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June 8, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20522

Dear Secretary Blinken:

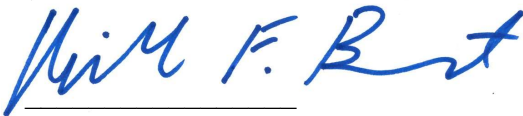
I write regarding the significant and increasing passport application process delays that Coloradans face and urge you to allocate additional resources to address the ongoing backlog.

Over the past several months, my office in Colorado has received an uptick in outreach from constituents who experience difficulty obtaining passports. Since February, my office has corresponded and assisted with passports for over 1,500 constituents and their family members. In many instances, they have waited for hours on the phone before being able to speak to a liaison, or they have spent hours corresponding with multiple passport offices to receive information on a single case.

The passport agency in Aurora, Colorado has been working industriously to process applications and clear through this backlog. However, due to the sheer volume of requests for passport assistance that my office has received, I request additional staffing capacity to resolve the issue.

To that end, I urge you to quickly avail the Department of State of all its current authorities and budget to hire additional personnel for the Colorado Passport Agency. Thank you for your attention to this important issue; I look forward to working with you to resolve it.

Sincerely,



United States Senator
Michael F. Bennet

Cc: Rachel M. Arndt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Passport Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State