efforts I have led. I have run projects—

Senator MENENDEZ. Let us talk about that.

Ms. LEVY [continuing]. And large committees with people of all backgrounds and all—

Senator MENENDEZ. Let us talk about that consensus builder because I am familiar with throwing elbows. Sometimes you throw an elbow and you fracture a rib, though.

In 2016, you posted on Twitter a piece of literally fake news, claiming that Michelle Obama's mother was receiving a \$160,000 a year pension from the Federal Government. Is that the type of social media that we can expect from you?

Ms. LEVY. No, sir. I retweeted something that turned out to be fake news. As soon as I learned it was fake news, I immediately—I apologized for it.

Senator MENENDEZ. Did you apologize in the same way that you posted it?

Ms. LEVY. Yes, on Twitter. I apologized for it. And I fell for fake news.

Senator MENENDEZ. As an ambassador, we cannot afford for you to fall for fake news.

Ms. LEVY. I agree. And I realized what a powerful tool Twitter and other forms of social media are. And my intention, if I am confirmed as Ambassador, is to work very closely with my public affairs team on posting positive and constructive things on Twitter and other social media platforms. I learned my lesson with that particular tweet, and if you go through other things, you will not find that sort of thing.

Senator MENENDEZ. Okay.

Let me ask you about this one. In 2016, you published an op-ed in which stated that people are, "seriously troubled by the prospect of Donald Trump winning the Republican nomination." You added, "he is vulgar, ill-mannered, disparages those whom he cannot intimidate. His modus operandi is to try to intimidate people, then call them names, and calumniate about them, and then if those tactics do not work, to sue them."

Now, how do you reconcile that with your accepting the post nominated by the person who you so described?

Ms. LEVY. Senator Menendez, first of all, I honor and I thank you for your service to this country, and my desire is to serve the United States of America and the American people. I believe that the United States and the people of America deserve competent, strong, positive leadership, and that is what I intend to provide.

Again, that was in the course of a political campaign when I was supporting a different candidate. Elbows were thrown. When the election was over, we came together for the good of the American people. And I pledge to you that if I am confirmed, that is how I will conduct myself. I will be representing all of the people of the United States of America, every political persuasion, every idea, every thought. And it will be my honor to do that.

Thank you for your questions.

Senator MENENDEZ. Thank you for your answer.

I hope what is past is not prologue in this case. And we will be in the midst of another election as, if you are confirmed, being in post. So I would not expect that as the United States Ambassador to Chile that you would be engaged in the politics of our country as you are representing us abroad.

I have substantive questions for our two nominees to Canada and Guatemala, but Mr. Chairman, you have been generous with your time. I will submit them for the record. I am looking forward to substantive answers to my questions, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. For the information of members, the record will remain open until the close of business on Friday, including for members to submit questions for the record.

Thank you again to all of you for your willingness to serve, to your families for the sacrifices that they will share with you, and we sincerely appreciate the generosity of your time in this meeting.

With that, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:54 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO LISA D. KENNA BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Question. Peru hosts the second largest number of refugees and migrants after Colombia—nearly 830,000 as of June 5, 2020—yet many Venezuelans face serious protection challenges there. Peru’s tightening of border and asylum restrictions are compounding concerns about gender-based violence, including sex trafficking of women and girls. NGOs are reporting concerns about disappearances, with an average of five disappearances per day during the COVID–19 pandemic, according to Peru’s Ombudsperson. If confirmed, what specific steps will you take to press the Peruvian Government to strengthen protection of Venezuelan refugees and asylum seekers?

Answer. Sustained levels of international help are necessary to support Peruvian efforts to address the Venezuela refugee crisis and uphold their international commitments. If confirmed, I will prioritize efforts that help strengthen the Government of Peru’s capacity to provide protection, as well as identify and assist the most vulnerable Venezuelans. Regularization of status is critical for Venezuelan refugees and asylum seekers to access their rights and basic services and reduces their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. If confirmed, I will continue to advocate with the Government of Peru for the adoption of measures to register and regularize the status of undocumented Venezuelans.

Question. How will you prioritize this issue amidst Peru’s struggles with the COVID–19 crisis and other challenges?

Answer. The coronavirus pandemic is imposing immense challenges for Peru. The Department of State works with partners such as UNHCR and IOM to re-program existing funding to provide direct assistance to Venezuelans affected by the COVID–

19 crisis, including delivery of cash assistance, temporary lodging, food, and hygiene kits targeted to reach the most vulnerable migrants. If confirmed, I will ensure this issue is a priority.

Question. INL Deputy Assistant Secretary Glenn stated publicly “illegal gold mining presents a direct threat to U.S. national security interests.” This issue is a major challenge across the Andean region. In Peru, illegal gold mining fuels drug trafficking and trafficking in persons through corruption and transnational criminal organizations. It destroys biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon and threatens the health of Peruvians, especially indigenous communities. Peru faces similar challenges with illegal timber harvesting, which is subject to the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement’s Annex on Forest Sector Governance. If confirmed, what specific steps will you take to build on current efforts between the United States and Peru to combat illegal gold mining?

Answer. The United States and Peru have a strong partnership to tackle illegal gold mining and its links to organized crime. Illegal gold mining generates roughly \$1-4.5 billion a year. In February 2020, Peru completed a successful operation to dismantle a major illegal mining operation, seizing \$10 million in gold and including many officials who had received law enforcement and other training in the United States. State and USAID have worked closely with the Peruvians to support Peru’s targeted and sustained effort to crack down on illegal mining in the Madre de Dios region of Peru. If confirmed, I will continue the whole-of-government approach we have taken to confront this challenge and seek to augment those programs, as well as regional cooperation to address this issue.

Question. How will you advance a comprehensive USG response to illegal mining in Peru?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure we take a comprehensive and coordinated U.S. Government approach to combat illegal mining in Peru. The Department of State and USAID have worked closely with the Peruvians to support their targeted and sustained effort to crack down on illegal mining in the Madre de Dios region. If confirmed, I will continue the joint efforts to increase cooperation to build transparent and traceable supply chains, promote alternative economic development, prevent and investigate illegal gold mining and related crimes, prevent illegal mining in protected areas, reduce mercury emissions, and provide technical assistance to prevent money laundering, human trafficking, and increase capacity for environmental prosecutions.

Question. How will you advance a comprehensive USG response to illegal logging in Peru?

Answer. We work in partnership with the Government of Peru to combat illegal logging and the associated illicit trade in timber and forest products from the Peruvian Amazon. Peru has improved forest sector governance, and U.S. programming through State, USAID, and other agencies supports Peru’s efforts to improve timber traceability, inspection, and enforcement. If confirmed, I will continue to urge Peru to improve forest sector governance and to combat illegal logging.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit that under your leadership, the U.S. Embassy will not take any action to support, promote, or participate in any matters related to, or that could be perceived as benefitting, the Trump Organization?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to make clear to all employees that retaliation of any kind has no place in federal government and will not be tolerated under your leadership? Do you agree that anyone found to have engaged in retaliation should be held fully accountable, up to and including losing their job?

Answer. Yes, I commit to making clear that retaliation has no place in the federal government and will not be tolerated. I agree that those found to have engaged in retaliation should be subject to accountability and discipline in accordance with U.S. federal labor law and regulation.

Question. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service? In the Civil Service?

Answer. Throughout my career at the State Department, I have greatly benefited from the support and guidance of supervisors and colleagues who are committed to fostering a strong, diverse, and inclusive workforce at the Department. If confirmed, I commit to fostering an environment at U.S. Embassy Lima of respect, fairness,

equity, and inclusion, and one that is free of harassment and discrimination. I will promote opportunities for constructive dialogue about diversity and inclusion, including through training programs and opportunities like the Department's "Open Conversations" platform. I will ensure that our serving officers, locally employed staff, and other civil servants are supported by leadership at the Embassy and from the Department, and will encourage use of virtual recruitment tools to seek competitive applicants from all backgrounds, particularly underrepresented groups, for opportunities at the Mission.

Question. Do you commit to respond promptly to all requests for information by members of this committee?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such response would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to appear before this committee upon request?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such appearance would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any credible allegations of foreign interference in U.S. elections?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any attempts by foreign or private individuals to improperly influence U.S. foreign policy, particularly if you have reason to believe those efforts are adverse to U.S. interests?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. If you become aware of any suspected waste, fraud, or abuse in the Department, do you commit to report it to the Inspector General or other appropriate channels?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to support democracy and human rights? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My most meaningful achievements to promote human rights and democracy occurred when I was the political counselor in Jordan. My office led an effort to curb human trafficking and assisted many hundreds of trafficking victims sheltering at their embassies in Amman to get travel documents and repatriate to their home countries. My team and I also launched and implemented the USG's first program in Jordan to deliver tons of flour and essential food supplies weekly across the border into southern Syria during the war 2013-2014 so that families could remain in place. This effort mitigated food insecurity and the impact of the refugee influx on Jordan. In my current role as the Executive Secretary, I ensure that briefing memos are comprehensive and include human rights priorities so that the Secretary can raise those issues in his meetings with foreign officials.

