

## Written testimony of Boa Lee on HF1684, 5-10-21

Dear Chair Scott Newman, Chair Frank Hornstein, and Members of the Conference Committee:

I am a constituent from Saint Paul and a U.S. Foreign Service officer currently serving in Israel. I previously wrote you on May 5, 2021 to express my support and appreciation of HF 1684 – specifically sections 42 (Remote Application) and 54 (License Expiration and Renewal Exceptions) for U.S. federal employees on assignment overseas.

On May 10, the conference committee discussed amendment A55 to Rev. Page R111 and R114, and tabled it for further amendment to clarify that the spouse, domestic partner, and dependents under age 26 all must also be overseas in order to be eligible for the new exceptions. One suggestion was to insert the words *“accompanying the person in clause (1), (2), or (3).”*

I wish to draw the conference committee’s attention to situations in which a Foreign Service officer serving on assignment overseas might go from that location directly to another foreign location. In the first location, the officer’s family might be accompanying them, but, in the second, if the location is considered too dangerous for family members, it is possible the family will not accompany the officer. In these situations, often the officer’s family stays in that first foreign location to wait for the officer to complete his/her assignment. The hardship of the current driver’s license renewal procedures would still impact the family members, as they would still be outside the United States.

I support the conference committee’s desire to ensure clarity as to who would be included the remote application option, and the license renewal date expansion. I hope the conference committee might consider more broad language that would allow for the unique circumstances that our federal employees and their families encounter. In the situation mentioned above, the family would be listed on official government orders but would not be listed as “accompanying” eligible family members to a dangerous assignment. A narrow criterion could exclude this family from eligibility, which I don’t believe is the intent of lawmakers.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of the many sacrifices that Foreign Service officers and their family members make every day to protect the United States.

Sincerely,

Boa Lee  
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