

July 3, 2023

Kimberly R Furnish
United States Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs
600 N 19th St
Washington DC 20006

RE: DEPARTMENT OF STATE WEBSITE | INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL | WHILE ABROAD

Hello Kimberly,

Again, thank you for speaking to Association of Americans Residents Overseas (AARO) in May, when we came to Washington D.C. for the Overseas Americans Week. Since then, we have looked at the Department of State's website section on International Travel. I would like to make a suggestion.

This website offers very practical information under the heading "While Abroad."¹ The sections Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Retirement, Health, Death and Lodging Safety are useful for short term business and leisure travelers, and are especially helpful for U.S. citizens who reside abroad.

To strengthen the site for U.S. citizens abroad, AARO would like to suggest an additional sub-page under a new heading "Overseas Americans Orgs.," or another name that you may prefer, which would include AARO and other suitable non-partisan organizations that provide support to U.S. citizens who reside abroad. AARO is a very stable association; we are celebrating our 50th anniversary this year. And, as you know, our mission is to advocate for Americans abroad. We would be happy to work with you to coordinate with similar organizations who do the same.

There is precedent for the Department of State website to list third party non-government organizations; for example, the page about intercountry adoption does so², and includes a disclaimer that the Department of State "assumes no responsibility ...". If you agree to our proposal a similar disclaimer could also be included.

If you are not the person to whom we should address this proposal, could you please forward it? Thank you. We look forward to hearing from the State Department about this.

Sincerely,



Doris L. Speer, President
Association of Americans Resident Overseas
president@aaro.org

cc: Ali Mackie; Erykah Haight

¹ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

² <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Adoption-Process/before-you-adopt/LGBTI-adoption-resources.html>