Question. What issues are the most pressing challenges to democracy or democratic development in Peru? These challenges might include obstacles to participatory and accountable governance and institutions, rule of law, authentic political competition, civil society, human rights and press freedom. Please be as specific as possible.

Answer. The United States and Peru enjoy a partnership based on the shared values of democracy, economic prosperity, security, and human rights. Peru is committed to human rights as a matter of principle, at home and abroad. Problems remain, including isolated cases of torture; government corruption at all levels, including in the judiciary; sexual exploitation, including human trafficking; violence against women and girls; and forced labor. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Government of Peru and civil society to promote human rights, social inclusion, and poverty alleviation to make progress on these important challenges. If confirmed, I will also seek resources to support appropriate groups.

Question. What steps will you take—if confirmed—to support democracy in Peru? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions? What are the potential impediments to addressing the specific obstacles you have identified?

Answer. The United States and Peru enjoy a partnership based on the shared values of democracy, economic prosperity, security, and human rights. Peru strongly supports democracy at home and abroad. Corruption undermines democratic institutions. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Peru and continue efforts to fight corruption, further strengthen democratic institutions, and strengthen democracy throughout the region.

Question. How will you utilize U.S. Government assistance resources at your disposal, including the Democracy Commission Small Grants program and other sources of State Department and USAID funding, to support democracy and governance, and what will you prioritize in processes to administer such assistance?

Answer. If confirmed, I will use assistance to support democracy and governance programs to help further our goal of strengthening democratic institutions and promote human rights, anti corruption, and institution building. The main objective of USAID's democracy and governance program in Peru is to support the implementation of Peru's National Anti-Corruption and Integrity Strategy. If confirmed, I will actively engage with Peruvian civil society to work with government entities at national and local levels. Strengthening accountability will be important to address practices that limit fair and open competition in public procurement and develop public-private integrity networks.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with civil society members, human rights and other non governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs, and other members of civil society in Peru? What steps will you take to proactively address efforts to restrict or penalize NGOs and civil society via legal or regulatory measures?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to meet with civil society members, human rights organizations, and other members of civil society and engage them and the Government on any efforts to use regulatory or legal measures to restrict their work. I would collaborate with other international partners and bring concerns about freedom of speech and association to the public eye if other attempts to engage did not bring about necessary results.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with democratically oriented political opposition figures and parties? What steps will you take to encourage genuine political competition? Will you advocate for access and inclusivity for women, minorities, and youth within political parties?

Answer. I commit to meet with democratically oriented opposition figures and parties and to advocate for inclusivity for women, minorities, and youth within political parties to encourage genuine political competition.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Peru on freedom of the press and address any government efforts designed to control or undermine press freedom through legal, regulatory or other measures? Will you commit to meeting regularly with independent, local press in Peru?

Answer. My team will engage with Peru on freedom of expression, including by members of the press, and address any efforts to undermine freedom of expression. We also commit to meet with independent, local press in Peru.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with civil society and government counterparts on countering disinformation and propaganda disseminated by foreign state or non-state actors in the country?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, my team and I will actively engage civil society and government counterparts on countering disinformation and propaganda disseminated by foreign state or non state actors.

Question. Will you and your embassy teams actively engage with Peru on the right of labor groups to organize, including for independent trade unions?

Answer. My team will engage with Peru on labor rights, including independent trade unions. If confirmed as ambassador, I look forward to continuing and strengthening engagement with relevant Peruvian counterparts to protect the interests of labor groups and independent trade unions. Peru is a robust democracy, and its citizens share our commitment to democratic values, transparency, human rights, and a vibrant civil society. I intend to engage in productive dialogue with labor groups and trade unions on all sides, in addition to business leaders and the appropriate government authorities on this issue.

Question. Will you commit to using your position, if confirmed, to defend the human rights and dignity of all people in Peru, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity? What challenges do the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people face in Peru? What specifically will you commit to do to help LGBTQ people in Peru?

Answer. Peru is taking notable steps to improve its human rights situation; however, problems remain, including violence and discrimination against LGBTQI persons. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Government of Peru and civil society to promote human rights and social inclusion for all people in Peru, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO LISA D. KENNA BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question. What are your most meaningful achievements to date in your career to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My most meaningful achievements to promote human rights and democracy occurred when I was the political counselor in Jordan. My office led an effort to curb human trafficking and assisted many hundreds of trafficking victims sheltering at their embassies in Amman to get travel documents and repatriate to their home countries. My team and I also launched and implemented the U.S. Government's first program in Jordan to deliver tons of flour and essential food supplies weekly across the border into southern Syria during the war 2013-2014 so that families could remain in place. This effort mitigated food insecurity and the impact of the refugee influx on Jordan. In my current role as the Executive Secretary, I ensure that briefing memos are comprehensive and include human rights priorities so that the Secretary can raise those issues in his meetings with foreign officials.

Question. What are the most pressing human rights issues in Peru? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to promote human rights and democracy in Peru? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. The United States and Peru enjoy a partnership based on the shared values of democracy, economic prosperity, security, and human rights. Peru is committed to protecting human rights as a matter of principle at home and abroad. However, challenges remain, such as isolated cases of torture; government corruption at all levels, including in the judiciary; discrimination of marginalized communities such as Afro-Peruvians, indigenous, and LGBTI persons; sexual exploitation; violence against women and girls; and human trafficking, including sex trafficking and forced labor. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Government of Peru and civil society to promote human rights, social inclusion, and on efforts to alleviate. If confirmed, I will also seek resources to support appropriate groups.

Question. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in Peru in advancing human rights, civil society, and democracy in general?

Answer. The coronavirus pandemic has posed immense challenges for Peru, and it has limited many traditional engagements the United States would have with civil society and marginalized communities. We recognize movement restrictions, such as quarantines, have exacerbated gender-based violence. If confirmed, I would work to find new opportunities to continue collaboration with Peruvian authorities and with civil society to protect and promote human rights, strengthen current assistance programs, and support the Government's response to mitigate the immense human costs of the pandemic.

Question. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs in Peru? If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non governmental organizations in the United States and in Peru. I would ensure the embassy appropriately implements and supports the Leahy laws through its well-structured interagency Leahy vetting process to ensure security assistance goes to only rights-respecting, accountable security forces. I also would en-

sure embassy personnel working to implement the law are able to receive any necessary training and support.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Peru to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted by Peru?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will actively engage on cases of political prisoners and those who have been unjustly targeted.

Question. Will you engage with Peru on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will engage with the Government of Peru and civil society on matters of human rights and governance as an important part of the U.S.-Peru relationship. If confirmed, I will work to support and strengthen our ongoing foreign assistance programs to address these priorities.

Question. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to foster a culture of inclusion and representative workforce. I will encourage promoting diversity and inclusion in the hiring process through standardized interview procedures. I will promote the expansion of workplace flexibilities, including telework and alternative work schedules and leave without pay options, similar to “boomerang talent” programs in the private sector. I will learn from and listen to employees using mechanisms like the Open Conversations platform and the Department’s new centralized exit survey. I will promote and encourage all employees to take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors under your direction at the Embassy in Peru are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to ensure leaders under my direction are fostering a culture and environment of inclusion. I will promote habits and practices among the leadership that focus on inclusion as a key driver for retaining diverse talent. I will promote diversity and inclusion best practices and tips for inclusive hiring practices and standardized interview guidance. I will support the review of existing mentoring programs and explore how they can be bolstered. I will support the requiring all hiring managers take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. Do you commit to bring to the committee’s attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President’s business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President’s business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in Peru?

Answer. My investment portfolio includes a broad range of asset classes, some of which hold interests in companies with a presence in Peru. My investment portfolio also includes security interests, including stocks, in companies, some of which have a presence in Peru. I am committed to ensuring that my official actions will not give rise to a conflict of interest. I am committed to following all applicable ethics laws and regulations and remaining vigilant with regard to my ethics obligations.

Question. How do you believe political corruption impacts democratic governance and the rule of law generally, and in Peru specifically?

Answer. Political corruption threatens democratic governance and the rule of law, both generally and in Peru specifically. Pervasive corruption allows space for

transnational criminal organizations to operate multiple billion-dollar illicit industries, from production of illicit drugs to illegal logging and mining, human trafficking, and counterfeit currency. It inhibits governments' capacity to provide services and efficiently appropriate funds.

Question. What is your assessment of corruption trends in Peru and efforts to address and reduce it by that government?

Answer. Peruvian citizens see corruption as pervasive in all branches of national, regional, and local governments. Last fall, when President Martón Vizcarra dissolved Congress, arguing it had blocked anti-corruption agenda, the public overwhelmingly supported his move. Based in part on his anti-corruption efforts, the 2020 Capacity to Combat Corruption Index ranked Peru fifth in Latin America and "one of the few positive stories in the region." The Peruvian criminal justice system has several former presidents under investigation for corruption, showing a strong commitment to address the challenge.

Question. If confirmed, what steps will you take to strengthen good governance and anticorruption programming in Peru?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work to strengthen the close partnerships we have established with Peruvian authorities to strengthen governance and to fight corruption. Our two countries have an established track record of working together closely to promote the rule of law. Peruvians themselves recognize corruption as corrosive and a threat to good governance and to democracy. The Peruvian public has consistently shown support for fighting corruption. That is a sound foundation for bilateral cooperation, and the Vizcarra administration has made fighting corruption a priority. Through our ongoing USAID and INL assistance programs, we help Peruvians meet that challenge.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO LEORA LEVY BY SENATOR ROBERT MENEZES

Question. In 2010, in an interview, you publicly stated, "I feel very strongly that Harry Reid and the Democratic Party are destroying our country and destroying our way of life. My family escaped the communist revolution in Cuba and through hard work made a great life for ourselves in this country. Harry Reid is trying to deny that opportunity to others." Would you like to apologize to Senator Reid? (if yes, please include your apology here and we will deliver it to Senator Reid.)

Answer. As I conveyed to you in the hearing, this comment was made as a private citizen. It was said in the heat of the moment and in the course of political elbow-throwing. No personal offense was meant. My intention was to express policy disagreements. I respect and thank Senator Harry Reid for his service to our country and send him a heartfelt wish for a full and speedy recovery as he battles pancreatic cancer, a terrible disease that has taken close members of my own family. What I said then, I do not believe today. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, I will represent all Americans, regardless of political backgrounds or ideologies.

Question. Do you honestly believe that the Democratic Party is trying to destroy the United States?

Answer. As I conveyed to you in the hearing, this comment was made as a private citizen. It was said in the heat of the moment and in the course of political elbow-throwing. No personal offense was meant. What I said then, I do not believe today. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, I will represent all Americans, regardless of political backgrounds or ideologies.

Question. Do you honestly believe that the Democratic Party is trying to destroy your way of life?

Answer. As I conveyed to you in the hearing, this comment was made as a private citizen. It was said in the heat of the moment and in the course of political elbow-throwing. No personal offense was meant. What I said then, I do not believe today. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, I will represent all Americans, regardless of political backgrounds or ideologies.

Question. Given that our ambassadors are supposed to serve as representatives of all Americans, in your opinion, is this comment the type of diplomatic speech we should expect from you, if confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Chile, I will be a representative for all Americans. I understand that with the privilege of serving comes the responsibility to ensure my actions and words do not represent my personal views, but those of the United States and the American people.

Question. In 2016, you posted on Twitter a piece of, literally, fake news, claiming that Michelle Obama's mother was receiving a \$160,000 a year pension from the federal government. What do you believe is the impact on U.S. political discourse of tweeting disinformation, misinformation, and false information?

Answer. I apologized on Twitter when I learned of my unintentional error. I learned an important lesson about the traps and pitfalls on social media. As I conveyed to you in the hearing, if confirmed, I intend to work closely with the Public Affairs team at the Embassy to post positive and constructive things on Twitter and other social media platforms to promote U.S. foreign policy and U.S. interests as well as to protect and communicate important information to American citizens in Chile.

Question. In 2016, you published an op-ed in which you stated that people are "seriously troubled by the prospect of Donald Trump winning the Republican nomination." Why did you believe that people were troubled by this prospect?

Answer. At the time, I was supporting another candidate and making arguments to advance that candidacy. My opinion changed after hearing then-Candidate Trump speak in person at several events about why he was running for President, his love for America and his policy ideas.

Question. In 2016, you published an op-ed in which you made a series of statements regarding then-candidate Donald Trump, stating "He is vulgar, ill-mannered and disparages those whom he cannot not intimidate. His modus operandi is to try to intimidate people, then call them names and calumniate about them, and then if those tactics do not work, to sue them." Do you believe that President Trump has continued to demonstrate these characteristics since his inauguration?

Answer. No. The views expressed in that op-ed were at a time I was supporting and advocating for another candidate competing against President Trump. I would certainly not use these words to describe the President's conduct in office. President Trump has been a strong leader for America and for the American People. I am proud to be his nominee.

Question. Last October, Chile saw massive protests and social unrest. While some protestors engaged in acts of violence and vandalism, disturbingly, Chile's National Institute for Human Rights documented that Chilean security forces engaged in nearly 400 cases of torture and cruel treatment, nearly 200 incidents of sexual violence, more than 800 counts of excessive force, and 6 homicides. Human Rights Watch and others called for much-needed reforms in Chile's national police, the Carabineros. In normal times, the U.S. is a leading voice for the defense of human rights, even when it means providing constructive criticism to our friends. How will you approach the issue of human rights abuses by police forces in Chile?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to promoting respect for human rights, including by Chile's security forces. Chile is one of the Western Hemisphere's strongest democracies. We ground our partnership with Chile in shared values, and those include support for democracy, respect for human rights, and the promotion of economic opportunity.

Question. Do you believe that President Trump's aggressive tactics against protestors in Lafayette Square in June 2020 will limit your ability to be an effective advocate on the importance of addressing human rights abuses perpetrated by Chilean police?

Answer. If confirmed, I have no concerns about my ability to effectively advocate for the protection of human rights of all Chilean citizens, and condemn any human rights abuses perpetrated by Chilean police.

Question. Do you believe that the Trump administration's recent use of unmarked vehicles to detain demonstrators in Portland, Oregon will undermine the credibility of U.S. advocacy related to the importance of addressing human rights abuses perpetrated by Chilean police?

Answer. The United States is proud of the role we have played in advancing human rights across the globe. Governments that take human rights seriously are transparent and welcome conversations about addressing concerns and making improvements. As the Secretary said on July 17, "I challenge anyone in the world to

best our robust democracy, our vigorous debates, and our constant striving to be better.”

Question. For several decades, Chile was held up as an example of how representative democracy, the rule of law, and pragmatic economic management could decrease poverty and grow the country’s economy. However, last October, widespread social protests called into question the legacy of Chile’s model democracy, as citizens expressed outrage at enduring inequality and slowing economic growth. And now, Chile is scheduled to hold a plebiscite in October that could lead to the drafting of a new constitution and a fundamental shaping of the Chilean social contract in order to better address citizen desires for better pension, health care, and education systems. What is your assessment of these developments?

Answer. Chile has built strong democratic institutions and a modern economy, yet many Chileans feel they have not benefitted from these advancements. Potential changes include enhanced social rights, a more flexible mechanism for any future constitutional and legislative reforms, and perhaps a somewhat greater role for the public sector. The legislative framework for the constitutional process indicates that, regardless of the outcome, Chile will maintain its character as a democratic republic. If confirmed, I would engage as appropriate to advocate in favor of any U.S. interests that the constitutional process could affect as it advances.

Question. What are the implications for U.S. foreign policy and U.S. businesses?

Answer. As Chile navigates its response to the grievances expressed by many of its citizens, including a possible new constitution and changes to Chile’s social contract, if confirmed, I will be attentive to the concerns of U.S. businesses and will engage as necessary with the Chilean Government to protect and advance U.S. interests. The reform process taking shape in Chile, whether it is through a new constitution or other reforms, has the potential to promote greater stability, a stronger democracy, and broader access to economic opportunities for all Chileans. By partnering with Chile as it embarks on these reforms, we can advance our shared economic and security interests.

Question. What diplomatic support would you provide to the Chilean Government as it seeks to navigate citizen demands?

Answer. If confirmed, I would maintain and advance our strong and long-standing bilateral partnership with Chile. As a mature democracy that has faced its own struggles to live up to our democratic ideals over the course of our history, the United States can help Chile foster greater political inclusion and offer greater economic opportunity to more of its citizens. I would seek to offer U.S. assistance and capacity building to the Chilean Government and civil society organizations as they endeavor to enhance and consolidate the impressive democratic and economic advances Chile has made over the past three decades.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit that under your leadership, the U.S. Embassy will not take any action to support, promote, or participate in any matters related to, or that could be perceived as benefitting, the Trump organization?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to make clear to all employees that retaliation of any kind has no place in federal government and will not be tolerated under your leadership? Do you agree that anyone found to have engaged in retaliation should be held fully accountable, up to and including losing their job?

Answer. Yes, I commit to making clear that retaliation has no place in the federal government and will not be tolerated. I agree that those found to have engaged in retaliation should be subject to accountability and discipline in accordance with U.S. federal labor law and regulation.

Question. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service? In the Civil Service?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and accountability in Chile and ensuring that all members of my team feel empowered to contribute to our mission. I will ensure that we learn from and listen to employees using mechanisms like the Open Conversations platform. I will promote habits and practices among the leadership that focus on inclusion as a key driver for retaining diverse talent. I will promote best practices for inclusive hiring, including standardized interview guidance. I will support the review of existing mentoring programs and how they can be bolstered. If confirmed, I would make mentoring a priority;

when I was a young woman starting out in the corporate world, there were no others there to mentor me. I will both encourage my mission staff and require hiring managers to take the Department's Mitigating Unconscious Bias course. I will encourage greater connectivity for members of my team to share their experiences and their expertise with our Mission.

