



American Foreign Service Association

2101 E Street NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 338-4045

FAX (202) 338-6820 E-mail president@afsa.org

May 8th, 2015

Jonathan J. Finer
Chief of Staff
Department of State - HST 7226
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Chief of Staff Finer:

As we have discussed, AFSA has taken a significant interest in the issue of Schedule B appointments within the Department of State. We are concerned with the growth in number of these hires, especially at a time when the career ranks are barely able to hire to attrition levels, and we are concerned with the types of supervisory and policy jobs given to Schedule B hires, which have the potential to reduce the career development opportunities for both Foreign and Civil Service employees. This is an issue of urgent import to our members.

To that end, I would like to call your attention to an AFSA Board resolution, passed unanimously during its May 6, 2015 meeting. In my experience, the 29-member AFSA Board takes its role as the Voice of the Foreign Service very seriously and would not pass a motion unanimously if there were any opposing views among our various constituencies. Here is the text of the resolution:

“The AFSA Governing Board unanimously resolves to endorse the efforts of our elected officers to address the expansion of Schedule B hiring at the Department of State, with the aim of returning Schedule B hiring to its original intent of short-term technical advisors, rather than as a vehicle for political appointments.”

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continuing our discussions next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Silverman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Silverman

CC: Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom
Director General of the Foreign Service Arnold Chacon
Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy