

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Biden,

We write to thank you for your strong leadership during a tragic and dangerous moment in the Middle East. The horrific attack on October 7 against Israel by the terrorist organization Hamas took the lives of over 1,400 people, injured over 3,000 more, and resulted in the capture of nearly 200 people – including many American citizens – who are being held as hostages in Gaza. You have rightly condemned these actions as pure evil and expressed the United States' steadfast support for our ally Israel in a moment of need and horror.

We stand with you in supporting Israel and are ready to provide whatever assistance the state and people of Israel need to defend themselves and to ensure that hostages return home and those who perpetrated these crimes against humanity are held accountable.

We are grateful as well for your clear statements regarding the fundamental importance of ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population of Gaza are met, and that all possible steps are being taken to ensure the safety of civilians and noncombatants in the Strip. Reportedly, more than 3,000 people have been killed and more than 9,700 wounded in Gaza, making it imperative that we act to prevent further loss of innocent lives. We agree with you that Israel's response must be in accordance with international law and our shared democratic values.

We support the efforts that Secretary Blinken and your entire administration are making to ensure that the basic necessities of life for Gaza's civilians are available, such as food, water, and medicine. In addition, we must enable those civilians and noncombatants who want to seek refuge temporarily in safe zones in southern Gaza to be given safe passage, and to ensure that they have the ability to return to their communities in Gaza when the war is over.

A commitment to Israel's security and right to respond to terror is not incompatible with a commitment to the humanitarian needs of the innocent people of Gaza. Indeed, you are correctly charting a path that promotes American values and interests when we pursue both goals together.

We further support the efforts that your administration is undertaking to prevent the conflict from escalating to other fronts in this war, including to Israel's north, as evidenced by the decision to deploy carrier strike groups to the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, we urge your administration to work closely with Israel and regional partners to ensure stability on the West Bank and to prevent any escalation of violence in that region.

Even after this war between Israel and Hamas is over, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians cannot be solved ultimately by any military means. When this crisis ends, your leadership together with regional partners

will be needed to create a path to a sustainable future because, as you have so often pointed out, both Israelis and Palestinians deserve equal measures of freedom, security, opportunity and dignity. There will never be an end to the violence until that goal is achieved, and we know that the United States will have a significant role in the pursuit of the peaceful coexistence between Israel and its neighbors.

Thank you again for your steady and determined leadership at this critical time. We look forward to continuing to work with you in defense of Israel and, ultimately, in pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

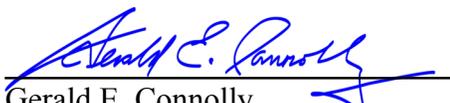
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress

  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

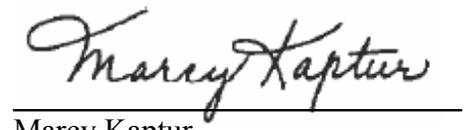
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

  
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress

  
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress

  
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

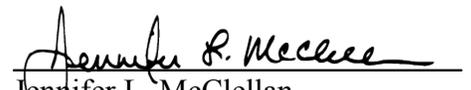
  
Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

  
Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress

  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

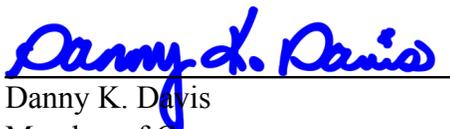
  
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress

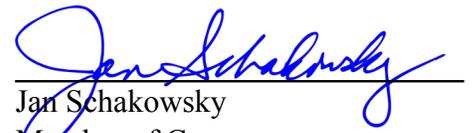
  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



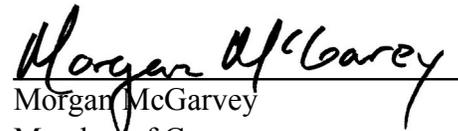
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



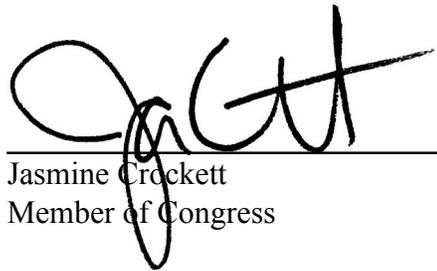
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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



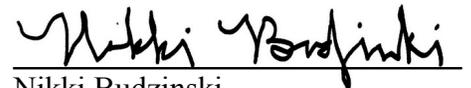
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



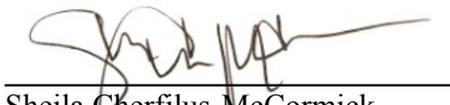
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



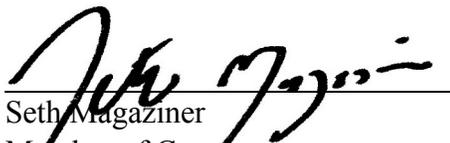
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress

  
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress

  
Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

  
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



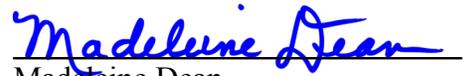
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



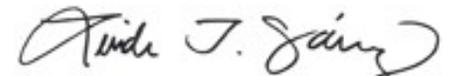
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



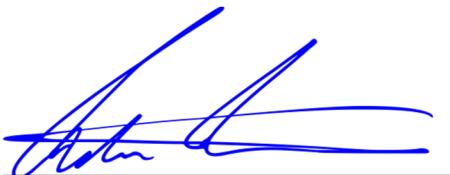
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



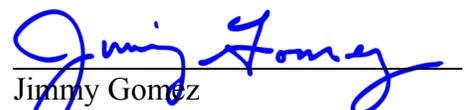
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

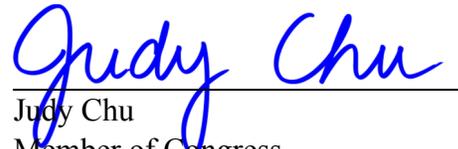


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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Education and the Workforce



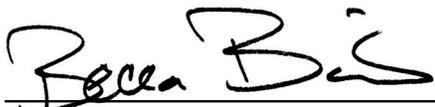
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



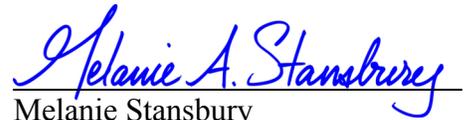
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



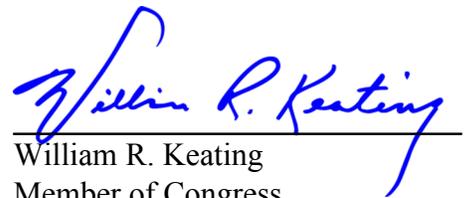
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



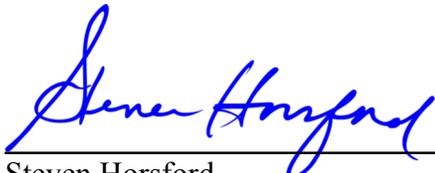
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress

  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

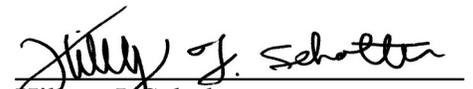
  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

  
Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress

  
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress

  
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress

  
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

*Kathy Castor*

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Member of Congress

*Kathy Manning*

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Member of Congress

*Jared Moskowitz*

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Member of Congress

*Brad Sherman*

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Member of Congress

*Bradley Scott Schneider*

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Member of Congress

*Debbie Wasserman Schultz*

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Member of Congress

*Frederica S. Wilson*

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Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

*Josh Gottheimer*

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Member of Congress

*Greg Landsman*

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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Case  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress