



Established 1973

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30 June 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Overseas Americans and Passport Matters

Dear Secretary Blinken,

The Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) is a global, non-partisan association with members in 46 countries. AARO strives to ensure that the contributions, needs and issues of Americans abroad are taken into account by the U.S. Government, and works closely with other international organizations to achieve common goals

AARO is writing to express its desire to work with the State Department more closely on passport related matters, including dissemination of announcements about procedural changes and fee changes.

Informal feedback received by us from U.S. citizens who live abroad indicates few are aware that after June 30, 2022, an expired passport may not be used to return directly to the United States, notwithstanding announcements earlier this year¹ and recently² about the policy change. We have made an announcement of this change to our members.

As an advocacy organization for overseas Americans, consular services such as passport matters are of particular concern to us. AARO can help the State Department in several ways, including by providing feedback on the impact to overseas Americans of procedural and fee changes and by disseminating announcements of these changes to overseas Americans.

Therefore, AARO hopes to be included in, and offers to assist with, passport related matters going forward and in advance of their implementation, which would be to the benefit of both the State Department and overseas Americans.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Doris Speer
AARO President

CC: Rena Bitter, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs

¹ <https://www.state.gov/extension-of-temporary-measure-allowing-return-travel-to-the-united-states-on-expired-u-s-passport-2/>

² <https://twitter.com/TravelGov/status/1537857652931366915>