

James R. Meenan  
U.S. Foreign Service Officer (Retired)



February 2, 2024

I am pleased to write in support of House Bill 518, the Foreign Service Retirement Benefits Subtraction.

It is time to recognize the contributions and demonstrate support for the Diplomats who have and continue to carry out the foreign policy of the United States and aiding citizens abroad, including the 320 who have lost their lives under heroic or tragic circumstances.

May 24, 2024 marks the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service and H.B. 518 offers an ideal opportunity to show Virginia's support for those retired Officers who have provided the front-line defense of our nation in foreign policies aimed at defusing potential military actions.

These retired Diplomats continue to provide vital information and guidance to government policy makers, legislatures, and scholars through their ongoing advice and the recordings of their Oral Histories of overseas events that are on file with the U.S. Library of Congress. The Histories are searchable by Diplomat's Name or Country of Interest via the organizer's Internet site at [ADST.ORG/ORAL-HISTORY](http://ADST.ORG/ORAL-HISTORY).

I encourage you to consider approval of H.B.518 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Meenan".

James Meenan  
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