

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We thank you for your strong leadership and steadfast support for the people of Israel in the wake of the devastating Hamas attack on October 7th, the deadliest day in the history of the Jewish people since the Holocaust. We are unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas, the perpetrator of these attacks, and we must ensure Hamas releases all hostages taken on October 7th and ceases their attacks into Israel. We are also resolute in our shared commitment to preserving Israel's security and democracy.

Nevertheless, we are deeply troubled by the Netanyahu government's handling of the war in Gaza. This includes the disregard for the well-being of civilians, and Prime Minister Netanyahu's outright refusal to outline a legitimate exit strategy or a path forward for stability and security for Israel and the region.

We commend your Administration for beginning to lay out critical components of a vision for long-term security that is based upon a commitment to a two-state solution – and thus, the necessity of working toward the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel.

While Israel is not the only actor in the region which must take tangible steps toward a two-state solution, we are concerned that Prime Minister Netanyahu and other ministers in his coalition have consistently [dismissed](#) your stated vision; the Prime Minister has even prided himself on his role in disrupting the Oslo process and [preventing](#) the establishment of a Palestinian state. We are deeply troubled by his recent remarks that he “will not compromise on full Israeli security control over all the territory west of the Jordan – and this is contrary to a Palestinian state.”

We believe that the Administration must continue to use all of its diplomatic leverage to ensure that Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and all relevant regional actors pursue a path toward the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

To that end, we urge you to consider the following:

1. Continue to urge the Israeli government to pursue a negotiated stop to the fighting to achieve the immediate release of the hostages, secure desperately needed humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza, and conduct a full assessment of the prosecution of this war – including whether it is laying the groundwork for a lasting peace.
2. Publicly outline a clear plan and pathway to a Palestinian state that emphasizes the critical role that a significantly reformed Palestinian Authority must play in post-war

Gaza; and further make clear that the US will not accept Hamas's occupation or operational control of Gaza, nor Israel's reoccupation of Gaza or any attempt to establish Israeli illegal outposts or settlements in the Gaza Strip.

3. Institute greater oversight over arms and material purchased with US assistance to verify compliance with domestic and international law. To that end, we welcome your recent National Security Memorandum and look forward to its enforcement. Additionally, continue to press the Israeli government that going forward – if the fighting continues – the war must be carried out through targeted and limited operations against Hamas that are conducive to implementing an exit strategy and a transitional governance structure in Gaza.
4. Take continued action to preserve and ensure the opportunity for a two-state solution, such as by reinforcing US positioning that the West Bank and Gaza are “occupied territory” under international law, and continuing to condemn and further hold accountable settler violence in the West Bank by enforcing the recent executive order.

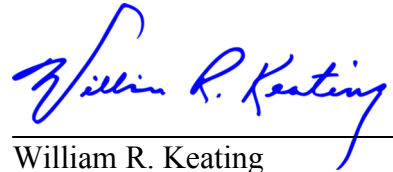
We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Israeli people; and we also unequivocally support the Palestinian people's dignity, right to life, and right to self-determination. Israel's long-term security and peace will only come with the prioritization of reconciliation and the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a two-state solution.

We urge that you consider these policy changes in order to lay the groundwork for diplomatic resolution resulting in two states for two peoples.

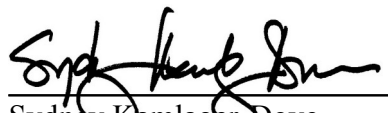
Sincerely,



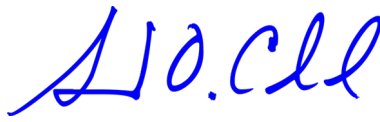
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



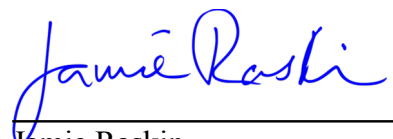
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



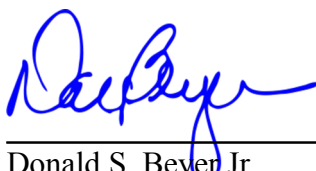
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Bill Foster
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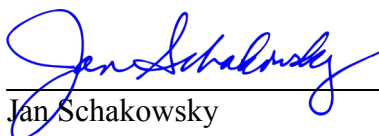
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



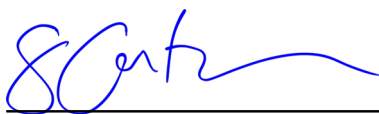
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



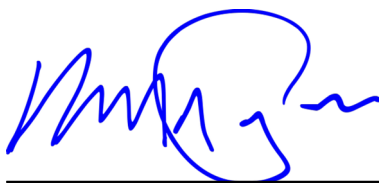
Sean Casten
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Marcy Kaptur
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Mark Pocan
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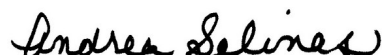
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



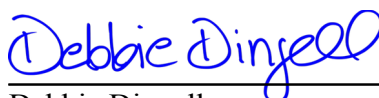
James P. McGovern
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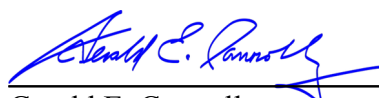
Dwight Evans
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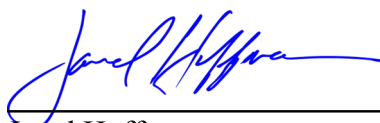
Eric Swalwell
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Maxine Waters
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Joaquin Castro
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Paul D. Tonko
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Daniel T. Kildee
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Becca Balint
Member of Congress



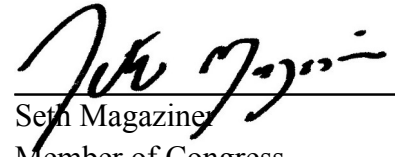
Veronica Escobar
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



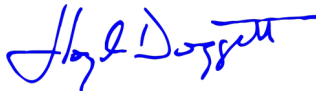
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Seth Magaziner
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Betty McCollum
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Lloyd Doggett
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



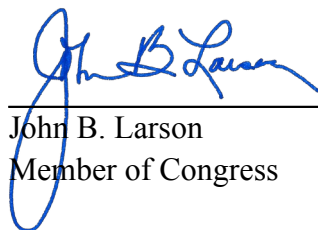
Zoe Lofgren
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Mike Quigley
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Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
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Steve Cohen
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John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Al Green
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Scion of the Enslaved
Africans -
Sacrificed to Make America
Great

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Chellie Pingree
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Robert Garcia
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