

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As summer begins and families across the nation are finalizing their travel plans, we have heard countless reports from constituents in our states about the massive backlogs in processing passport applications. While we appreciate the hard work of Passport Agency employees across the nation, this backlog and the unresponsiveness to many passport inquiries is unacceptable.

Since January 2023, our offices have observed a massive increase in passport related inquiries from our constituents. We understand that the Department of State is experiencing an unprecedented number of passport applications and renewals, but the strategies put in place to address this unprecedented demand appear to need additional attention.

These backlogs have resulted in many American families being forced to cancel their travel plans because of increased wait times, a lack of available in-person appointments and an inability to communicate with passport agencies. Furthermore, the delay many Americans are experiencing in receiving their passport could potentially be detrimental to their livelihood.

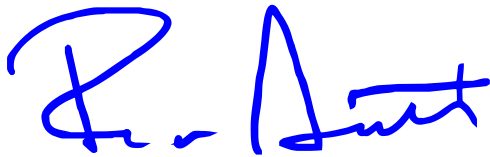
The Department of State must address these issues promptly to remedy the situation. As our offices continue to work each and every day to assist constituents with their passport needs, we are requesting answers to the following questions:

1. What measures are being taken to decrease processing and wait times?
2. How does the Department plan to resolve the communications issues?
3. How does the Department plan to permanently resolve these issues to avoid backlog in the future?

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
June 15, 2023  
Page Two

Families across the nation are dependent on a quick and efficient solution to the many issues and delays the Passport Agencies are experiencing. We look forward to hearing your solutions to this ongoing issue.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
June 15, 2023  
Page Three



JD Vance  
United States Senator



Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator