

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4526

To establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2021

Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “City and State Diplo-  
5 macy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The supremacy clause of the United States  
9 Constitution (article VI, clause 2) establishes that

1 the Federal Government has the primary role in con-  
2 ducting diplomacy on behalf of the United States; in  
3 turn, the Department of State, which was created  
4 pursuant to statute by Congress in 1789, has the  
5 lead role in formulating and implementing United  
6 States foreign policy.

7 (2) The growth of subnational cooperation has  
8 enabled States and municipalities to play an increas-  
9 ingly significant role in foreign policy and com-  
10 plement the efforts of the Department of State by—

11 (A) supporting exchanges and cooperation  
12 agreements between elected leaders and officials  
13 of State and municipal governments and those  
14 of international cities, regions, and countries;

15 (B) promoting United States exports to  
16 foreign markets and foreign direct investment  
17 into the United States; and

18 (C) sharing best practices and striking  
19 agreements with foreign counterparts on a wide  
20 range of topics, including facilitating trade and  
21 investment, protecting the health and safety of  
22 their respective citizens, cooperating on energy  
23 and the environment, and promoting people-to-  
24 people exchanges.

1           (3) Global networks made up exclusively of local  
2 government officials are at the forefront of har-  
3 nassing the power of cities to advance international  
4 cooperation, including C40 Cities Climate Leader-  
5 ship Group, ICLEI, United Cities and Local Govern-  
6 ments, Global Parliament of Mayors, Urban20,  
7 Strong Cities Network, and Global Compact of May-  
8 ors.

9           (4) In 2010, the Department of State appointed  
10 the first-ever special representative for Global Inter-  
11 governmental Affairs, who led efforts to build stra-  
12 tegic peer-to-peer relationships between the Depart-  
13 ment of State, State and local officials, and their  
14 foreign counterparts.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17           (1) it is in the interest of the United States to  
18 support robust two-way partnerships between the  
19 Department of State and subnational entities to ad-  
20 vance United States foreign policy objectives, im-  
21 prove understanding of United States diplomacy,  
22 and leverage Federal resources to enhance the im-  
23 pact of subnational engagements; and

24           (2) the creation in the Department of State of  
25 an Office of City and State Diplomacy, headed by a

1 senior Department official of appropriate rank to  
2 represent the United States at international fora  
3 would bolster United States interests through inter-  
4 national agreements and Federal support to State  
5 and local entities.

6 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF CITY AND**  
7 **STATE DIPLOMACY.**

8 Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities  
9 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by adding at  
10 the end the following new subsection:

11 “(i) OFFICE OF CITY AND STATE DIPLOMACY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established  
13 within the Department of State an Office of City  
14 and State Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to  
15 as the ‘Office’). The Department may use a similar  
16 name at its discretion and upon notification to Con-  
17 gress.

18 “(2) HEAD OF OFFICE.—The head of the Office  
19 shall be the Ambassador-at-Large for City and State  
20 Diplomacy (in this subsection referred to as the  
21 ‘Ambassador’) or other appropriate senior official.  
22 The head of the Office shall—

23 “(A) be appointed by the President, by and  
24 with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

1           “(B) report directly to the Secretary, or  
2 such other senior official as the Secretary deter-  
3 mines appropriate and upon notification to  
4 Congress.

5           “(3) DUTIES.—

6           “(A) PRINCIPAL DUTY.—The principal  
7 duty of the head of the Office shall be the over-  
8 all coordination (including policy oversight of  
9 resources) of Federal support for subnational  
10 engagements by State and municipal govern-  
11 ments with foreign governments. The head of  
12 the Office shall be the principal adviser to the  
13 Secretary of State on subnational engagements  
14 and the principal official on such matters within  
15 the senior management of the Department of  
16 State.

17           “(B) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The addi-  
18 tional duties of the head of the Office shall in-  
19 clude the following:

20           “(i) Coordinating overall United  
21 States policy and programs in support of  
22 subnational engagements by State and mu-  
23 nicipal governments with foreign govern-  
24 ments, including with respect to the fol-  
25 lowing:

1                   “(I) Coordinating resources  
2                   across the Department of State and  
3                   throughout the Federal Government  
4                   in support of such engagements.

5                   “(II) Identifying policy, program,  
6                   and funding discrepancies among rel-  
7                   evant Federal agencies regarding such  
8                   coordination.

9                   “(III) Identifying gaps in Fed-  
10                  eral support for such engagements  
11                  and developing corresponding policy  
12                  or programmatic changes to address  
13                  such gaps.

14                  “(ii) Identifying areas of alignment  
15                  between United States foreign policy and  
16                  State and municipal goals.

17                  “(iii) Improving communication with  
18                  the American public, including, potentially,  
19                  communication that demonstrate the  
20                  breadth of international engagement by  
21                  subnational actors and the impact of diplo-  
22                  macy across the United States.

23                  “(iv) Providing advisory support to  
24                  subnational engagements, including by as-

1           sisting State and municipal governments  
2           regarding—

3                   “(I) developing and implementing  
4                   global engagement and public diplo-  
5                   macy strategies;

6                   “(II) implementing programs to  
7                   cooperate with foreign governments on  
8                   policy priorities or managing shared  
9                   resources; and

10                   “(III) understanding the implica-  
11                   tions of foreign policy developments or  
12                   policy changes through regular and  
13                   extraordinary briefings.

14                   “(v) Facilitating linkages and net-  
15                   works among State and municipal govern-  
16                   ments, and between State and municipal  
17                   governments and their foreign counter-  
18                   parts, including by tracking subnational  
19                   engagements and leveraging State and mu-  
20                   nicipal expertise.

21                   “(vi) Supporting the work of Depart-  
22                   ment of State detailees assigned to State  
23                   and municipal governments pursuant to  
24                   this subsection.

1           “(vii) Under the direction of the Sec-  
2           retary, negotiating agreements and memo-  
3           randa of understanding with foreign gov-  
4           ernments related to subnational engage-  
5           ments and priorities.

6           “(viii) Supporting United States eco-  
7           nomic interests through subnational en-  
8           gagements, in consultation and coordina-  
9           tion with the Department of Commerce,  
10          the Department of the Treasury, and the  
11          Office of the United States Trade Rep-  
12          resentative.

13          “(ix) Coordinating subnational en-  
14          gagements with the associations of sub-  
15          national elected leaders, including the  
16          United States Conference of Mayors, Na-  
17          tional Governors Association, National  
18          League of Cities, National Association of  
19          Counties, Council of State Governments,  
20          National Conference of State Legislators,  
21          and State International Development Or-  
22          ganizations.

23          “(4) COORDINATION.—With respect to matters  
24          involving trade promotion and inward investment fa-  
25          cilitation, the Office shall coordinate with and sup-



1 port the International Trade Administration of the  
2 Department of Commerce as the lead Federal agen-  
3 cy for trade promotion and facilitation of business  
4 investment in the United States.

5 “(5) DETAILEES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
7 State, with respect to employees of the Depart-  
8 ment of State, is authorized to detail a member  
9 of the civil service or Foreign Service to State  
10 and municipal governments on a reimbursable  
11 or nonreimbursable basis. Such details shall be  
12 for a period not to exceed two years, and shall  
13 be without interruption or loss of status or  
14 privilege.

15 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Detailees under  
16 subparagraph (A) should carry out the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(i) Supporting the mission and objec-  
19 tives of the host subnational government  
20 office.

21 “(ii) Advising State and municipal  
22 government officials regarding questions of  
23 global affairs, foreign policy, cooperative  
24 agreements, and public diplomacy.

1           “(iii) Coordinating activities relating  
2 to State and municipal government sub-  
3 national engagements with the Department  
4 of State, including the Office, Department  
5 leadership, and regional and functional bu-  
6 reaus of the Department, as appropriate.

7           “(iv) Engaging Federal agencies re-  
8 garding security, public health, trade pro-  
9 motion, and other programs executed at  
10 the State or municipal government level.

11           “(v) Any other duties requested by  
12 State and municipal governments and ap-  
13 proved by the Office.

14           “(C) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SUPPORT  
15 FOR SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—For the  
16 purposes of this subsection, the Secretary of  
17 State—

18           “(i) is authorized to employ individ-  
19 uals by contract;

20           “(ii) is encouraged to make use of the  
21 re-hired annuitants authority under section  
22 3323 of title 5, United States Code, par-  
23 ticularly for annuitants who are already re-  
24 siding across the United States who may

1 have the skills and experience to support  
2 subnational governments; and

3 “(iii) is encouraged to make use of  
4 authorities under the Intergovernmental  
5 Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et  
6 seq.) to temporarily assign State and local  
7 government officials to the Department of  
8 State or overseas missions to increase their  
9 international experience and add their per-  
10 spectives on United States priorities to the  
11 Department.

12 “(6) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

13 “(A) REPORT.—Not later than one year  
14 after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
15 section, the head of the Office shall submit to  
16 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
17 Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
18 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign  
19 Relations and the Committee on Appropriations  
20 of the Senate a report that includes information  
21 relating to the following:

22 “(i) The staffing plan (including per-  
23 manent and temporary staff) for the Office  
24 and a justification for the location of the

1 Office within the Department of State’s or-  
2 ganizational structure.

3 “(ii) The funding level provided to the  
4 Office for the Office, together with a jus-  
5 tification relating to such level.

6 “(iii) The rank and title granted to  
7 the head of the Office, together with a jus-  
8 tification relating to such decision and an  
9 analysis of whether the rank and title of  
10 Ambassador-at-Large is required to fulfill  
11 the duties of the Office.

12 “(iv) A strategic plan for the Office,  
13 including relating to—

14 “(I) leveraging subnational en-  
15 gagement to improve United States  
16 foreign policy effectiveness;

17 “(II) enhancing the awareness,  
18 understanding, and involvement of  
19 United States citizens in the foreign  
20 policy process; and

21 “(III) better engaging with for-  
22 eign subnational governments to  
23 strengthen diplomacy.

24 “(v) Any other matters as determined  
25 relevant by the head of the Office.

1           “(B) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days  
2 after the submission of the report required  
3 under subparagraph (A) and annually there-  
4 after, the head of the Office shall brief the  
5 Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Com-  
6 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-  
8 lations and the Committee on Appropriations of  
9 the Senate on the work of the Office and any  
10 changes made to the organizational structure or  
11 funding of the Office.

12           “(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
13 this subsection may be construed as precluding—

14           “(A) the Office from being elevated to a  
15 bureau within the Department of State; or

16           “(B) the head of the Office from being ele-  
17 vated to an Assistant Secretary, if such an As-  
18 sistant Secretary position does not increase the  
19 number of Assistant Secretary positions at the  
20 Department above the number authorized under  
21 subsection (c)(1).

22           “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23           “(A) MUNICIPAL.—The term ‘municipal’  
24 means, with respect to the government of a mu-  
25 nicipality in the United States, a municipality

1 with a population of not fewer than 100,000  
2 people.

3 “(B) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the  
4 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any  
5 territory or possession of the United States.

6 “(C) SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—The  
7 term ‘subnational engagement’ means formal  
8 meetings or events between elected officials of  
9 State or municipal governments and their for-  
10 eign counterparts.”.

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