Question. Do you commit to respond promptly to all requests for information by members of this committee?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such response would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to appear before this committee upon request?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such appearance would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any credible allegations of foreign interference in U.S. elections?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any attempts by foreign or private individuals to improperly influence U.S. foreign policy, particularly if you have reason to believe those efforts are adverse to U.S. interests?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. If you become aware of any suspected waste, fraud, or abuse in the Department, do you commit to report it to the Inspector General or other appropriate channels?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to support democracy and human rights? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My American Dream includes my maternal grandparents with their young daughter, my mother, escaping the Holocaust in Europe in 1940 to safe haven in Cuba, and my parents as adults fleeing the Communist revolution in Cuba bringing my sister and me to America in 1960 when I was three years old. These are the seminal experiences and memories that have shaped my life and my deep love for America. Human rights and democracy are American values that are especially important to me as a naturalized citizen who has a safe haven in America.

From the time I was a child in North Carolina, I have applied human rights and democracy as guiding principles of my life. As a child, I recognized that Jim Crow laws were wrong and disturbing. I made the personal decision in high school, to attend the integrated Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools in a time of great tension. Other white children who had our economic and educational advantages chose to desert the public school system for private schools that were not integrated. I was able to cultivate friendships with other students from all backgrounds which has served me well in life since. Having personally experienced anti-Semitism and prejudice, I left the South to go to college in the North hoping to find an environment where people would be more open-minded and accepting of diversity.

I have also been active as a volunteer and, when my circumstances have allowed, as a philanthropist supporting human rights and religious freedom. During high school, I was a leader in our local B'nai B'rith Girls chapter and was a proud leader in the volunteer effort to free Soviet Jews and help them adjust to life as Americans in Charlotte.

In the 1990's, my husband Steve and I were active leaders with the United Jewish Appeal—Federation of New York in Operations Moses and Solomon, helping provide the financial resources to free Ethiopian Jewry from persecution and assist their resettlement in Israel, which former Senator and Ambassador Rudy Boschwitz (MN) negotiated as President George H.W. Bush's special envoy.

Should I be honored with confirmation, I am committed to be a strong advocate for American policies supporting human rights and democracy.

Question. What issues are the most pressing challenges to democracy or democratic development in Chile? These challenges might include obstacles to participatory and accountable governance and institutions, rule of law, authentic political competition, civil society, human rights and press freedom. Please be as specific as possible.

Answer. Chile is one of the Western Hemisphere's strongest democracies. We have built our partnership on a foundation of shared values and support for democracy, protection of human rights, and promotion of economic opportunity. Chile's pressing challenges include expanding access to economic opportunity, enhancing democratic participation, and promoting greater social equality. Chile is now in the midst of a constitutional reform process agreed to by Chile's Government and all of Chile's major political parties. Additional challenges include strengthening intellectual property rights protections and adopting stronger sentencing guidelines for those convicted of human trafficking.

Question. What steps will you take—if confirmed—to support democracy in Chile? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions? What are the potential impediments to addressing the specific obstacles you have identified?

Answer. If confirmed as ambassador, I would strive to support and strengthen Chile's democracy, which already serves as a model for the region. Drawing upon the expertise of the staff at U.S. Embassy Santiago, I would work closely with the Government of Chile to promote security, democracy, human rights, prosperity, and good governance, not only in Chile but within our hemisphere and across the globe. I expect and have confidence that the Government of Chile will continue in its general respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Question. How will you utilize U.S. Government assistance resources at your disposal, including the Democracy Commission Small Grants program and other sources of State Department and USAID funding, to support democracy and governance, and what will you prioritize in processes to administer such assistance?

Answer. Despite recent unrest, Chile remains one of the Western Hemisphere's strongest democracies. As a high-income country, it receives limited foreign assistance, but we work closely with the Government on democracy and governance, working together across the hemisphere. We ground our partnership in shared values and support for democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity. If confirmed, I will utilize all U.S. Government assistance at my disposal to support strengthening democracy and good governance in Chile.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with civil society members, human rights and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs, and other members of civil society in Chile? What steps will you take to pro-actively address efforts to restrict or penalize NGOs and civil society via legal or regulatory measures?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to meeting with civil society members, human rights, and other NGOs in the United States and Chile. Democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity are all part of our countries' shared values and these are best safeguarded by a strong civil society. I will support all efforts to ensure there are no undue restrictions on civil society, including on those organizations that promote our mutual values.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with democratically oriented political opposition figures and parties? What steps will you take to encourage genuine political competition? Will you advocate for access and inclusivity for women, minorities and youth within political parties?

Answer. Chile is one of the Western Hemisphere's strongest democracies and consistently holds free and fair elections. We have built our partnership on a foundation of shared values and support for democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity. If confirmed, I will meet with leaders from across the political spectrum, including those from opposition political parties. If confirmed, I will also promote social inclusion and diversity in political institutions and processes, particularly greater participation of women, minorities, and youth.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Chile on freedom of the press and address any government efforts designed to control or undermine press freedom through legal, regulatory or other measures? Will you commit to meeting regularly with independent, local press in Chile?

Answer. Chile has a dynamic democratic system, which shares the U.S. values of support for democracy and human rights, including freedom of expression, including by members of the press. If confirmed, I will work with our team at the embassy

to promote those shared values, including with respect to the press, and call out cases where they are infringed upon. If confirmed, I will regularly meet with all types of local press in Chile.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with civil society and government counterparts on countering disinformation and propaganda disseminated by foreign state or non-state actors in the country?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I look forward to continuing and strengthening engagement with relevant civil society and government counterparts in Chile to counter disinformation. I would also condemn any external actor that seeks to sow discord or undermine democratic processes with misinformation.

Question. Will you and your embassy teams actively engage with Chile on the right of labor groups to organize, including for independent trade unions?

Answer. If confirmed, I would continue and strengthen engagement with relevant Chilean counterparts to protect the interests of labor groups and independent trade unions. Chile is a robust democracy that has demonstrated its commitments to democratic values, transparency, human rights, and a vibrant civil society. The Government's positive response to public demands for a constitutional reform shows that political leaders are generally responsive to the needs of their citizens, including in the realm of labor rights. I intend to engage in productive dialogue with labor groups and trade unions on all sides in addition to business leaders and the appropriate government authorities on this issue.

Question. Will you commit to using your position, if confirmed, to defend the human rights and dignity of all people in Chile, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity? What challenges do the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people face in Chile? What specifically will you commit to do to help LGBTQ people in Chile?

Answer. If confirmed, promoting American values such as protecting and defending human rights, including the rights of LGBTQ persons, will be a pillar of my agenda. We have built our partnership with Chile on a foundation of shared democratic values and that includes upholding the human rights of LGBTQ persons. Chile has taken meaningful steps to advance the human rights of LGBTQ persons and ensure more equal and dignified treatment, as Chileans face many of the same challenges of discrimination as in many democratic societies. If confirmed, I commit to raising LGBTQ issues with Chilean officials and speaking out to assert U.S. values and defend human rights against any forms of abuse.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO LEORA LEVY BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question. Nonpartisanship: You have a record of social media engagement that could be described as confrontational and partisan. The ability to work respectfully and cooperatively with people of diverse political ideologies is very important to me and is also critical to the responsibilities of an Ambassador. If confirmed, how would you ensure that your personal political views do not stand in the way of productive engagement with American and foreign leaders whose politics differ from yours?

Answer. An American Ambassador is a nonpartisan role representing the United States overseas, including working with career staff, political appointees, all elected officials and people of diverse interests, interacting with representatives of diverse factions of foreign governments and societies. I am very mindful of the ambassadorial role in providing objective, nonpartisan feedback to the Department of State from a foreign land. These principles will always be part of my mandate should I be honored with confirmation.

I have approached partisan political life with passion. Should I be confirmed, I hope to be a passionate diplomatic advocate for United States Foreign Policy and interests and an honest broker of ideas within Government.

Question. What are your most meaningful achievements to date in your career to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My American Dream includes my maternal grandparents with their young daughter, my mother, escaping the Holocaust in Europe in 1940 to safe haven in Cuba, and my parents as adults fleeing the Communist revolution in Cuba bringing my sister and me to America in 1960 when I was three years old. These are the seminal experiences and memories that have shaped my life and my deep love

for America. Human rights and democracy are American values that are especially important to me as a naturalized citizen who has a safe haven in America.

From the time I was a child in North Carolina, I have applied human rights and democracy as guiding principles of my life. As a child, I recognized that the Jim Crow laws were wrong and disturbing. I made the personal decision in high school, to attend the integrated Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools in a time of great tension. Other white children who had our economic and educational advantages chose to desert the public school system for private schools that were not integrated. I was able to cultivate friendships with other students from all backgrounds which has served me well in life since. Having personally experienced anti-Semitism and prejudice, I left the South to go to college in the North hoping to find an environment where people would be more open-minded and accepting of diversity.

I have also been active as a volunteer and, when my circumstances have allowed, as a philanthropist supporting human rights and religious freedom. During high school, I was a leader in our local B'nai B'rith Girls chapter and was a proud leader in the volunteer effort to free Soviet Jews and help them adjust to life as Americans in Charlotte.

In the 1990's, my husband Steve and I were active leaders with the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York in Operations Moses and Solomon, helping provide the financial resources to free Ethiopian Jewry from persecution and assist their resettlement in Israel, which former Senator and Ambassador Rudy Boschwitz (MN) negotiated as President George H.W. Bush's special envoy.

Should I be honored with confirmation, I am committed to be a strong advocate for American policies supporting human rights and democracy.

Question. What are the most pressing human rights issues in Chile? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to promote human rights and democracy in Chile? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. If confirmed, I will continue to advance U.S. policy to protect and defend human rights. Chile is one of the Western Hemisphere's strongest democracies. We ground our partnership with Chile in shared values, and those include support for democracy, respect for human rights, and the promotion of economic opportunity. Chilean authorities have investigated with great transparency troubling allegations of human rights violations during the civil unrest of 2019, welcoming visits by international organizations including Human Rights Watch, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

If confirmed, I hope that my actions will strengthen and reinforce the Chilean Government's commitment to respect for human rights as well as that of the Chilean People and groups in civil society. They will know that their ally and partner, the United States is a champion for the respect and protection of human rights and democracy.

Question. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in Chile in advancing human rights, civil society, and democracy in general?

Answer. Chile has built strong democratic institutions and a modern economy, yet many Chileans feel they have not benefitted from these advancements. Protests that began in late 2019 have paused during the COVID-19 outbreak but could resume as Chilean authorities ease public health restrictions and the economic strains caused by the pandemic increase.

I expect and have confidence that the Chilean Government would respond with respect for human rights and the rule of law, and I hope that protesters would do the same.

Question. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs in Chile? If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I am committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the United States and local human rights non-governmental organizations in Chile. I am committed to supporting the implementation of the Leahy Laws and other similar efforts.

Embassy Santiago works with the Department of State to thoroughly vet all Chilean security forces identified to receive U.S.-funded security assistance to ensure that no individual or unit for whom credible information exists of involvement in a gross violation of human rights receives such aid until those allegations have been

investigated and, if warranted, resulted in prosecution and punishment. The International Military Education and Training (IMET) program also includes a human rights component.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Chile to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted by Chile?

Answer. If confirmed as ambassador, I would make it my priority to deepen the historically strong partnership on human rights that exists between the United States and Chile. The Department of State's 2019 Human Rights Report on Chile found no reports of political prisoners or detainees, and that the Government of Chile took steps to investigate and prosecute officials who allegedly committed abuses. Chile is a reliable partner in defense of human rights in the Western Hemisphere, having demonstrated strong leadership to address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Venezuela, where arbitrary detention and abuse are the norm. I support continued collaboration with Chile to prevent violations and abuses of human rights and to promote accountability for human rights violators and abusers.

Question. Will you engage with Chile on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. If confirmed, I would make engagement on human rights, civil rights, and governance a central part of my tenure as ambassador. I would support Chile's leadership in spreading the benefits of democracy and good governance throughout the region, drawing on our close bilateral relations and shared values. I would strive to continue the Department of State's tradition of excellence on human rights reporting through the annual Country Report on Human Rights Practices. A vibrant, inclusive democracy that benefits all Chileans remains among the most important U.S. interests in Chile.

Question. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to foster a culture of inclusion and representative workforce. I will encourage promoting diversity and inclusion in the hiring process through standardized interview procedures. I will promote the expansion of workplace flexibilities, including telework and alternative work schedules, and Leave Without Pay (LWOP) options, similar to "boomerang talent" programs in the private sector. I will learn from and listen to employees using mechanisms like the Open Conversations platform and the Department's new centralized exit survey. I will promote and encourage all employees to take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors under your direction at the Embassy in Chile are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to ensure leaders under my direction are fostering a culture and environment of inclusion. I will promote habits and practices among the leadership that focus on inclusion as a key driver for retaining diverse talent. I will promote Diversity and Inclusion Best Practices and tips for inclusive hiring practices and standardized interview guidance. I will support the review of existing mentoring programs and how they can be bolstered. I will support the requirement of all hiring managers to take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in Chile?

Answer. My investment portfolio includes a broad range of asset classes, some of which hold interests in companies with a presence in Chile. My investment portfolio also includes security interests, including stocks, in companies, some of which have a presence in Chile. I am committed to ensuring that my official actions will not give rise to a conflict of interest. I am committed to following all applicable ethics laws and regulations and remaining vigilant with regard to my ethics obligations.

Question. How do you believe corruption impacts democratic governance and the rule of law generally, and in Chile specifically?

Answer. Chile is known for its commitment to transparency, freedom of expression, and an independent judiciary and ranked 26 out of 180 countries on Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index, but recent corruption scandals have tarnished public trust and diminished Chile's reputation for institutional stability and respect for the rule of law. The administration of President Sebastián Piñera and the Chilean criminal justice system have acted against corruption and they have achieved convictions. They have shown that they understand that corruption can undermine democratic governance and rule of law and that individuals and governments that act without transparency, that escape accountability, and that act with impunity do so at the expense of a nation's citizens.

Question. What is your assessment of corruption trends in Chile and efforts to address and reduce it by that government?

Answer. Chile is known for its commitment to accountable and transparent governance, but both public corruption and corporate malfeasance cases have trended upward, leaving an impression that political and business elites may enjoy impunity under the justice system. Chilean authorities—including President Sebastián Piñera—have taken significant steps to change that, investigating allegations of corruption across government, including in the legislature, judiciary, military, and police; dismissing indicted public officials; and passing legislation to strengthen anti-corruption measures. Chile's judicial system has handed down a significant number of convictions.

Question. If confirmed, what steps will you take to strengthen good governance and anticorruption programming in Chile?

Answer. Chile routinely scores high marks for good governance, openness, and rule-of-law. The United States works closely with Chile on bilateral programs—with the executive, the Government, the judiciary, and civil society—to enhance Chile's performance in these areas, and in a variety of fora that promote democracy, human rights, anticorruption, and good governance within our hemisphere and across the globe. Hemispheric collaboration strengthens these areas in Chile as well. If confirmed, I would ensure that we continue to support programs that would help Chile continue its good governance and anticorruption efforts.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. ALDONA ZOFIA WOS BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Question. From May 2018 to May 2019, the Trump administration imposed Section 232 tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, invoking threats to U.S. national security. Do you believe Canadian steel and aluminum represent threats to U.S. national security, especially given longstanding linkages between our defense sectors?

Answer. With \$725 billion in annual bilateral trade in goods and services, the United States and Canada share the largest trade relationship in the world. With USMCA in force, we work closely with our Canadian and Mexican partners to ensure that North American supply chains remain robust. Our North American partnership is vital for a quick economic recovery. Protecting American workers has always been a priority of this administration.

I refer you to the Department of Commerce and USTR for specifics on the status of 232 aluminum tariffs on Canada.

Question. Press reports indicate that the Trump administration is considering imposing a new round of tariffs on Canada, just weeks after the formal start of the

USMCA. Do you believe that the U.S. should impose tariffs on aluminum from Canada, a key U.S. national security and economic partner?

Answer. The United States and Canada share the largest trade relationship in the world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our integrated supply chains reminded us of how important trade is to our shared resilience. Protecting American workers has always been a priority of this administration and millions of U.S. and Canadian middle-class jobs depend on our economic partnership. I am confident that under the USMCA, we will find new ways to sustain and expand our mutually beneficial trade relationship, to benefit Americans and Canadians.

I refer you to the Department of Commerce and USTR for specifics on the status of 232 aluminum tariffs on Canada.

Question. If the Trump administration imposes new tariffs on Canadian aluminum, it is likely that Canada's Government would retaliate. What is your assessment of the impact to the U.S. economy of a trade war with Canada?

Answer. The United States and Canada enjoy the most extensive and integrated economic relationships in the world. The almost 400,000 people and nearly \$2 billion worth of goods and services that cross our border daily are testament to the strength of our trade relationship, which has allowed us to resolve challenges and differences in the past and will again in the future.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered into force on July 1, 2020. The USMCA will ensure that North America remains the world's economic powerhouse and will create high-paying jobs for Americans, Canadians, and Mexicans, and grow the North American economy.

Question. Since the CDC's March 20 order, the U.S.-Canada border has been largely closed despite the historical integration of cross-border communities. If confirmed, what strategy will you pursue to re-open the U.S.-Canada border?

Answer. The United States and Canada continue close cooperation in responding to the global pandemic of COVID-19. This involves engagement at the highest levels by President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, and Deputy Secretary Biegun, as well as across agencies, by health officials, at our diplomatic missions abroad, and along our border.

If confirmed, I will work with all relevant agencies and counterparts, including public health officials and the Department of Homeland Security, to facilitate the safe re-opening of the U.S.-Canada border at the appropriate time.

Question. Will this strategy be informed by guidance from scientists and medical professionals?

Answer. As a trained medical doctor, I know firsthand the important role that medical and public health officials have in keeping communities safe. If confirmed, I will seek to strengthen ongoing collaboration between the medical and scientific communities in the United States and Canada as they work to address COVID-19.

Question. In December 2018, acting on a U.S. extradition request, Canadian authorities detained Huawei CFO Meng Wenzhou. Since then, Canada has faced a barrage of retaliation from China, including tariffs on Canadian products and arresting two Canadian citizens, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor. President Trump previously referred to Ms. Meng as something that could be traded with China as part of ongoing negotiations. Do you believe that U.S. extradition requests should be the subject of negotiation requests between the U.S. and China?

Answer. Like all cases brought by the U.S. Department of Justice, the criminal prosecution against Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou is based solely on the facts and law.

