

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MYRON A. BRILLIANT
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062-2000
202/463-5489

May 10, 2021

Hon. Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2430 E. St. NW.,
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As the Biden-Harris administration and industry expedite efforts to manufacture, distribute, and administer vaccines nationally, the U.S. Chamber urges you to take actions to safeguard expats within the U.S. business community from avoidable impacts of the pandemic by ensuring that U.S. citizens living and working abroad on behalf of our industries, and their dependents, are authorized to benefit from U.S. developed and sourced vaccines.

On January 21, 2021, the administration announced National Security Memorandum 1: National Security Memorandum on United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological, which treats pandemic preparedness as a national security priority. Section 2, subsection (a) paragraph (i) of this memorandum calls for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Health & Human Services to deliver to the President a framework for donating surplus vaccines to countries in need. We ask that you include in this framework a provision requiring the inclusion of American expatriates and their dependents supporting our industries in the first wave of distribution by benefiting nations.

A significant challenge faced by a number of U.S. multinational corporations, to include those vital to our defense industrial base, is the ability to ensure their employees, and dependents, are provided vaccinations by the U.S. Current State Department policy refers our citizens abroad to seek vaccination in the country of residence. As you can imagine, in many instances this is not an acceptable or reasonable option. A considerable number of these workers reside in countries with

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limited access to vaccines, which means these critical workers may not be vaccinated for a prolonged period of time.

The Department of Defense has informed us that they are close to issuing direction that all contract employees on a DoD awarded contract serving abroad, to include their dependents, will receive U.S. vaccines by the DoD. We seek the same level of support for the rest of the U.S. business community serving our nation abroad. Including this provision in your framework would circumvent this dilemma and help ease this crisis.

Keith Webster, President of our Defense and Aerospace Export Council, will follow up with your office on this matter. In the meantime, should your staff have questions, please refer them to Keith at KWebster@USChamber.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myron Brilliant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Myron A. Brilliant
Executive Vice President and
Head of International Affairs

cc: The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense