

Foreign Policy and National Security Statement of Endorsement for Pete Buttigieg

We, the undersigned, are women and men from all walks of American life who have dedicated ourselves to global engagement. We come from communities throughout the country, large and small, rural and urban, coastal and plains. Many of us have worked at the White House and throughout government as diplomats and development professionals, intelligence officers and trade specialists, counterterrorism, immigration and cyber-security experts, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard personnel. Others of us have worked in non-profit organizations and think tanks, universities and village schools, technology companies, small businesses and start-ups, human rights and veteran service organizations, cultural institutions, refugee settlements, health and education initiatives and world economic programs. And many of us have served our country in uniform and in civilian clothes on the frontlines in times of conflict, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. Our work has taken us to all corners of the globe.

Our paths have been varied, but we have pursued a common aim: to make a difference on behalf of the United States by creating a better world—one with less strife, less hate, greater understanding. To that end, we have engaged with our counterparts abroad, celebrating the cultural and religious differences among us, to jointly achieve economic opportunity, cleaner air and water, better access to education and healthcare, less risk of nuclear war, and an appreciation for the common humanity that connects us all. These are the values and goals that have motivated us as foreign policy and national security professionals. We have proudly represented a nation that has long stood for the values, opportunities and promise to which so many around the world have aspired. And we have done so as American citizens who have seen firsthand the ways in which our effective engagement abroad contributes to our safety and well-being at home.

That is why we have all watched with alarm and disbelief at the loss of American credibility and leadership around the world over the past three years. Our nation, which has been a global beacon for, and enriched by, the hard work and contributions of immigrants from all over the world, is now led by a President who has replaced our national symbol -- the Statue of Liberty -- with a wall. The United States, which has brought other nations together in common defense and for common purpose, from preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to fighting the challenges of climate change, is now led by a President who withdraws from treaties, berates our allies and praises authoritarian leaders. Americans who once believed that engaging abroad on behalf of their country represented the highest calling of public service are now leaving government in droves, their talents and services demeaned and dismissed, their service on the battlefield used for partisan political benefit.

We believe in America's international leadership, and in the values that underpin its capability to bring about collective security and prosperity, as well as change for the greater good. So we cannot stand by and continue to watch all that we have stood and worked for tweeted away. Over the course of the past year, we have watched the emergence of a young leader who shares our belief in America's leadership role and values. A man who has served his country on the battlefield in the tradition of his mother's family; who himself is the son of an immigrant father and a military family mother, who each became respected college professors; who has travelled the world and served his country abroad; who has engaged deeply to learn about other cultures and learn their languages; who returned to the Midwest to apply the benefits of his education and his experience to the betterment of his home town; and who understands that, at a time of unprecedented change that has both shaped and buffeted his generation, we can and must find ways to ensure that change does not victimize some among us but works for all of us.

Pete Buttigieg's intelligence, steadiness, demeanor and understanding of the forces now shaping the world resonate profoundly with us. We applaud the application of his long-term approach to the generational consequences of near-term decisions. He sees the big picture and plays the long game: essential traits for implementing consistent and effective national security and foreign policies. When he spoke about American engagement in the world at Indiana University in June, he demonstrated a grasp of the integrated idealism and pragmatism that has been key to the success of American foreign policy initiatives from the Marshall Plan to the Paris climate accord. This Midwestern native's vision for the future of American global engagement – grounded in these values and in the interests of his fellow Americans in communities throughout the country – defines the framework necessary to restore our country's leadership abroad.

We are proud to stand with a leader who represents the hard work, values and hopes that have motivated us throughout our careers. And we are proud to support Pete Buttigieg to be the next President of the United States.

Signed:

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