

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2023

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

Dear President Biden:

Recent reports of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) involvement in planning and giving the “final go-ahead”¹ for Hamas’s terrorist war on Israel demands an immediate response. Left unaddressed, the Iranian regime’s continued support for terrorist groups and attempts to wipe Israel off the map will only grow more brazen and more destabilizing for the region.

While Secretary Blinken stated that your administration “[has] not seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack,” senior Hamas and Hezbollah officials claimed that IRGC officers have been working with Hamas since August to prepare for air, land, and sea invasions of Israel. This, combined with years of Iran providing weapons and training, enabled Hamas to launch thousands of rockets at Israeli civilian targets and invade communities, murdering and maiming hundreds of innocent people, including at least 22 Americans.²

Your administration recently released \$6 billion in frozen funds to Iran in return for American hostages. Our concern—a concern that has grown more acute in light of Iran’s support for a terrorist war against Israel that already amounts to the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust—is that the Iranian regime will use all available financial tools to further fuel this war against Israel, fund other terrorist proxies in the region such as Hezbollah who export Iran’s genocidal terrorism, and accelerate Iran’s nuclear build up. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi put it plainly that the funds would be used “wherever we need it.”³

Iran’s “need” is Israel’s destruction. Iran’s supreme leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei stated: “This cancer [Israel] will definitely be eradicated, God willing, at the hands of the Palestinian people and the **resistance forces throughout the region.**”⁴ Iran’s United Nation’s mission said the measures Hamas has taken—which include rape, kidnapping, torture, bombings, and murder —“constitute a wholly legitimate defense” and that the regime “emphatically stand[s] in unflinching support of Palestine.”⁵

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/iran-israel-hamas-strike-planning-bbe07b25>

² <https://abcnews.go.com/US/americans-killed-israel-hamas-war/story?id=103829720>

³ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/iranian-president-says-tehran-will-spend-6-billion-released-prisoner-e-rca104475>

⁴ <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/07/iran-praises-hamas-attack-israel-middle-east-00120491>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/irans-un-mission-says-tehran-not-involved-hamas-attacks-2023-10-09/>

To prevent Iran from accessing tens of billions of dollars to further subsidize this terrorism, we are requesting that you take immediate action, including but not limited to:

1. Freezing the \$6 billion provided in exchange for hostages, as well as the \$10 billion in released funds based in Iraq, and withhold all waivers, general licenses and specific licenses for the use of use of such funds.⁶ In September, the State Department said, “we have the ability to freeze [the released funds] again if we need to.”⁷ The events of this weekend demonstrate such a necessity.
2. Fully enforcing sanctions on Iranian oil exports to China, which have been unenforced for months, despite China’s crude oil imports from Iran having set a new record.⁸
3. Prevent Iran from accessing any further Special Drawing Rights (SDR) from the International Monetary Fund, through which they have quick access to \$6.7 billion, and blocking the further provision of funds to Iran in upcoming SDR packages.⁹

Mr. President, this weekend you said: “In my administration, support for Israel’s security is rock solid and unwavering.”¹⁰ We share that sentiment and stand ready to work with you to back it up with strong, bipartisan legislative and executive action. Denying the terrorist-sponsoring regime in Tehran access to funds with which it can export chaos is an essential step in this direction.

Sincerely,



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress

⁶ <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/09-13-23-Goldberg-Testimony.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-september-12-2023/>

⁸ <https://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2019/sep/11/irans-increasing-reliance-china>

⁹ https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20230614_FrozenIranianFunds_v2-1.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/10/07/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-terrorist-attacks-in-israel/>



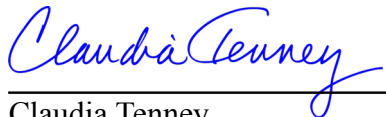
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



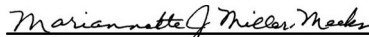
August Pfluger
Member of Congress



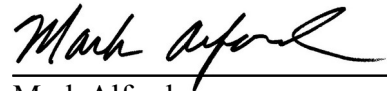
Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



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



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



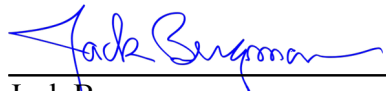
Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



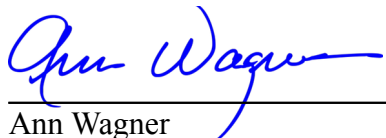
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
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Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



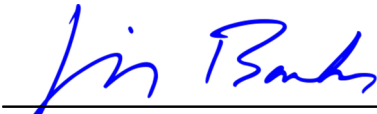
Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
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Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
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Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



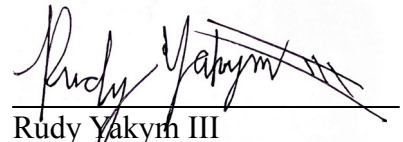
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Russell Fry
Member of Congress



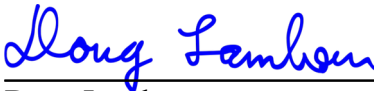
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



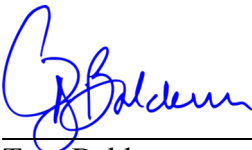
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



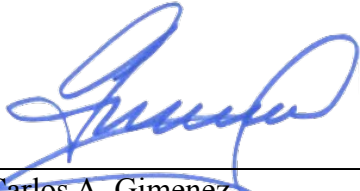
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



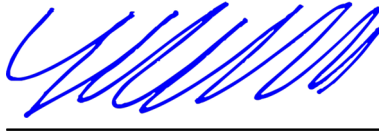
Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



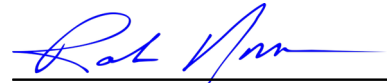
Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Harold Rogers
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



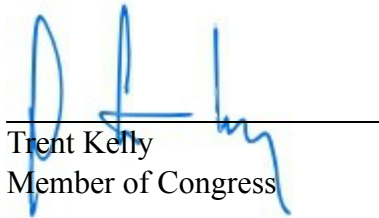
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



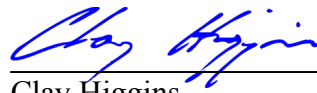
Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



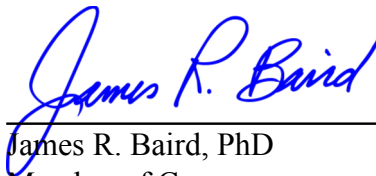
Kat Cammack
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Clay Higgins
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Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



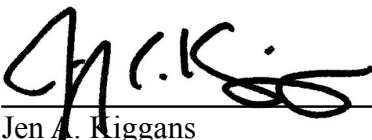
Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



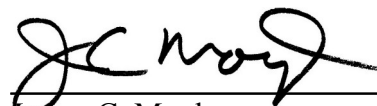
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



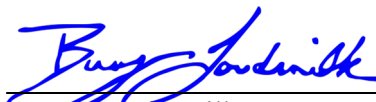
Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



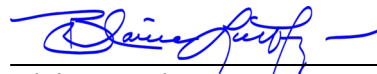
James C. Moylan
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David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



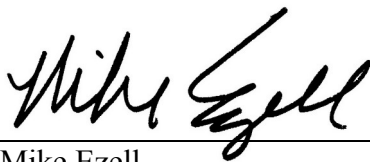
Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



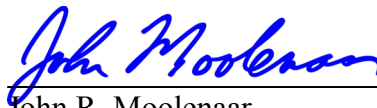
Daniel Webster
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Carol D. Miller
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Mike Ezell
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John R. Moolenaar
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Blake D. Moore
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Mike Kelly
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Ben Cline
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Andy Biggs
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John S. Duarte
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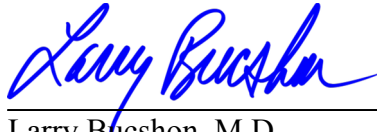
Tom McClintock
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Gary J. Palmer
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C. Scott Franklin
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.
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Richard Hudson
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Christopher H. Smith
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Harriet M. Hageman
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Lloyd Smucker
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David Schweikert
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Dusty Johnson
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John H. Rutherford
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Darin LaHood
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Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress



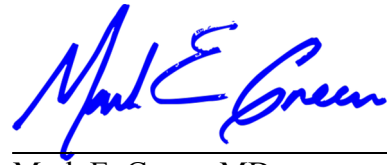
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



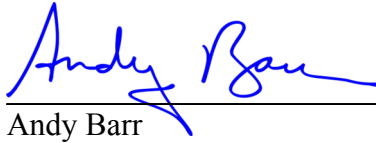
Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress