

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by  
Senator Robert Menendez (#1)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2010**

**Question:**

Given your wife’s employment by the Hudson Institute, what specific steps have you taken to comply with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regulations that stipulate that all federal employees “shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or ethical standards” (5 CFR § 2635.101). In your testimony, you indicated that your wife had changed the scope of her work to avoid a conflict of interest. At what point did she make this change and what specific areas does your wife now work on? What firewalls have you put into place to protect each of you from any potential or perceived conflict of interest? How do you plan to maintain appropriate firewalls in the future, particularly related to financing the Hudson Institute may receive from outside sources that have an interest in the region?

**Answer:**

Before being nominated to serve, the Obama Administration undertook a thorough and comprehensive review of my candidacy, including a complete and exhaustive examination of my family’s finances. The Administration has held all of its ambassadorial nominees to the highest ethical standards.

During the course of the past few years, my wife gradually shifted the focus of her work at the Hudson Institute away from the South Caucasus and toward the inter-relationships of Islam, democracy, and extremism in Europe and the United States. Since January 2009 she has conducted no conferences, briefings, studies, or other official work related to the South Caucasus. She has received no salary from the Hudson Institute since May 2009 and was officially placed on leave without pay on June 1, 2009. Her program at the Hudson Institute, the Center for Eurasia Policy, will shut down at the end of July, in keeping with her pre-existing plan to go on extended maternity leave. She has also agreed not to communicate with the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs or with the U.S. Mission to Azerbaijan on behalf of the Hudson Institute as long as I am serving as U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan.

I will follow the federal ethics rules and my ethics commitment not to participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the Hudson Institute is a party or represents a party, unless I am authorized to participate.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by  
Senator Robert Menendez (#2)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2010**

**Question:**

Please elaborate on the decision making process that resulted in the exclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh from the OSCE Minsk Group peace process. Is it your belief that this exclusion is the result of Armenia's request to the other parties to the negotiations? Please explain why or why not.

**Answer:**

Karabakhi and Armenian authorities agreed in 1999 that the Armenian President would represent Karabakhi interests in negotiations regarding the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia has represented NK in the peace process since that time. The views of the Karabakhi Armenians are taken into account by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs through regular visits to Nagorno-Karabakh and meetings with the de facto authorities, among others.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by  
Senator Robert Menendez (#3)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2010**

**Question:**

Beyond your brief March 2006 public statement calling the videotaped demolition of an ancient Armenian cemetery in Djulfa a “tragedy,” what steps did you take to pursue a Department of State investigation into the demolition? If confirmed, will you commit to visiting the Djulfa site? What steps will you take to highlight the important cultural patrimony of this and other Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan and ensure that they are being protected?

**Answer:**

Upon learning of the desecration of the Djulfa Cemetery in December 2005, I immediately expressed my concern to the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and began to gather additional facts. In March, during my first visit to the region following the December 2005 report, I publicly condemned the desecration at Djulfa and reiterated with Azerbaijan’s top leaders the serious concern of the United States regarding this issue.

If I am confirmed, I pledge to continue to stress in public and private the need to respect and safeguard Armenian religious and cultural sites in

Azerbaijan, and will visit Djulfa. I will also visit other sites of Armenian cultural significance, in addition to Djulfa, to call attention to the need to preserve them.