Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2024

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

Dear President Biden,

We write today to express our support for a two-state solution as the only viable path for a sustainable peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people. We applaud your continued commitment to a goal that could end the decades-long cycle of violence that has consumed the Israeli and Palestinian people. We are deeply concerned by Prime Minister Netanyahu's public rejection of a two-state solution on January 18, and respectfully request that your Administration outline a strategy to marshal international and ultimately, Israeli and Palestinian support to successfully implement a two-state solution.

The appalling attack carried out by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023, and the devastating war in Gaza must not detract from U.S. policy to establish an independent, sovereign Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel. Statements made by Israeli leadership and Cabinet Ministers, however, directly contradict U.S. policy and your Administration's stance on a two-state solution. Most recently, in a press conference on January 18, Prime Minister Netanyahu rejected a future two-state solution and said that Israel must "maintain security control over all territory west of the Jordan River."¹ Without a sovereign Palestinian state, controlled and operated by a Palestinian government, and a secure Israel, the conflict will continue to kill innocent civilians and drive instability in the region.

We remain steadfast in our congressional support for a long-term solution, and urge you to provide Congress with your Administration's strategy to bring peace to a decades-long conflict. We realize that a two-state solution is not possible until those who planned and conducted the October 7 attack are brought to justice and the 132 hostages are released. Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide an update on U.S. diplomatic, economic, and security measures involved in your Administration's strategy to address these significant barriers.

We will continue to stand firm in our support for both the Israeli and Palestinian people's right to exist with dignity, peace, and security. The Israeli and Palestinian people deserve and require nothing less after decades of violence. We as Members of Congress stand ready to support your strategy and help implement it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

¹ Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. (2024, January 21). Statement by PM Netanyahu [Press release]. https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/spoke-message210124

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