



December 12, 2013

Dear Senator Graham,

The American Foreign Service Association fully supports the ongoing Congressional effort to provide justice through financial compensation to the men and women who were seized in Tehran on November 4, 1979, and subsequently held captive in Iran (the "Iran hostages"). All of these fellow Americans served our nation with honor and distinction, and they and their families deserve our nation's eternal gratitude. Moreover, these individuals deserve the right to seek fair and equitable justice as victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

AFSA applauds the State Department for working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in an effort to give closure to the hostages and their families. We further applaud the tremendous efforts of Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Corker, and Senators Isakson and Blumenthal in moving S. 559, the "Justice for Former American Hostages in Iran Act of 2013," through the committee process. In the House of Representatives, we also applaud, H.R. 3200, "The Justice for Former American Hostages in Iran Act of 2013," a companion bill to S. 559 introduced by Congressman Bruce Braley.

Our nation's Foreign Service is the institutional backbone of American diplomacy, vital to both homeland security and the nation's policy goals abroad. Each and every day Foreign Service officers, embassy security personnel, members of the military and intelligence communities, and other diplomatic staff rise in faraway countries and risk their lives to provide necessary services to U.S. citizens and perform essential duties for our government.

The Iran hostages represent Foreign Service officials who made a particularly incredible sacrifice for their country. These Americans and their families are deserving of fair, equitable and swift justice, and we urge the Administration and Congress to address the aforementioned issues and help bring this matter to a close.

Sincerely,

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

Robert J. Silverman  
AFSA President