

SIMÓN LEVY

[Contact information redacted for public release]

September 27, 2026

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Consular Affairs, Overseas Citizens Services

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520

**PETITION FOR REVIEW OF POTENTIALLY EXPATRIATING CONDUCT
BY A U.S. CITIZEN HOLDING OFFICE IN A FOREIGN LEGISLATURE
Re: Francisco Ricardo Sheffield Padilla · 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1481(a)(4)**

To the Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs:

I respectfully submit this petition asking the Department of State to review whether the conduct described below, undertaken by Francisco Ricardo Sheffield Padilla, a United States citizen by birth and a sitting Senator of the United Mexican States, constitutes a potentially expatriating act within the meaning of 8 U.S.C. Section 1481(a)(4). I do not allege that any determination has been made. I ask that the Department examine the facts and apply the statute.

I. THE PERSON.

1. Francisco Ricardo Sheffield Padilla was born in Los Angeles, California, on October 30, 1966, and is a United States citizen by birth. The person is a Senator of the Republic for the State of Guanajuato, a member of the Morena parliamentary group, serving since September 1, 2024. He has publicly described himself as binational.

II. THE CONDUCT.

2. On September 22, 2026, Mexico's Chamber of Deputies approved, by 344 votes to 116

1 with 1 abstention, a reform of Articles 82, 116 and 122 of the Mexican Constitution
2 requiring single Mexican nationality, and renunciation of any other, to serve as President of
3 the Republic, Governor, or Head of Government of Mexico City. The text also bars those
4 officeholders from invoking another nationality or claiming another State's diplomatic
5 protection.

6 3. On September 23, 2026, Senate committees approved the bill 23 to 9. The Senate floor
7 vote is scheduled for September 29, 2026. The reform requires two-thirds of the senators
8 present. The bloc to which the named person belongs holds 87 seats; with one announced no
9 vote within that bloc, the supermajority has no votes to spare.

10 4. If the named person votes in favor, the person will act, as holder of office in a foreign
11 government, to establish in a foreign constitution that United States citizenship is
12 incompatible with that State's highest executive offices.

13 **III. THE STATUTE AND THE QUESTION PRESENTED.**

14 5. Under 8 U.S.C. Section 1481(a)(4), a U.S. national may lose nationality by accepting,
15 serving in, or performing the duties of an office under the government of a foreign state, if a
16 national of that state, when done voluntarily and with the intention of relinquishing U.S.
17 nationality.

18 6. The intent to retain nationality is presumed, and intent to relinquish must be proven.
19 *Afroyim v. Rusk*, 387 U.S. 253 (1967); *Vance v. Terrazas*, 444 U.S. 252 (1980). Loss is not
20 automatic and does not follow from a single vote. For policy-level offices, the Department
21 reviews case by case.

22 7. The question presented is narrow: whether service in a foreign national legislature,
23 combined with a vote to constitutionalize the incompatibility of U.S. citizenship with that
24 State's executive branch, is conduct the Department should review as evidence of intent
25 under Section 1481(a)(4).

26 **IV. RELIEF REQUESTED.**

1 8. I respectfully request that the Department (a) open a review of the conduct described; (b)
2 determine the current nationality status of the named person, including any formal
3 renunciation before a consular officer under Section 1481(a)(5) and the use of a U.S.
4 passport; and (c) preserve the record, including the roll call of the September 29 vote, which
5 will be supplied upon publication.

6 Exhibit A, listing the public-record sources, is attached. This petition presents facts of public
7 record, asserts no guilt, conditions no vote, and is submitted with full respect for the
8 presumption of innocence and for Mexico's sovereign right to legislate.

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10 Respectfully submitted,

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13 *[Signature redacted]*

14 **SIMÓN LEVY**

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