

**Written testimony of Dave Panetti on HF1684, 5-10-21**

Mr. Howe -

I understand the language for this bill is being clarified or rectified at the moment. I would like you to know that occasionally in the Foreign Service the officer serves overseas and the family remains behind at the previous post or domestically. For example, I served a one-year tour in Baghdad but my wife did not join me and remained in the DC area for that year. I'm sure it's no different for the military, although I don't know about the Peace Corps.

If there's language about "accompanying" the FSO, maybe it could be changed to "on the official orders of the FSO," which would then cover the family members who remain behind.

Anyway, this is important and even though it's late here, I'd like to know that you passed this information along to the committee.

Thanks very much,

Dave Panetti