

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 14, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President,

Since the October 7th Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, in which Hamas abducted more than 200 civilians — including babies, young children, and the elderly — the United States has played a vital leading role in efforts to secure the release of Americans and Israelis held in Gaza.

U.S. diplomacy has also been essential to efforts to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid and to reaching a pause in hostilities in November of last year.

On November 24th, an agreement brokered with your leadership by the United States, Qatar, and Egypt secured the release of 105 hostages — all women and children — in tandem with a seven-day ceasefire. The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas provided a vital window for humanitarian aid to reach nearly two million Gazan civilians displaced by the war, while the return to safety of those hostages — including a four-year-old American girl, Abigail Idan — gave hope to the families of others abducted by Hamas that strong U.S.-led diplomacy could secure their freedom.

Now 130 days since the October 7th massacre, two million Gazan civilians remain displaced in extreme danger and deprivation while hostages held by Hamas remain in life-threatening captivity.

We therefore write to express our urgent support for your Administration's ongoing diplomatic efforts to secure the release of hostages in tandem with a restored mutual ceasefire in Gaza.

We recognize that such a diplomatic achievement will require the agreement of the warring parties, and that its terms remain under negotiation. In our judgment, it is in our urgent national interest — and the urgent humanitarian interest of millions of innocent civilians — that these negotiations succeed.

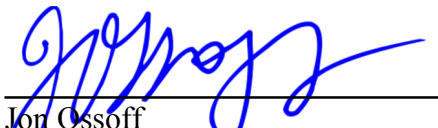
We recognize that it is in Israel's vital national interest that Hamas — a brutal terrorist organization — be removed from power in Gaza. We continue to support Israel's pursuit of that objective.

We also recognize that without a break in the fighting, humanitarian conditions for civilians in Gaza will become even more catastrophic and thousands more innocents — including many children — will die.

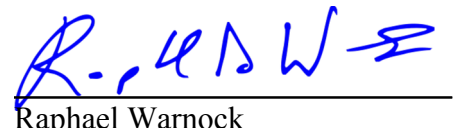
Without an agreement that secures their release, the prospects are dim for the survival of hostages who remain alive.

Without the space created for regional diplomacy by a restored ceasefire, the political conditions for durable peace and security will remain unreachable, and escalating regional conflict will continue to threaten U.S. national security.

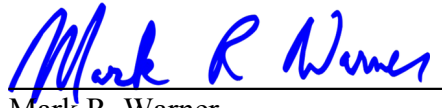
Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



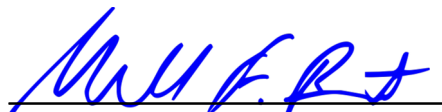
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



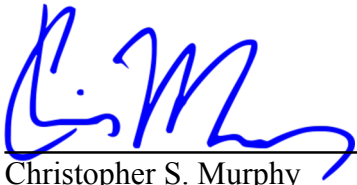
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



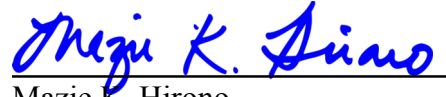
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



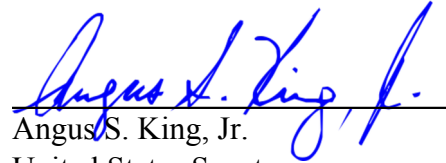
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



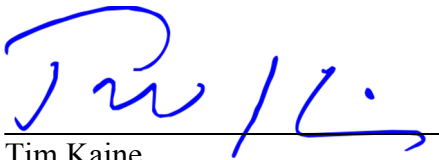
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



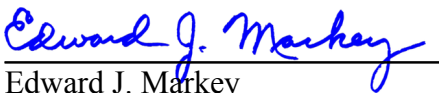
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



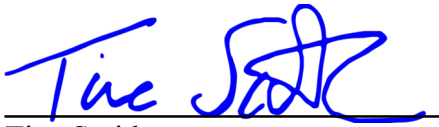
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



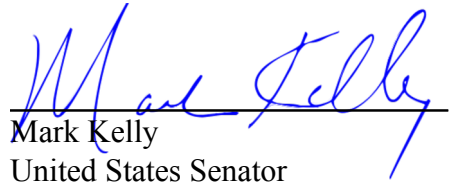
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



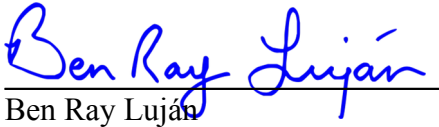
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



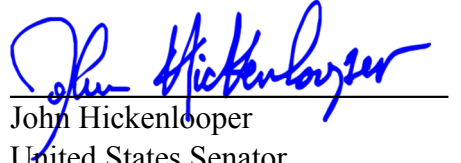
Tina Smith
United States Senator



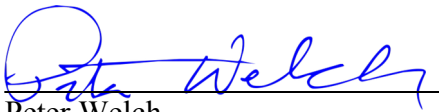
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator