

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

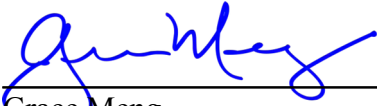
Since Hamas' indiscriminate attack on Israel Saturday morning, our offices have received harrowing reports from constituents who remain in Israel and are seeking to return to the United States as soon as possible. We write to express our grave concern for their wellbeing and safety. Given the rapidly escalating situation as Israel launches a counteroffensive, it is imperative that you use all tools at your disposal to return all U.S. nationals in Israel home who wish to do so.

Almost 50 years to the day of the start of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas terrorists crossed the border and began slaughtering Israelis and abducting hostages in towns in southern Israel. To date, thousands of lives—including 11 Americans—have been lost due to Hamas' indiscriminate and brutal assault since Saturday. Hamas' heinous actions also include taking over 150 Israeli hostages, which our offices have received reports that Americans are among those taken hostage in Gaza, including New Yorkers. It has been devastating to see the horrific accounts of those around the country taking shelter from the thousands of rockets launched from Gaza. This past weekend was meant to be one of happiness and celebration for the Jewish community. Instead, our constituents were left distraught and in tears fearing for the safety of their friends and loved ones in Israel.

While we appreciate the steps the Biden administration is taking to provide additional security assistance to Israel, we urge the State Department to use all resources at its disposal, including charter flights, to help those Americans that remain in Israel and wish to return to the United States. As you are aware, airlines have cancelled most flights out of Ben Gurion Airport, and some have suspended operations in the region. As the number of casualties continues to rise, our constituents who remain in Israel fear for their lives. We ask that you consider charter flights and military options for evacuation, simultaneously.

At this harrowing moment in Israel's history, it is more important than ever that every American who is looking to return home has the opportunity to do so. We look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



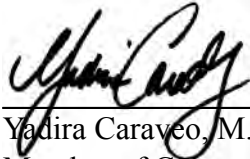
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



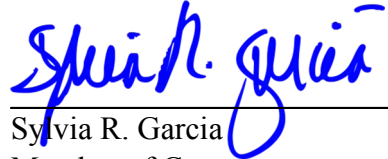
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



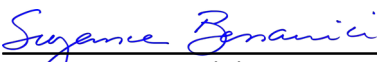
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



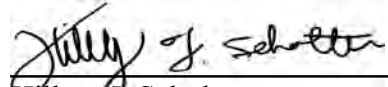
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



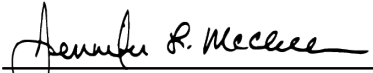
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



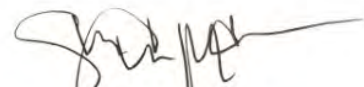
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



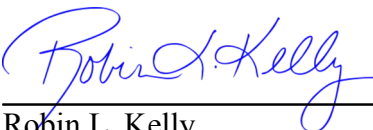
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



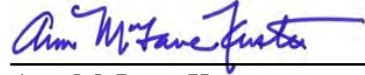
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



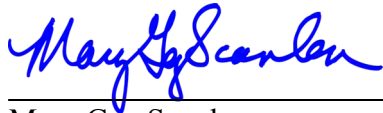
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



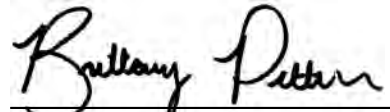
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



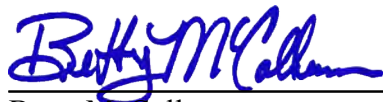
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



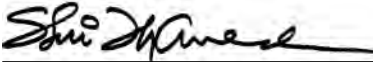
Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress




Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



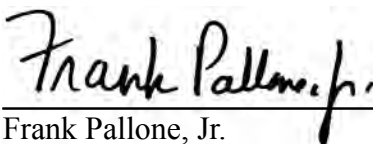
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



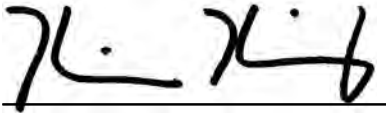
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



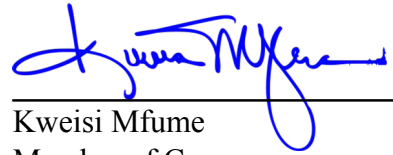
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



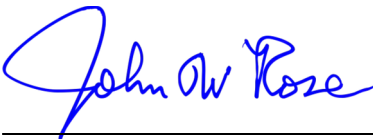
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



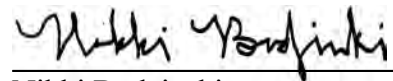
John Rose
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



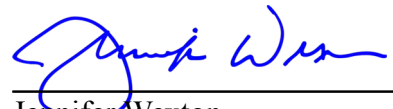
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



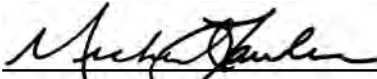
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



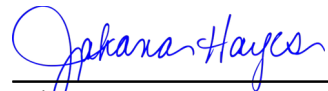
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



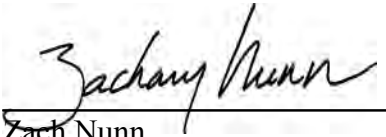
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



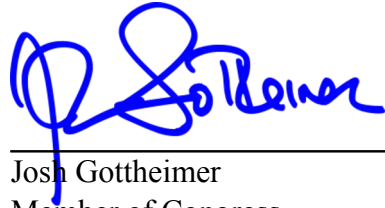
Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



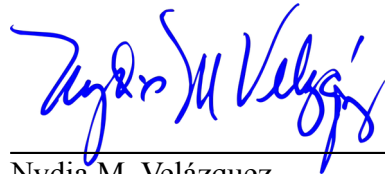
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



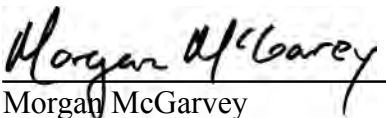
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



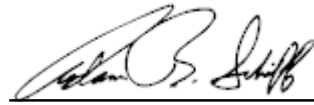
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



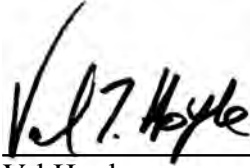
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



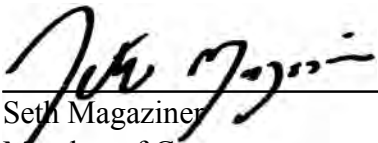
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



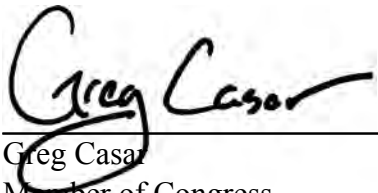
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



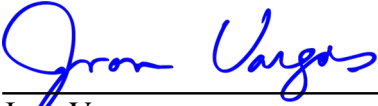
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



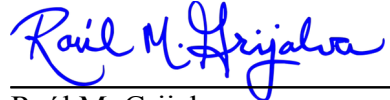
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



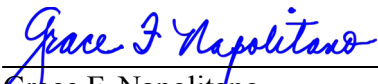
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



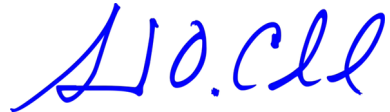
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



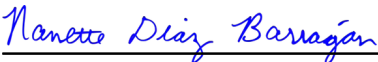
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



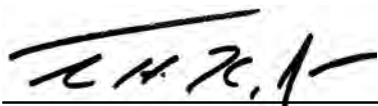
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



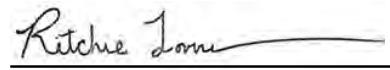
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



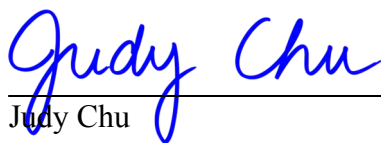
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



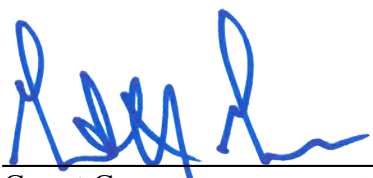
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



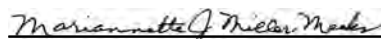
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



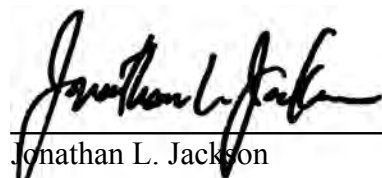
Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



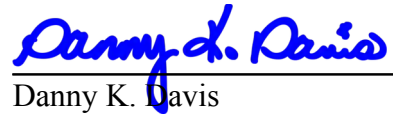
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



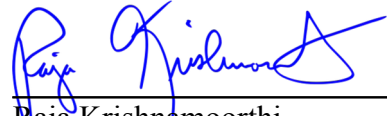
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



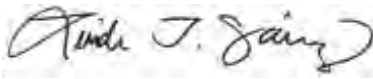
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



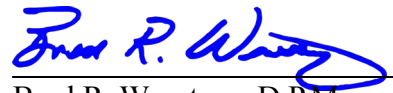
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



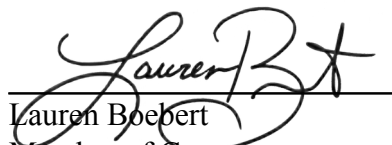
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress




Al Green
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations




Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



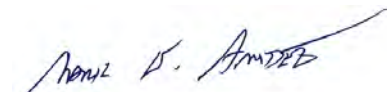
Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress




Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress




Andy Kim
Member of Congress




Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



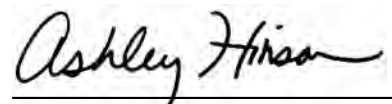
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress




Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress




Mark Takano
Member of Congress



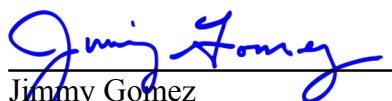
Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress




Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



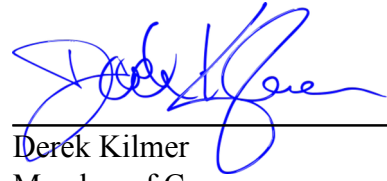
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress