

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write with deep concern regarding recent actions taken by the Trump Administration at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Reports have surfaced that the Trump Administration has already taken steps to shut down USAID as an independent agency, without properly consulting Congress in advance and without seeking necessary statutory changes. Decisions including to stop work on all foreign assistance immediately without meaningful consultation with Congress and in contravention to the intent of appropriated funding, place senior leaders on administrative leave without cause, and furlough or fire thousands of contractors, have created a crisis that threatens our national security and undermines American credibility on the global stage.

The work of USAID is vital to our national security. USAID helps stabilize fragile states, reducing the risk of them becoming havens for terrorism. In Syria, USAID has been instrumental in providing humanitarian assistance to an estimated 16.7 million people¹ and holding back the potential resurgence of ISIS. By funding education, job creation, and good governance initiatives, USAID addresses the root causes of extremism, making it harder for terrorist organizations to recruit from vulnerable populations. USAID strengthens America's alliances and global influence by promoting economic growth, transparency, and democratic governance. Humanitarian aid provided by USAID also plays a crucial role in helping alleviate crises before they lead to further mass migration, such as in Haiti.

Development assistance reduces the need for costly military interventions by addressing potential conflicts before they escalate. Economically, USAID fosters global stability by helping to create new markets for U.S. businesses and mitigate economic shocks that can lead to instability. USAID provides Ukraine with emergency energy assistance² which is critical to maintain core economic functions and defend the country from further Russian advances. USAID also enhances global health security to combat pandemics and strengthen health systems, protecting both international and domestic populations from the spread of infectious diseases, like bird flu and a current Ebola outbreak in Africa. We are facing major humanitarian crises like

¹ Atlantic Council, "The foreign aid freeze poses risks to US interests in Syria"

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-foreign-aid-freeze-poses-risks-to-us-interests-in-syria/>

² USAID, "USAID Energy Security Project" <https://energysecurityua.org/helping-ukraine/>

the one in the Democratic Republic of Congo that has displaced over two million people within the last year.³

USAID actively combats gender-based violence (GBV) by supporting prevention programs, survivor services, and legal protections worldwide. Through education, healthcare, and advocacy initiatives, USAID works to address the root causes of GBV, strengthen legal frameworks, and provide survivors with access to justice, safety, and economic opportunities, helping to break the cycle of violence and build more resilient communities.⁴

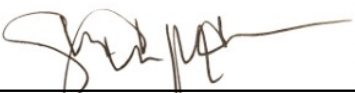
Ending USAID will not only make Americans less safe, but it also compromises our ability to compete with rivals like Russia, China, and Iran.

Moreover, the Administration did not notify or meaningfully consult with Congress on these decisions before taking unilateral action over the past two weeks, ignoring Congress's essential constitutional role in overseeing funding, personnel, and U.S. foreign policy. It is crucial to preserve an independent development voice and capability within the U.S. government. By law, USAID is an independent entity separate from the State Department, and any changes to that structure would require legislative approval from Congress.


In the face of great power competition, the U.S. cannot afford to retreat from USAID programs that have long advanced American foreign policy objectives. America must remain engaged and lead by example.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

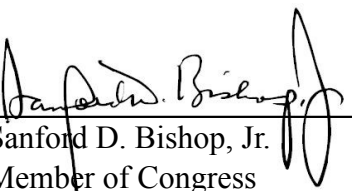
Sincerely,




Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



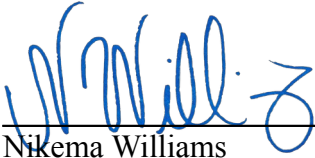
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



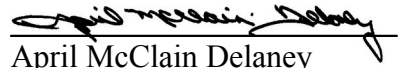
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

³ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, M23 conflict caused nearly 3 out of every 4 displacements in the DRC this year, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-analysis/m23-conflict-caused-nearly-3-out-of-every-4-displacements-in-the-drc-this-year/>

⁴ USAID and US Department of State, "United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally" <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/258703.pdf>



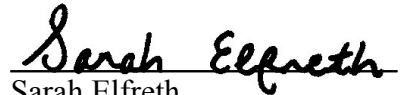
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress




April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Derek Tran
Member of Congress



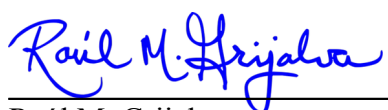
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



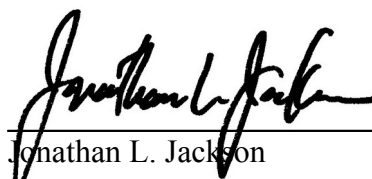
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



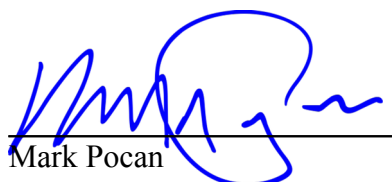
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



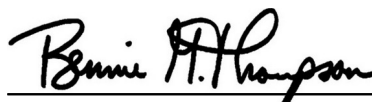
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



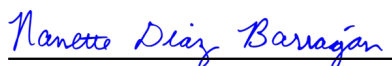
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



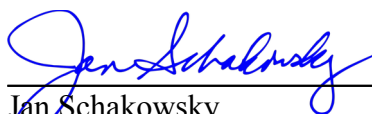
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



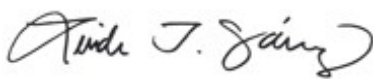
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



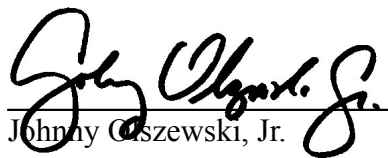
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



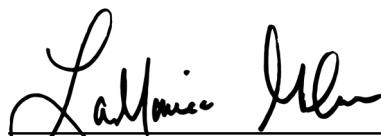
Johnny Gąszewski, Jr.
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Paul D. Tonko
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LaMonica McIver
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Sylvester Turner
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Shri Thanedar
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Morgan McGarvey
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Lloyd Doggett
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George Latimer
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



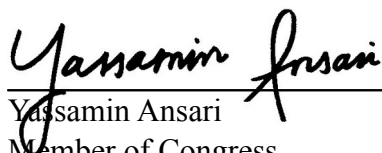
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



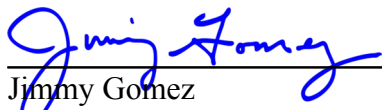
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



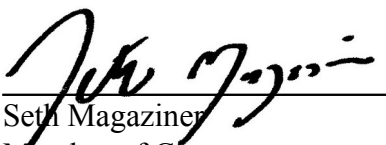
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



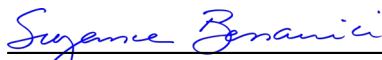
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



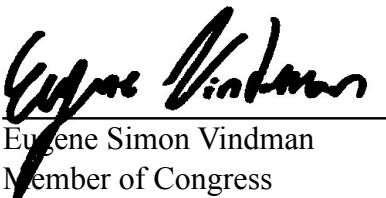
JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Eugene Simon Vindman
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



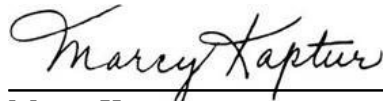
Dwight Evans
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Rick Larsen
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Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



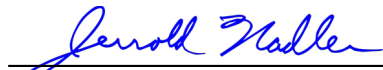
Julie Johnson
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Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Terrold Nadler
Member of Congress



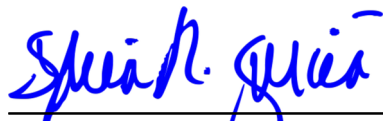
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



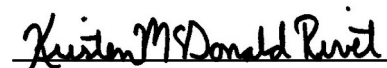
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



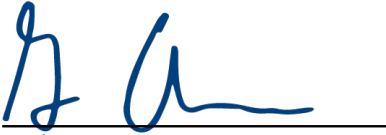
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



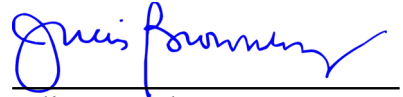
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



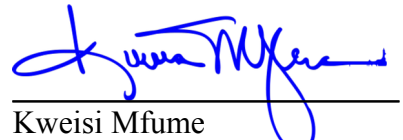
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



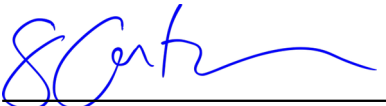
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



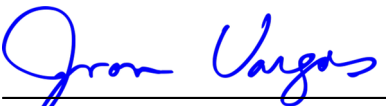
Kweisi Mfume
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Sean Casten
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Madeleine Dean
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Juan Vargas
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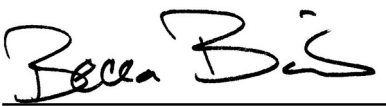
Darren Soto
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Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



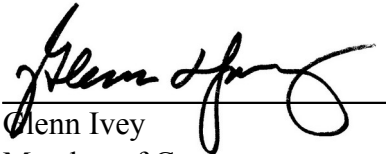
Zoe Lofgren
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Becca Balint
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Jimmy Panetta
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Glenn Ivey
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Subhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress




Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress




Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress




Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



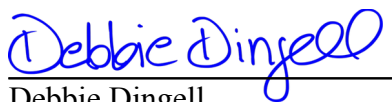
Shontel M. Brown
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Maxine Dexter
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



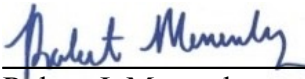
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



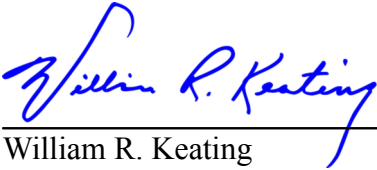
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



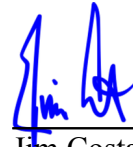
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress