

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write to you to request your assistance in addressing the pressing matter of international parental child abduction. Since 2008, thousands of children have been kidnapped by a parent and taken to a foreign country. Fewer than half of those children are returned to their custodial parents. This criminal activity is devastating to left-behind parents.

As part of your confirmation process, you acknowledged that international parental child abduction “is a deeply concerning issue.” We appreciate your willingness to “strengthen the efforts the Department has undertaken to work with left-behind parents and advocacy organizations to return every child kidnapped abroad” and your commitment to “prioritize assessing the Department’s current structure and capacity” to ensure all tools available to the Department are put to their best use. To better inform our understanding of the Department’s efforts in that regard, we ask that you respond to the following questions by June 19, 2021:

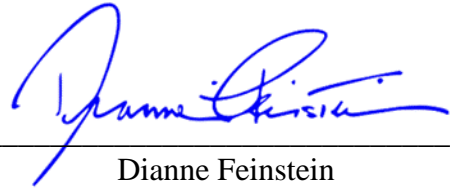
1. What steps will you personally take as Attorney General to engage directly with left behind parents and their advocacy organizations?
2. How will you direct the Department to prevent and resolve cases of international parental child abduction? Will you commit to directing U.S. Attorneys and DOJ staff to aggressively prosecute cases of international parental child abduction? If not, why not?
3. How will you work with the President and your colleagues at other agencies to reunite kidnapped children with their left-behind parents? What will you do to make sure this is a national priority as a well as a departmental one?
4. Are you willing to utilize extradition as a tool to bring those who kidnap American citizen children to justice in the United States?

We welcome your personal engagement on this issue and appreciate your timely attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator