November 2, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader Minority Leader
U.S. Senate U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Speaker of the House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We respectfully request the swift passage of the President’s request for Fiscal Year 2024 emergency supplemental funding, which includes aid for the United States Agency for International Development’s International Disaster Assistance account to meet rising humanitarian needs around the world including those related to the ongoing conflict in Gaza and Israel.

As a result of the ongoing conflict, more than two million people are in urgent need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. Over one million people have fled the violence, stretching the already strained ability of the United Nations and humanitarian partners on the ground to provide food, medical treatment, and shelter to those in need. At this time, it is critical that the United States make clear its support for humanitarian assistance by responding swiftly and substantially. The ability to support and protect the civilian population in Gaza during this crisis is not only a foundation of international law, it is also critical in shaping the eventual long-term prospects of peace and stability in the region. A major humanitarian catastrophe and large-scale civilian casualties will make the U.S. stated goal of a two state solution even more challenging to ever realize.

The need for aid into Gaza could not be clearer with fuel supplies running low, organizations struggling to meet their mission, and hospitals in Gaza struggling to provide life saving care. At

1 UN agencies reduce Gaza aid operations as fuel runs out
the time of this letter, 374 trucks, carrying essential supplies including food, water, and medical resources, have crossed into Gaza from Egypt through the Rafah border crossing. This number is a fraction of what is needed to meet the needs posed by the current crisis.\(^2\) The Administration's request to expand aid is crucial, especially considering the potential crisis-induced displacement across borders. This extension, addressing evolving programming needs not only in Gaza but also in Israel, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, deserves unwavering support so that the region may finally experience security and stability.

We believe that a prompt and robust humanitarian response is necessary to protect the lives of Palestinians, Americans, and Israelis - whose security will be weakened if we fail to meet the humanitarian needs in the region. It is for this reason that we again respectfully request the swift passage of President Biden’s emergency supplemental appropriations request so that we may uphold our country’s proud tradition of leading the international community in providing lifesaving relief by contributing funding for international humanitarian assistance. We appreciate your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

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\(^2\) UN food chief criticizes strict Rafah crossing checks for limiting Gaza aid
Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress

Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

Morgan McFarvey  
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress

David J. Trone  
Member of Congress
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress
Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Patrick K. Ryan  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress