

# ***THREE EASY STEPS***



# ***TOWARD GREATER AMERICAN PROSPERITY***



***Integrate the American Diaspora  
More Creatively Into the Structure and  
Functioning of the U.S. Government***



***A Proposal of***

***THE OVERSEAS  
AMERICAN ACADEMY***



***Geneva, Switzerland***

# **THREE EASY STEPS TOWARD GREATER AMERICAN PROSPERITY**



## ***Integrate the American Diaspora More Creatively Into the Structure and Functioning of the U.S. Government***

*The American Diaspora is one of the richest resources that the United States has today for its participation in world affairs. Current American policies and institutional mechanisms, however, impede this unique community from being able to optimally promote and protect the interests of the United States all over the world.*

*There are some simple changes that could and should be made in the Legislative and Executive Branches of the U.S. Government that would bring enormous benefits not only to U.S. citizens living abroad but also to all of those living back home too.*

*Once we recognize that making these changes could benefit everyone, we should proceed efficiently to implement them.*

### **Introducing the 3 Easy Steps**

As former House Speaker Tip O'Neill once so appropriately declared: *"All politics is local"*. And this reality may be the key to both understanding the cause of the current inability of the American Diaspora to make a bigger contribution to promoting and protecting the interests of the United States all over the world, and also how to solve it.

Providing more appropriate representation for the local politics of the American Diaspora in the relevant institutions in Washington would be the best way to do this.

During the last four decades, many veterans of the American Diaspora have worked to bring about changes in the laws and regulations of the United States that inhibit the ability of U.S. citizens as individuals and entrepreneurs to compete on a level playing field in world markets. These inappropriate laws and policies also cause problems that compromise the image and reputation of the United States as a caring and sharing society.

Our traditional approach from abroad has been an incremental one, usually taking these issues one at a time and trying to find a way to get sufficient traction with officials in the Administration, and/or with relevant Members of Congress, to seek appropriate redress. On a few occasions we have had some small measures of success, but despite our dedication and valiant efforts, the American Diaspora is still in a very difficult position, not only from a financial point of view not only from double taxation but also in terms of our diminished human rights, social security pensions, educational support, Medicare benefits, etc, etc.

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This has stimulated the Fellows at the Overseas American Academy in Geneva, Switzerland, to undertake a detailed analysis of our overall present situation on the highly competitive world playing field for trade, politics, national security and the overall promotion of America.

This broad, generic approach has led us to the conclusion that progress requires direct representation of Americans overseas in Congress and other institutional structural changes to allow for informed decision making and legislation concerning the Americans community overseas.

It is for these reasons that we have prepared the following new proposal which we have entitled "***Three Easy Steps Toward Greater American Prosperity***". In preparing and disseminating this proposal, it is our hope that when you have had a chance to read it you will be willing to share your thoughts and suggestions with us.

Our conclusion is that this new approach is not only the best way to more effectively promote and protect the interests of the 4 million U.S. citizens now living and working abroad, but also to make the United States a much stronger and more prosperous nation.

We believe that if these three institutional reforms proposed below had already been enacted and were fully operational today, the U.S. Government would have a much greater capacity to understand, monitor, and react more quickly and appropriately to the opportunities, challenges and threats facing our country throughout the world. Our proposals would bring very great political, social, economic and national security benefits to all Americans at very little cost.

### ***Background and Analysis***

1. **The Evidence That a Problem Exists:** Even a cursory look at the current status of U.S. participation in world markets suggests that something is profoundly amiss. Here are just a few of these problems:

- The United States has the world's largest and most chronic trade deficit that currently exceeds half a trillion dollars per year and which just keeps on growing.
- The number of U.S. citizens employed by U.S. corporations in their foreign subsidiaries has fallen by 50% during the last three decades, while total employment by these same U.S. corporations abroad has been growing steadily.
- U.S. and foreign employers are offered a very powerful financial incentive to not hire any more U.S. citizens for work abroad, and to replace those currently on their payrolls with citizens of other countries.
- Despite many noble statements about the sanctity of the family and the importance of human rights for everyone, children born abroad to U.S. children parents often still find themselves stateless at birth.
- While many other countries provide their overseas citizens with subsidized schools, generous health and social security benefits and many other advantages, the United States just seems to want to collect billions of dollars in taxes each year from overseas Americans and give almost nothing in return.