Question. Given ongoing legal arguments in Canada, which have featured President Trump's comments, do you believe that the President's comments have strengthened the U.S. legal case for Ms. Meng's extradition to the United States?

Answer. Per the filings unsealed in Canada, Meng and others allegedly broke the law. Specifically, they are accused of deceiving numerous global financial institutions about the nature and extent of Huawei's business activities in Iran, thereby putting these financial institutions at risk of incurring criminal and civil penalties for processing transactions that violated U.S. laws or regulations. Meng and others allegedly falsely stated that Skycom was an unaffiliated business partner, rather than disclosing that it was Huawei's Iranian affiliate.

Like all cases brought by the U.S. Department of Justice, the criminal prosecution against Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou is based solely on the facts and law.

Question. What specific steps would you suggest that the U.S. can take to support our ally Canada in dealing with the People's Republic of China and helping to secure the release of Michael and Michael?

Answer. The United States should continue to publicly call on China to end the arbitrary detentions of Canadian citizens Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig and reject China's unacceptable coercive use of detentions as a political tool. Recognizing the PRC's strategy of using arbitrary detentions as political leverage is not a one-country problem. I support working with our allies and partners, including Canada, to explore multilateral tools that can impose real costs and pressure on the Chinese Government for its use of arbitrary detentions.

Question. According to federal data, there are 2.6 million registered U.S. voters overseas, including 660,000 eligible U.S. voters in Canada. The State Department, in coordination with the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (the FVAP), plays an essential role in helping overseas and military voters exercise their most fundamental democratic right, the right to vote. Will you ensure that our Embassy in Ottawa and consulates across Canada prioritize the return of ballots as an essential service in order to ensure that ballots are returned to voters' home states in a timely manner?

Answer. The U.S. Department of State is committed to providing voting information and assistance to U.S. citizens in Ottawa at our Embassy and Consulates across Canada. The health and safety of U.S. citizens and our staff is our primary concerns. We have recently sent guidance to our posts to ensure they provide clear messaging that voters may return their voted ballots via international mail, private commercial courier services such as FedEx or DHL, or by drop off at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate that is at or above Phase 1 in the Diplomacy Strong reopening process.

Question. According to federal data, there are 2.6 million registered U.S. voters overseas, including 660,000 eligible U.S. voters in Canada. The State Department, in coordination with the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (the FVAP), plays an essential role in helping overseas and military voters exercise their most fundamental democratic right, the right to vote. Will you commit that our mission across Canada will provide public information to eligible U.S. voters on how to securely and safely cast their ballots during the pandemic?

Answer. The Department is providing and will continue to provide U.S. citizens in Canada and across the globe with the information they need to vote.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit that under your leadership, the U.S. Embassy will not take any action to support, promote, or participate in any matters related to, or that could be perceived as benefitting, the Trump Organization?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to make clear to all employees that retaliation of any kind has no place in federal government and will not be tolerated under your leadership? Do you agree that anyone found to have engaged in retaliation should be held fully accountable, up to and including losing their job?

Answer. Yes, I commit to making clear that retaliation has no place in the federal government and will not be tolerated. I agree that those found to have engaged in retaliation should be subject to accountability and discipline in accordance with U.S. federal labor law and regulation.

Question. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service? In the Civil Service?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and accountability in Canada and ensuring that all members of my team feel empowered to contribute to our mission. I will ensure that we learn from and listen to employees using mechanisms like the Open Conversations platform. I will promote habits and practices among the leadership that focus on inclusion as a key driver for retaining diverse talent. I will promote best practices for inclusive hiring practices including standardized interview guidance. I will support the review of existing mentoring programs and how they can be bolstered. I will both encourage my mission staff and require hiring managers to take the Department's Mitigating Unconscious Bias course. I will encourage greater connectivity for members of my team to share their experiences and their expertise with our Mission.

Question. Do you commit to respond promptly to all requests for information by members of this committee?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such response would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to appear before this committee upon request?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such appearance would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any credible allegations of foreign interference in U.S. elections?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any attempts by foreign or private individuals to improperly influence U.S. foreign policy, particularly if you have reason to believe those efforts are adverse to U.S. interests?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. If you become aware of any suspected waste, fraud, or abuse in the Department, do you commit to report it to the Inspector General or other appropriate channels?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO HON. ALDONA ZOFIA WOS BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question. What are your most meaningful achievements to date in your career to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. Furthering human rights and democracy for all has been at the heart of my public service. My lifelong commitment to these ideals began with the lessons that my parents taught me. My mother Wanda, a slave labor survivor, and Paul, a fighter in the Polish Home Army, a Righteous Gentile, and a concentration camp survivor, fought for freedom in the face of totalitarianism and pure evil. At age six, I fled Communist controlled Poland. I have continued their fight for freedom and democracy ever since emigrating to the United States, by way of Canada, in 1961.

One of my most meaningful achievements in the pursuit of these ideals has been through teaching the next generation that freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. Between 2000 and 2010, I organized multiple lectures titled the Polish Experience in WWII. Through these lectures, I sought to present the struggles of millions of families during World War II to ensure that the darkness of history would never repeat itself. My most memorable lectures were at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and First Presbyterian Church, where I was able to share these stories with over a thousand people on the week of the September 11th attacks. By presidential appointment, I was able to advance my engagement as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I was also incredibly proud of being able to further the ideals of freedom, democracy, and respect for all while serving as Ambassador to Estonia. I committed myself and the United States mission in Estonia to building relationships between native Estonians and native Russians. My most memorable accomplishment was organizing a soccer match in which two high schools—one mostly Russian and one mostly Estonian—joined as one unified team to take on Embassy personnel. In our estimation, these two schools, separated by a soccer field, had limited previous interaction due to cultural divides. At the end of my service, I lectured at over one-hundred Estonian high schools, presenting ideals of freedom, democracy, and respect for human dignity to the next generation. In addition, I fought to provide Estonian Gov-

ernment funding for the preservation of historical documents of the Old Believers, a sect of Eastern Orthodox Christians from the seventeenth century who fled to Estonia after religious persecution.

If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights.

Question. What are the most pressing human rights issues in Canada? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to promote human rights and democracy in Canada? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. Canada is a global leader in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Part of that leadership has been to address domestic human rights issues in Canada. In 2019, the Government of Canada acknowledged the high rates of deadly violence against indigenous women. If confirmed, I will engage directly with both Government of Canada officials and indigenous women leaders to promote the empowerment of all members of the society, and to strengthen the ties between communities and civil society leaders in the United States and Canada.

Question. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in Canada in advancing human rights, civil society, and democracy in general?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Canada's vibrant civil society on the full range of human rights issues. I will work to overcome the obstacles of distance by traveling throughout Canada's provinces and territories to engage directly with citizens representing the full range of Canadian society, including indigenous communities. As part of my regular public engagement via social media, I will emphasize that the United States remains Canada's full partner in promoting and protecting democracy and human rights.

Question. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs in Canada? If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to meeting with the full range of human rights, civil society, and non-governmental groups in both the United States and Canada. I strongly believe in the importance of the thorough vetting of all participants in U.S. security assistance and security cooperation programs. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all security assistance is vetted in compliance with the Leahy Law and that security cooperation activities reinforce human rights.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Canada to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted by Canada?

Answer. Yes. I know of no political prisoners currently held in Canada.

Question. Will you engage with Canada on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Canada remains a leader in the promotion and protection of democratic values around the world. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen the bilateral partnerships between the Governments of the United States and Canada to promote human rights, civil rights, and good governance globally.

Question. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to foster a culture of inclusion and representative workforce. I will encourage promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the hiring process through standardized interview procedures. I will promote the expansion of workplace flexibilities, including telework and alternative work schedules, and Leave Without Pay (LWOP) options, similar to "boomerang talent" programs in the private sector. I will learn from and listen to employees using mechanisms like the Open Conversations platform and the Department's new Centralized Exit Survey. I will promote and encourage all employees to take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors under your direction at the Embassy in Canada are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support and promote the efforts the Department is currently undertaking to ensure leaders under my direction are fostering a culture and environment of inclusion. I will promote habits and practices among the leadership that focus on inclusion as a key driver for retaining diverse talent. I will promote Diversity and Inclusion Best Practices and tips for inclusive hiring practices and standardized interview guidance. I will support the review of existing mentoring programs and how they can be bolstered. I will support the requirement of all hiring managers to take the Mitigating Unconscious Bias course.

Question. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in Canada?

Answer. My investment portfolio includes a broad range of asset classes, some of which hold interests in companies with a presence in Canada. My investment portfolio also includes security interests, including stocks, in companies, some of which have a presence in Canada. I am committed to following all applicable ethics laws and regulations and remaining vigilant with regard to my ethics obligations.

Question. How do you believe political corruption impacts democratic governance and the rule of law generally, and in Canada specifically?

Answer. I believe political corruption is a direct threat to the stability of any society, including the belief of citizens in the Governments elected to serve them. My own prior experience in public service has only increased my belief in the importance of strong institutions at all levels of society. Canada has a long tradition of political stability and democratic governance. I look forward to engaging directly with Canada's leaders as we work together to strengthen the strong bonds between our countries and our respective democratic institutions.

Question. What is your assessment of corruption trends in Canada and efforts to address and reduce it by that government?

Answer. Canada still rates low on international indexes measuring societal corruption, although the Government of Canada has publicly noted its commitment to combat financial crimes including money laundering. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with national and local law enforcement agencies in Canada and in finding ways to enhance their existing partnerships with counterparts in the United States, including through the sharing of best practices.

Question. If confirmed, what steps will you take to strengthen good governance and anticorruption programming in Canada?

Answer. If confirmed, I will seek additional opportunities for Mission Canada to work with Canada's public sector and civil society to expand existing programs and to build new alliances between agencies and organizations committed to good governance and anticorruption, both at the national and local levels.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO WILLIAM W. POPP BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Question. Support for the rule of law and strong, independent, and transparent institutions is essential to the U.S.-Guatemala Partnership. However, recent devel-

opments suggest that criminal elements have been working to manipulate the selection of judges in Guatemala. There are also troubling reports of political attacks against sitting judges in the country's highest court and efforts of undemocratic actors to remove these judges and undermine their efforts to uphold the rule of law. What is your assessment of these troubling developments?

Answer. I am following developments closely and am committed to supporting the rule of law in Guatemala. A key element to any rule of law-based system is an impartial and independent judiciary, chosen through an open and transparent process. A strong and stable rule of law system is important for attracting investment, providing social stability, addressing crime, and ensuring all rights are respected.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work to support the integrity of Guatemala's judicial institutions and prioritize U.S. efforts to strengthen institutions that uphold the rule of law?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Embassy team and public and non-governmental institutions, to encourage respect for the Guatemalan constitution, and the importance of the separation of powers as a guarantor of the rights of Guatemalan citizens.

Question. It is no secret that the United States' Asylum Cooperative Agreement with Guatemala is not an agreement with a safe third country, and that Guatemala negotiated the agreement under duress. Guatemala continues to grapple with high levels of violence, and President Giammattei has acknowledged that his government lacks adequate asylum capacity. Indeed, the State Department has provided evidence to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Guatemala adjudicated only 112 asylum claims in 2019. This capacity compares to the 939 asylum seekers, including 357 children, whom the United States transferred to Guatemala in just four months. Do you believe that Guatemala's high levels of violence and weak asylum capacity are adequate to protect the 939 asylum seekers already sent there by the United States?

Answer. As a cooperating country to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, the United States provides humanitarian aid and capacity building support through our international organization partners in Guatemala. This assistance helps Guatemala to increase its asylum capacity and enhances protection resources available to asylum seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable migrants, including Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA) transferees who request protection or wish to return to their home countries. The goal of both the United States and Guatemala is to implement this agreement gradually so as not to overwhelm Guatemala's capacity to receive transferees as it strengthens its asylum system. If confirmed, I will work closely with Guatemala to continue building Guatemala's capacity to receive, protect, and assist individuals transferred under the ACA.

Question. Prior to your nomination, the Trump administration suspended nearly all U.S. foreign assistance to Guatemala and the Northern Triangle countries. Now that funding is restarting, the administration has provided us with descriptions of new programs. The congressional notifications we've received so far present a departure from traditional USAID programming designed to strengthen governance, address security challenges, and advance programs to alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth. Instead, the congressional notifications have an almost exclusive focus on migration/immigration. Given your distinguished career, can you please articulate your vision about the importance of a comprehensive approach to U.S. foreign assistance towards Guatemala in order to strengthen the rule of law, address security, uphold human rights, and advance inclusive economic growth?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Department, our U.S. embassy, USAID, and other partners to ensure U.S. assistance in Guatemala continues to align with our policy goals in addressing the economic, security, and governance drivers of migration. U.S. assistance can be an effective tool to address these root causes, and some progress has been made, but Guatemalan political will is essential to make further progress. If confirmed, I will engage the Guatemalan Government and support our assistance programs that help strengthen institutions, address corruption, improve security conditions, and uphold human rights to help create an enabling economic environment that attracts private sector investment and supports small business development, thus creating more opportunities for Guatemalans at home.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit that under your leadership, the U.S. Embassy will not take any action to support, promote, or participate in any matters related to, or that could be perceived as benefitting, the Trump Organization?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to make clear to all employees that retaliation of any kind has no place in federal government and will not be tolerated under your leadership? Do you agree that anyone found to have engaged in retaliation should be held fully accountable, up to and including losing their job?

Answer. Yes, I commit to making clear that retaliation has no place in the federal government and will not be tolerated. I agree that anyone found to have engaged in retaliation should be subject to accountability and discipline in accordance with U.S. federal labor law and regulation.

Question. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service? In the Civil Service?

Answer. If confirmed as Chief of Mission, I will lead the nearly 550 professionals in Mission Guatemala to advance the U.S. agenda in a safe, inclusive, and respectful workplace. I will continue to pursue the active leadership approach that I did as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to Brazil by ensuring our Embassy in Guatemala has a robust and proactive diversity council, Federal Women's Program, and professional development program that promote respect and diversity, not only in hiring and Mission operations, but also in our education, cultural, economic, and political programming.

Question. Do you commit to respond promptly to all requests for information by members of this committee?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such response would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to appear before this committee upon request?

Answer. Yes, with the understanding that any such appearance would be organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and Executive Branch practice.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any credible allegations of foreign interference in U.S. elections?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to report to appropriate authorities, including the FBI, Inspector General, and Congress, any attempts by foreign or private individuals to improperly influence U.S. foreign policy, particularly if you have reason to believe those efforts are adverse to U.S. interests?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. If you become aware of any suspected waste, fraud, or abuse in the Department, do you commit to report it to the Inspector General or other appropriate channels?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and to raising concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to support democracy and human rights? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. I have worked to support human rights and democracy across each of my six overseas diplomatic assignments, helping to ensure free and fair elections, increase space for civil society, establish police oversight mechanisms, and protect labor activists and independent media. I believe that some of my most meaningful achievements were in Kenya, where I worked closely with U.S. Government agencies, international partners, civil society, and Kenya's electoral commission to successfully prepare for and conduct free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections in 2017. If confirmed, I would seek to advance similar successful whole-of-Mission strategies with host government, civil society, and international partners in support of democracy and human rights.

Question. What issues are the most pressing challenges to democracy or democratic development in Guatemala? These challenges might include obstacles to participatory and accountable governance and institutions, rule of law, authentic political competition, civil society, human rights and press freedom. Please be as specific as possible.

Answer. Challenges to democracy in Guatemala include corruption; impunity; insecurity; underfunded institutions; entrenched interests that resist any change that weakens their position; intimidation of prosecutors, judges, and media; and lack of economic opportunity which exacerbates poverty. If confirmed, I will continue to support democratic development in Guatemala through coordinated U.S. Government programs and outreach that aim to strengthen Guatemala's institutions, fight corruption, and strengthen civil society.

Question. What steps will you take—if confirmed—to support democracy in Guatemala? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions? What are the potential impediments to addressing the specific obstacles you have identified?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to eliminate corrupt influences in Guatemalan institutions through our diplomatic engagements with Guatemalan authorities, public messaging, and U.S. assistance programs supporting anticorruption efforts and the rule of law. Entrenched corruption remains an obstacle to advancing democratic development in Guatemala, but if confirmed, I will also be prepared to use the tools Congress has made available including, Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Act, 2020, to hold corrupt actors accountable.

Question. How will you utilize U.S. Government assistance resources at your disposal, including the Democracy Commission Small Grants program and other sources of State Department and USAID funding, to support democracy and governance, and what will you prioritize in processes to administer such assistance?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure U.S. assistance aligns with our important policy goals of supporting democratic institutions, fighting corruption, and upholding the rule of law in Guatemala. If confirmed, I will also ensure that U.S. Government funding is utilized in accordance with congressional earmarks to address the complex governance challenges facing Guatemala. U.S. assistance is a key tool we can use to help strengthen Guatemala's judicial institutions and support President Giammattei's newly established anti-corruption commission in the executive branch. If confirmed, I will make capacity building a key priority to help the Guatemalan Government address these critical issues.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with civil society members, human rights and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs, and other members of civil society in Guatemala? What steps will you take to pro-actively address efforts to restrict or penalize NGOs and civil society via legal or regulatory measures?

Answer. If confirmed as Ambassador to Guatemala, I will absolutely be committed to actively engaging with representatives of human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations, both in the United States and in Guatemala, to listen to their concerns and seek their advice on encouraging respect for human rights for Guatemalans. I will encourage my Guatemalan Government counterparts to ensure NGOs are able to operate in a safe, permissive environment and that regulations governing the operation of NGOs meet requirements under Guatemala's constitution and international best practices.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to meet with democratically oriented political opposition figures and parties? What steps will you take to encourage genuine political competition? Will you advocate for access and inclusivity for women, minorities and youth within political parties?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will make it a point to meet with people from across the political spectrum, and from all walks of Guatemalan life. As the United States Ambassador to Guatemala, it will be incumbent on me to interact with as diverse a group of Guatemalans as possible, across political, economic, geographic, social, and ethnic groups. If confirmed, I would engage not only with government and political parties, but also with civil society, independent media, community, labor and human rights organizations and activists. I would also reach out to youth, minority, and women's groups that Embassy Guatemala has engaged with on areas of entrepreneurship, rights promotion, education, and other key issues.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Guatemala on freedom of the press and address any government efforts designed to control or un-

dermine press freedom through legal, regulatory or other measures? Will you commit to meeting regularly with independent, local press in Guatemala?

Answer. Supporting an active and free press is a fundamental part of State Department programming overseas. If confirmed as Ambassador to Guatemala, I would work diligently with the Embassy team to promote the importance of a free press with Guatemalan officials, while using programming such as our International Visitor Leadership Program to support efforts to share with Guatemalan journalists best practices in investigative journalism. I fully believe that a free and fair press is critical to a healthy democracy, and will continue to support efforts to promote press freedom in Guatemala.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with civil society and government counterparts on countering disinformation and propaganda disseminated by foreign state or non-state actors in the country?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will work with our team at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala to engage with civil society and government counterparts on countering disinformation and propaganda disseminated by foreign state or non-state actors in Guatemala. It is my understanding there is increased interest in the region by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the entities it controls. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Guatemalan Government to deter and counter malign influence by the PRC, and help Guatemala understand how to protect itself in its relationship with the PRC.

Question. Will you and your embassy teams actively engage with Guatemala on the right of labor groups to organize, including for independent trade unions?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the U.S. Embassy team to engage diplomatically with the appropriate ministries in the Guatemalan Government on labor issues, including the right for labor groups to organize and to advocate for independent trade unions. In my past tours of duty, I have worked with labor activists, supported respect for labor rights, and contributed to the State Department's work in support of the Department of Labor's annual reports on labor conditions around the globe. I believe active dialogue with labor organizations and activists as well as accurate reporting on labor conditions is an important responsibility of the State Department and, if confirmed, I will lead the Embassy in prioritizing both outreach and reporting.

Question. Will you commit to using your position, if confirmed, to defend the human rights and dignity of all people in Guatemala, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity? What challenges do the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people face in Guatemala? What specifically will you commit to do to help LGBTQ people in Guatemala?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support the efforts of the Department to defend the human rights and dignity of all people in Guatemala, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is my understanding that LGBTQ people in Guatemala continue to face discrimination, and there currently is no legislation in place that specifically protects the rights of LGBTQ people. If confirmed, I will support U.S. assistance programs that seek to protect the human rights of, and respect for, all Guatemalans, including LGBTQ people. I would also seek to maintain a dialogue with LGBTQ activists, and support accurate and timely reporting on LGBTQ rights issues.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO WILLIAM W. POPP BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question. What are your most meaningful achievements to date in your career to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. I have worked to support human rights and democracy across each of my six overseas diplomatic assignments, helping to ensure free and fair elections, increase space for civil society, establish police oversight mechanisms, and protect labor activists and independent media. I believe my most meaningful achievements were in Kenya, where I worked closely with U.S. Government agencies, international partners, civil society, and Kenya's electoral commission to help successfully enable free and fair elections in 2017. If confirmed, I would seek to advance similar successful whole-of-Mission strategies with host government, civil society, and international partners in support of democracy and human rights.

Question. What are the most pressing human rights issues in Guatemala? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to promote human rights and democracy in Guatemala? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. Guatemala faces a number of pressing human rights challenges, including the need to protect human rights activists and indigenous communities, gender-based violence issues, human trafficking, and rights of LGBTI individuals. If confirmed, I will work diligently with the Guatemalan Government, national and international non-governmental organizations, and the many U.S. Government agencies that work in this area to assist Guatemala in developing its institutional, law enforcement and non-governmental capacities to address these concerns. I believe through such efforts, we can demonstrate to the Guatemalan Government and its people that the United States is a tireless and reliable partner on human rights issues in keeping with our nation's values.

Question. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in Guatemala in advancing human rights, civil society, and democracy in general?

Answer. For the important human rights issues cited in my previous response, obstacles may include underfunded institutions; entrenched interests that will resist any change that weakens their position; lack of economic opportunity that exacerbates poverty; resistance to change, even where clearly needed; impunity; corruption; and others. These obstacles are many of the same faced when working to promote democracy development and development of civil society. Challenges to working on human rights issues in Guatemala are similar to those advancing human rights in many nations.

Question. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs in Guatemala? If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed as Ambassador to Guatemala, I will be firmly committed to working with representatives of human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations, both in the United States and in Guatemala, to listen to their concerns and seek their advice on encouraging respect for human rights in Guatemala. Working with the Guatemalan Government, the United States has been fostering dialogue with indigenous communities and civil society. We should deepen efforts to build the integrity of public institutions, enhance access to justice, and bolster space for civil society. A more just and inclusive Guatemala will help address challenges both our countries face.

If confirmed, I will work with my team at the Embassy to ensure recipients of assistance and training are appropriately vetted in accordance with the Leahy law.

Question. Will you and your embassy team actively engage with Guatemala to address cases of key political prisoners or persons otherwise unjustly targeted by Guatemala?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will ensure that both I and the Embassy team engage with the various elements involved with criminal justice in Guatemala, both governmental and non-governmental, to encourage further respect for human rights.

It is crucial the United States and Guatemala work together to promote rule of law, fight corruption, respect human rights, and end impunity. In addition to working directly with government institutions, engaging human rights defenders, civil society organizations, and those who have experienced human rights violations will also be key to addressing and improving Guatemala's human rights record.

Question. Will you engage with Guatemala on matters of human rights, civil rights, and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes. I believe Mission Guatemala should be guided by our longstanding values of freedom, democracy, individual liberty, and human dignity. Rule of law, eradication of corruption, and an end to impunity are key to security, stability, and prosperity, not only in Guatemala, but throughout the region and the world. If confirmed, I will stand ready to assist the Government of Guatemala in making positive improvements in these areas. I will also actively engage human rights defenders, civil society organizations, and those who have experienced human rights violations to address and improve respect for human rights in Guatemala.

Question. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor, and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups?

Answer. If confirmed as Chief of Mission, I will lead the nearly 550 professionals in Mission Guatemala to advance the U.S. agenda in a safe, inclusive, and respectful workplace. I will continue to pursue the active approach that I did as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to Brazil by ensuring our Embassy in Guatemala has a robust and proactive diversity council, Federal Women's Program, and professional development program that will work together to promote respect and diversity, not only in hiring and Mission operations, but also in our education, cultural, economic, and political programming.

Question. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy in Guatemala are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. Promotion of an inclusive and diverse work environment is an important value and key imperative of the Department of State. If confirmed as Ambassador to Guatemala, I pledge to model and promote an inclusive culture and work environment among the embassy team in Guatemala City, including holding supervisors and staff accountable for their conduct, in keeping with State Department values.

Question. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to complying with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in Guatemala?

Answer. My investment portfolio includes diversified mutual funds, which may hold interests in companies with a presence overseas, but which are exempt from the conflict of interest laws. I am committed to ensuring my official actions will not give rise to a conflict of interest. I am committed to following all applicable ethics laws and regulations and remaining vigilant with regard to my ethics obligations.

Question. How do you believe political corruption impacts democratic governance and the rule of law generally, and in Guatemala specifically?

Answer. I believe there is a crucial need to promote rule of law, fight corruption, and end impunity in Central America. Systemic political corruption prevents countries from achieving their economic potential and ensuring access to justice. I understand that in Guatemala there is a history of political corruption, that U.S. assistance to Guatemala has supported robust anti-corruption efforts, and that the Department has also utilized the visa designation authorities provided by Congress via Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020. If confirmed, I will support the Guatemalan Government's anti-corruption efforts, ensure U.S. assistance in Guatemala addresses key anti-corruption priorities, speak out against corruption, and engage private sector and civil society partners to bolster rule of law.

Question. What is your assessment of corruption trends in Guatemala and efforts to address and reduce it by that government?

Answer. I understand that although the Guatemalan Government has made progress in the fight against corruption, it remains a key challenge. I am encouraged by President Giammattei's creation in January 2020 of a new anti-corruption commission to identify corruption within the executive branch, which has already pursued allegations of misconduct related to the procurement of COVID-19 supplies, resulting in the removal of potentially corrupt Ministry of Health officials. While this case is a positive step, the Guatemalan Government must continue to ensure transparent, independent prosecution of cases, and support the entities with-

in the Public Ministry, such as the Special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity (FECI), working to secure justice for corrupt actors who frequently operate with impunity.

Question. If confirmed, what steps will you take to strengthen good governance and anticorruption programming in Guatemala?

Answer. If confirmed, I will speak out against corrupt influences in Guatemalan institutions through our diplomatic engagements with Guatemalan authorities, public messaging, and U.S. assistance programs supporting anti-corruption efforts and strengthening of the rule of law. If confirmed, I would also offer continued support for efforts to improve transparency in Guatemala's judicial selection process and encourage the merit-based appointment of qualified judges who demonstrate the integrity needed to uphold rule of law. In addition, if confirmed, I will use all available deterrence tools at the Department's disposal to promote accountability for anyone involved in and benefiting from significant acts of corruption in Guatemala.
