

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

May 12, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Clinton and Salazar:

We are writing to follow-up on the October 6, 2009 letter to Assistant Secretaries Kurt Campbell (DOS/EAP) and Anthony M. Babauta (DOI/OIA) in which several of us requested assistance in developing policy options to manage the growing cost of providing healthcare to migrants to the U.S. from the Freely Associated States of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau (the "FAS"). These costs, as well as other social service costs, are a consequence of the policy established under the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-239), and continued under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, ("CFAAA") (P.L. 108-188) which provide FAS citizens with the privilege of being admitted into the United States "to lawfully engage in occupations, and establish residence as a nonimmigrant."

The earlier letter stated the belief that the policy of allowing FAS citizens to enter the U.S. for work, study, and residence is sound. However, recent trends indicate that the current implementation of that policy is unsustainable. FAS migrant's increasing reliance on social services in the United States, and the costs associated with that reliance, is greater than was anticipated when the Compact was negotiated twenty five years ago, and it well exceeds the \$30 million provided under the CFAAA to defray these costs.

After consideration of possible options available, we believe that a portion of Compact sector grant assistance should be utilized to mitigate the costs associated with Compact migration. During the bilateral meetings to be held this summer, we ask that the United States Government formally express the concerns of the U.S. regarding compact impact costs, and request formal adoption of the policies outlined below.

First, we believe it is important for potential FAS emigrants and those residing in the U.S. to understand that the privilege of entering the U.S. as a nonimmigrant is primarily intended to provide educational and employment opportunities, so that FAS citizens can return home with skills and experience that will permit them to contribute to

the development of their nations. Or, for those who remain in the U.S., that they will obtain steady employment and not become overly reliant on U.S. social programs. Specifically, we request that a portion of Compact Education Sector grant funding be used to fund a program to educate FAS citizens on the intent of the open migration policy and the expectations of those who enter the U.S. under the Compact.

Second, it appears that the single greatest compact impact cost is for services to those who need long-term medical treatment for conditions such as diabetes. Accordingly, we request that a portion of the Infrastructure Sector and Health Sector grant funding be committed to the establishment and operation of dialysis treatment facilities in the FSM and the RMI so that patients will not need to seek treatment in the U.S.

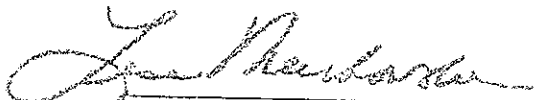
Third, we believe that consideration needs to be given to reducing the number of migrants who are likely to become a public charge. Accordingly, we request that the bilateral meetings consider screening measures that could be implemented by the FAS governments to reduce the rate of migration of persons who are likely to develop an over-reliance on social services.

Finally, we ask that you report to Congress by October 1, 2011 on the outcome of the bilateral talks including the decisions made regarding the policies outlined above. It is in the interest of all parties that the increasing costs of Compact migration be effectively managed before they become a source of serious friction in relations.

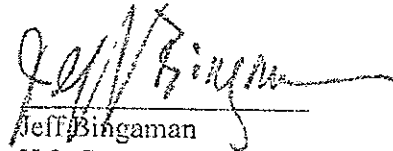
We expect that these policies will be agreed to during the upcoming bilateral meetings and that all parties will remain committed to the spirit of cooperation that has ensured the success of the Compacts for twenty-five years.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests.

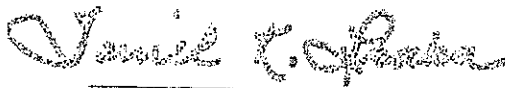
Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator



Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator



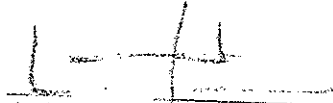
Daniel Akaka  
U.S. Senator



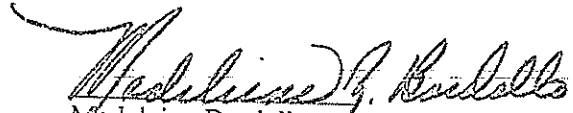
Daniel Inouye  
U.S. Senator



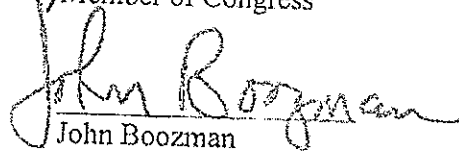
Mazie Hirono  
Member of Congress



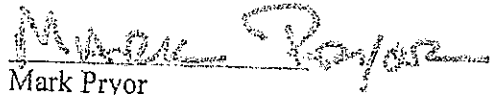
Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator



Mark Pryor  
U.S. Senator

CC: The Honorable Lorin Robert  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
Federated States of Micronesia

The Honorable John Silk  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of the Marshall Islands.

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