



February 7th, 2017

Members of Democrats Abroad -

Over the past eight weeks, I've been listening to democrats from every corner of the globe, from Germany, Dubai and Taiwan to Wisconsin and Kansas. I've heard from activists ready to defend the progress we've made, stand up for our democratic values and fight Trump at every turn. And I've seen it happen - from organizing rallies across America, to opposing his shockingly unqualified cabinet nominees to sitting on airport floors filing legal challenges to the illegal, unjust and un-American travel ban, there is no question we are ready to fight.

And as we head into our final forum this weekend, I wanted to take this moment to thank you for the opportunities Democrats Abroad has given me to share my vision for countering Trump and moving our party forward. As someone who was on the frontlines of enforcing the MOVE Act and UOCAVA, I know DA does not have an easy mission. Reaching, engaging and supporting American voters across the world is a Herculean effort, and you have done a remarkable job with very little support from the DNC. But the impact of your efforts abroad on our elections at home cannot be overstated. Just ask voters in New Hampshire, or now-Senators Maggie Hassan, Al Franken and Jon Tester.

As the election for DNC Chair draws to a close and your voting membership begins to evaluate all the chair candidates, I wanted to outline my commitments to supporting DA. As Chair, I would:

- Work with DA to ensure fair funding to support the unique nature of DA's mission and organization
 - DA's funding must empower it to be a year-round organizing and outreach group, finding voters wherever they are and making sure they participate in the process
- Build a robust Voter Protection and Empowerment Office staffed by a team of legal experts operating year round to fight unjust and unfair voter suppression laws in every state, with a Director of Voter Empowerment who would:
 - Maintain a working group of Democrats Abroad to listen and act on the challenges faced by our voters scattered throughout the globe
 - Develop and implement strategies to make it easier for all voters abroad to cast their ballot, including fully enforcing the MOVE Act and UOCAVA and combat recurring issues like individuals living abroad being prematurely dropped from voting rolls
- Ensure Democrats Abroad DNC members are accorded one person, one vote just like other members
- Provide DA a point person within the DNC for a clear line of communications

As the DNC membership convenes in Atlanta, I would be grateful for the support of your voting members. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Perez