2. **The Right to Vote in Federal Elections Has Not Provided the Anticipated Positive Results.** American Diaspora members in the private sector were first allowed to vote in their home states for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in 1976. At that time there was great hope and expectation that obtaining this right would lead quickly to a major change in the knowledge and attitude of their home state Congressional delegations as to the challenges facing Americans abroad and how U.S. laws and regulations could be changed to put overseas Americans onto a more level playing field for trade and the promotion of other interests of the United States.

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It didn't take very long, however, for the American Diaspora to realize that this right to vote back home was not the panacea that was originally imagined. Indeed, during the last 30 years the relative competitive positioning of U.S. citizens abroad has steadily worsened. Today overseas Americans are far behind the competitive 8-ball compared to overseas citizens of all of the other major countries of the world. Even more surprising has been the lack of interest in the federal government as to how world markets really function at the individual citizen level, and how the treatment of overseas U.S. citizens causes so much on-going harm to all Americans at home and abroad.

**3. The Population of the American Diaspora is Larger Than That of Half of the States in the United States.** The table below shows the population of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> largest states in the United States according to the 2000 Census, together with a recent estimate of the size of the American Diaspora. If the American community abroad were treated as a State, it would be eligible for at least six directly elected Members of the House of Representatives and two Senators.

RANK	STATES	OFFICIAL POPULATION IN 2000 CENSUS	CURRENT NUMBER OF U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS	CURRENT NUMBER OF U.S. SENATORS
24	<i>Colorado</i>	4,311,882	7	2
	<i>American Diaspora</i>	<b>4,163,810</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
25	<i>Kentucky</i>	4,049,431	6	2

**4. Delegates Have Been Playing an Active Role in Congress for More Than 218 Years.** Since the founding of the American Republic delegates from areas that were not yet formally part of the original U.S. states were already welcomed and accorded extensive privileges in the deliberations of American legislative bodies. Such delegates were first officially authorized by the Continental Congress in the "Ordinance of 1784." The Ordinance provided for the political organization of territories outside of the original thirteen states and authorized territories to keep a Member in Congress, with a right of debating, but not of voting. In 1787, these provisions were reiterated in the "Northwest Ordinance." In 1789, the First Congress enacted the provisions of the Northwest Ordinance into law. The position of territorial delegate has existed since then.

During the last three centuries, many Delegates have served with great distinction and then gone on to higher office. One Delegate (William Henry Harrison) was later elected President of the United States. Today, four Delegates and one Resident Commissioner are directly elected to serve in the House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate has not so far made provision in its rules for any similar representation from U.S. Territories. Nothing, however, in the U.S. Constitution prohibits the Senate from creating similar positions for U.S. Territories or for the American Diaspora.

**5. A Bill to Give the American Diaspora a Delegate in Congress Was First Introduced More Than Twenty Years Ago.** Legislation to give overseas Americans their own Delegate in the House of Representatives was introduced more than twenty years ago. The last time this happened was in 1992, when Congressman Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.) and his colleague, Congressman Bill Alexander (D-Ark.), introduced HR 4560 which proposed that overseas Americans be entitled to elect their own Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, with the same privileges and powers as the Delegate representing Guam.

**6. The Population of the American Diaspora is Larger Than That of All of the Territories That Currently Have Their Own Directly Elected Participants in the U.S. Congress.** The size of the American Diaspora (frequently called the 51<sup>st</sup> State) in comparison with the population of U.S. Territories that are currently represented in the U.S. Congress by their own directly elected Delegates or a Resident Commissioner is shown in the table below.

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RANK	TERRITORIES	OFFICIAL POPULATION IN 2000 CENSUS	CURRENT NUMBER OF U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS	CURRENT NUMBER OF U.S. SENATORS
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	<i>American Diaspora</i>	<i>4,163,810</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>1</b>	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	3,808,610	1	0
<b>2</b>	<i>District of Columbia</i>	572,059	1	0
<b>3</b>	<i>Guam</i>	148,000	1	0
<b>4</b>	<i>Virgin Islands</i>	118,000	1	0
<b>5</b>	<i>Northern Marianas</i>	67,000	1	0
<b>6</b>	<i>American Samoa</i>	62,000	1	0

**7. No Congressional Committee Today is Responsible for the Full Range of Concerns of the American Diaspora.** While the lack of dedicated staff in the offices of any individual Members of Congress to address the full range of concerns of overseas American constituents might be understandable, it is much more surprising and noteworthy that not a single Committee in Congress has either been given or assumed the responsibility for the full range of issues facing overseas Americans. As a result there is no way that a comprehensive picture of the full effect of current U.S. laws and regulations on the ability of overseas Americans to compete in foreign markets can be assessed. No Committee in more than two decades has even asked the Executive Branch to undertake such an overview or an international comparative analysis of the nature of the worldwide level playing field.

**8. No Cabinet Department or Executive Agency Today is Responsible for the Full Range of Concerns of the American Diaspora.** Not a single individual at the Department of State, Department of Commerce, Department of the Treasury, etc, or on the White House staff, is tasked with creating and maintaining an up-to-date and dynamic overview and assessment of the impact of U.S. laws and regulations on the ability of U.S. citizens to compete in world markets.

The last such study of a full range of these issues (entitled “*U.S. Law Affecting Americans Living and Working Abroad*”) was conducted at the request of Senator George McGovern and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the Presidency of Jimmy Carter. It was sent to the Congress in August 1980. Most of the recommendations of this study were subsequently ignored. No significant follow-up of data collection, analysis or recommendations has been made during the last 28 years.



## ***STEP 1***



### ***A PROPOSAL FOR NEW DIRECTLY ELECTED CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES FOR THE AMERICAN DIASPORA***



***Create Six New Delegates to Serve in the House  
and Two to Serve in the Senate***

## ***THE PROPOSAL***

**The Direct Representation of the American Diaspora in the U.S. Congress Would Offer Major Advantages to All Americans:** Given the radical changes taking place throughout the world, and the unique knowledge and experience overseas Americans in the private sector acquired through living and working in foreign markets, cultures and political systems, it is surely in the best interest of our nation to open up new and more efficient channels of communication between the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. Government and U.S. citizens residing overseas, and to give a separate voice in the Congress to represent this uniquely valuable constituency.

**Directly Elected Delegates to the House and Senate Would be an Appropriate and Quintessentially American Style Solution:** Delegates directly elected by the American Diaspora, who would serve as active members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, would be major assets to the United States, providing unique knowledge and insights into world affairs. They would greatly strengthen American interests at home and throughout the world in trade, politics, culture and national security.

**What Delegates in the House and Senate Could Do for the American Diaspora:** Delegates directly elected by the American Diaspora would have the same rights and privileges currently enjoyed by the four Delegates and the Resident Commissioner who represent those living in Washington D.C. and four overseas U.S. territories. These Overseas American Delegates would be able to introduce legislation, serve on and vote in committees, speak on the floor of Congress, and even become the Chairpersons of Sub-Committees and Full Committees of Congress. Overseas Americans would thereby acquire considerable power and influence, far exceeding that of merely being able to vote from afar in domestic U.S. elections as they can only do today.



## ***STEP 2***



### ***A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN DIASPORA AFFAIRS”***



### ***Create Such a New Joint Committee in The U.S. House of Representatives and in The U.S. Senate***

## ***THE PROPOSAL***

**The Problem:** One of the main causes of inertia in redressing these and other stunning inadequacies of current U.S. policies and practices that affect the competitive positioning of U.S. citizens in world markets, is that no single committee of the U.S. Congress, either in the House of Representatives, or in the Senate, is currently charged with addressing all of these issues together, at one time, and in one place, in a truly comprehensive and coherent manner.

**The Missing Data and Analysis:** Without such data and the accompanying analyses that are needed, Congress essentially is flying blind in trying to appreciate the true nature of a constantly re-morphing level playing field in world markets. Bereft of such data and analyses, it is essentially impossible to get individual Americans and their companies back onto a playing field where everyone has a fair and equal chance to succeed. Billions of dollars of U.S. exports and hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs are lost because of this institutional infirmity.

**The Solution:** The solution is surprisingly simple. The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives should create a new joint committee to bring together the oversight and legislative initiatives for all matters that concern the American Diaspora. This would include, but not be limited to: issues such as Taxation, Citizenship, Human Rights, Social Security, Education, Labor, Entrepreneurship, and a rigorous and on-going analysis of a Level Playing Field in World Markets.

**Involve the American Diaspora:** There are also other areas that need to be monitored for Congress to be fully cognizant of what day to day life is really like for the estimated 4 million U.S. citizens currently living abroad in the private sector. Ideally, American Diaspora Delegates should be assigned to serve on this committee.



## ***STEP 3***



# ***A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW “DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN DIASPORA AFFAIRS”***



## ***Create a New Cabinet Department in the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government***

### ***THE PROPOSAL***

**The Problem:** There is no entity of Executive Branch of the U.S. Government that is currently charged with collecting and analyzing all of the relevant information and details of the reality of the day to day life of those trying to compete on the front lines of today’s increasingly competitive world economy.

**The Missing Data and Analysis:** Without such comprehensive data collection and analysis by one coherent and responsible body, the necessary policy formulation and implementation simply does not take place, and changes in relevant policies are thereby directly inhibited.

**The Solution:** The solution here too is quite simple and fully appropriate to address this challenge. It is to create a new Cabinet level department in the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government that would be charged with bringing together in one place all of the powers and responsibilities necessary to collect and analyze relevant data, develop appropriate new policies, develop the mechanisms to implement them, work with the Congress to get new laws enacted, and then be held responsible for making sure that these policies are implemented and kept up to date to ensure that the American Diaspora can henceforth compete on a truly level playing field in all world markets.

**A Distinctly Different Role from that of the State Department.** This new cabinet post, devoted to all of the specific issues of concern to the American Diaspora, would therefore play a role clearly and distinctly separate from that of the State Department, which is primarily responsible for diplomacy and the complex formal relationships between our country and foreign entities.

**The U.S. Secretary of American Diaspora Affairs.** The new department should be headed by a cabinet level Secretary. It could be structured with the following basic divisions and responsibilities.

**Research:** Collecting information about how other countries treat their citizens living and working away from home and how the treatment of overseas Americans by the United States affects the political, social, economic, cultural and national security interests and objectives of the United States.

**Services for U.S. Citizens:** Provide the services at U.S. Consulates for U.S. citizens living in or traveling to other countries. These services will be separate from consular services offered to

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foreigners who are unrelated to U.S. citizens. Consular services for non-U.S. citizens who are unrelated to U.S. citizens will continue to be the responsibility of the U.S. State Department.

**Human Rights, Family Solidarity, Citizenship and Nationality:** Work to guarantee that all U.S. citizens, their family members and their children born or adopted outside the United States receive the same standard of protection of their human rights, respect for family solidarity and rights to U.S. citizenship as would have been guaranteed if they had been physically present in the United States.

**Level Playing Field Competitiveness and Related U.S. Taxation Issues:** Develop and coordinate strategy for the United States to ensure that individual U.S. citizen employees, entrepreneurs and U.S. corporate entities enjoy the most favored competitor status in all world markets. This will involve worldwide research and the development of legislative initiatives to create and maintain such competitiveness for the security and prosperity of all Americans, at home and abroad.

**Voting and Congressional Representation:** Liaise with voting officials in each of the Congressional Districts of the United States, and with the Department of Defense to ensure that overseas Americans in the private sector are guaranteed their full rights to participate in all U.S. federal elections. This division will also be responsible for developing and obtaining passage of appropriate legislation to provide overseas Americans with their own directly elected participants in the U.S. Congress.

**Coordination with the White House and other Cabinet Departments:** Establish and maintain contact with the White House and other Cabinet Departments to ensure that the President and Cabinet members have timely and accurate information about the status and concerns of the private sector American Diaspora, and how initiatives at the executive level could and should be initiated in the best national interests of the United States.

**Health, Medicare, and Social Security:** Ensure that Americans abroad should not be penalized simply because they spent part of their careers abroad, or because they retire abroad and/or have a foreign-born spouse or adopted children.

**Primary and Secondary Education and Human Services:** Seek innovative methods of public and private sector financing to encourage the creation and maintenance of the world's finest primary, secondary and college preparatory education system for overseas citizens of any country of the world. Also ensure that overseas U.S. citizen children have an equal competitive entry and financial opportunity to attend public and private colleges and universities in the United States as are enjoyed by children growing up domestically in the United States.

**Legislation and Congressional Liaison:** Assist Members of Congress by providing timely information about all issues of concern to the American Diaspora and help draft new legislation that may be necessary to bring about appropriate changes in U.S. laws.

**Outreach and Liaison with American Diaspora Communities:** Establish and maintain close ties with U.S. overseas community members and their local organizations worldwide. This will include regular meetings at home and abroad to discuss the full range of all problems, proposals and other innovative recommendations that arise from the American Diaspora.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

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