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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

As you work to craft additional appropriations measures to address our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, I ask that you consider including \$200 million for the State Department to provide logistical support for the repatriation of U.S. citizens and permanent residents currently stranded outside of the country due to rapidly changing travel conditions.

As nations around the world respond to the threat of COVID-19 and shut down borders and/or airports, many Americans are unable to return home. I ask that you provide the funding necessary for the State Department to establish a Task Force and provide logistical support, charter flights if necessary, on-site screening and medical treatment, and domestic quarantine capabilities as needed for U.S. citizens and permanent residents currently abroad and unable to return home on commercial options. Germany and Canada have begun to provide guidance and support for these efforts, and I encourage the U.S. government to do the same as soon as possible.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator