



American Foreign Service Association

2101 E Street NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 338-4045

FAX (202) 338-6820 E-mail afsa@afsa.org

October 23, 2015

The Honorable Scott Krug
State Representative
Wisconsin State Legislature
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Krug:

On behalf of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), I would like to thank you for your efforts to enact legislation that will grant Foreign Service employees assigned to our embassies and other overseas missions the opportunity to benefit from the same modified driver licensing and registration procedures at the state level that currently apply to military personnel on active duty.

AFSA is appreciative of your support and diligence to provide justice to the members of the United States Foreign Service, including your constituent Brian Riese, who are deployed worldwide – often in dangerous conditions. Since our members do not always enjoy the same protections and benefits that are currently provided by law to our men and women in uniform when they are abroad or out of state on orders, your help and that of the Wisconsin legislature in rectifying this is greatly appreciated.

As the voice of the Foreign Service, we look forward to continuing working with you and hope that your good work will be replicated by other jurisdictions.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of legislation to address this situation. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this important issue, please contact our Director of Advocacy Javier Cuebas at (202) 944-5517 or at cuebas@afsa.org.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Barbara Stephenson
AFSA President

cc: Brian Riese



Brief description of the Foreign Service:

1. Active duty: 13,000+
2. 7,000+ are deployed worldwide.
3. Represent the United States at 270 Embassies/Consulates in 170 countries.
4. The average Foreign Service member serves 60-75% of his or her career abroad.
5. 25% of active duty are veterans (Source: State Department).
6. Not covered under the protections of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.
7. **Lives lost while on duty:** As of May 2015, the Foreign Service has lost 247 men and women serving our country overseas.



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2101 E Street NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 338-4045

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May 15, 2013

The Honorable Scott Krug
State Representative
Wisconsin State Legislature
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Krug:

On behalf of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), I am writing in support of your constituent Mr. Brian Riese, who is an AFSA member, regarding the need to enact legislation at the state level that will grant Foreign Service employees assigned to our embassies, post and overseas missions the opportunity to benefit from the same modified driver licensing and registration procedures that currently apply to military personnel on active duty.

Our case workers are constantly dealing with situations in which Foreign Service members and/or their eligible family members have to either go out of their way or incur a number of expenses to fulfill a state or local obligation while out of state on official orders. The issues tend to vary by jurisdiction but they range from taxes to establishing residency, just to name a few.

Despite broad recognition by elected and appointed officials at the national and state level of the risk and dangers that American diplomats face on a regular basis while abroad, Foreign Service members and their families still do not enjoy the same protections and benefits that are currently in place to protect our brothers and sisters in the military when they are abroad or out of state on orders. That is why we are supportive of local efforts to promote measures that can be replicated by other jurisdictions.

In the case of Wisconsin, our database indicates that there are 40 active-duty members who can potentially benefit from this legislation. A basic cost-benefit analysis clearly shows that state revenue collection efforts would not be dramatically affected by any effort extending the current "modified driver licensing and registration procedures" that currently apply to military personnel on active duty to Foreign Service members and/or their eligible family members.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of legislation to address this situation. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this important issue please contact our Director of Advocacy Javier Cuebas at (202) 944-5517 or at Cuebas@afsa.org.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Johnson
AFSA President

cc: Brian Riese