

# 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 people<sup>1</sup> 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 assistance<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>

<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

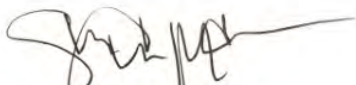
Ending USAID will not only make Americans less safe, but it also compromises our ability to compete with rivals like Russia, China, and Iran.

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.

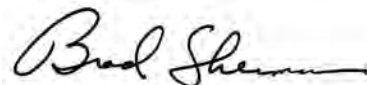
Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



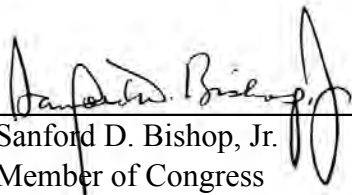
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



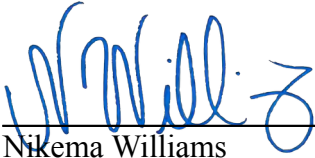
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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress

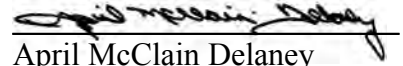
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<sup>3</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, M23 conflict caused nearly 3 out of every 4 displacements in the DRC this year, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-analysis/m23-conflict-caused-nearly-3-out-of-every-4-displacements-in-the-drc-this-year/>

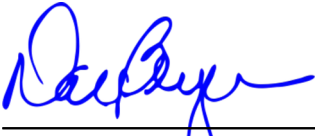
<sup>4</sup> USAID and US Department of State, "United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally" <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/258703.pdf>



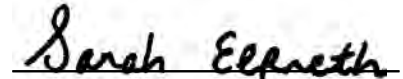
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



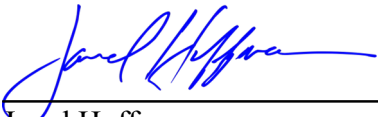
April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



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



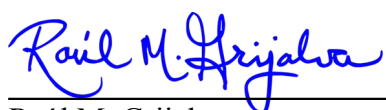
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

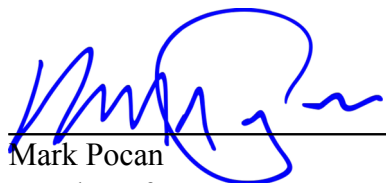


Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



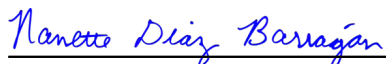
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



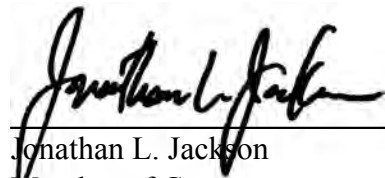
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



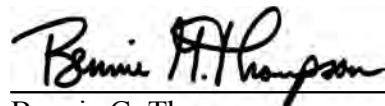
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



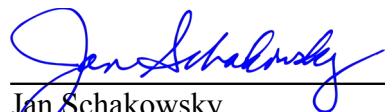
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



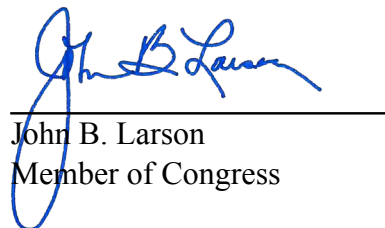
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



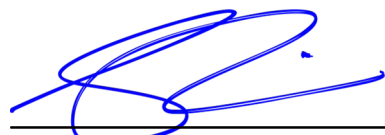
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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



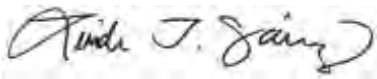
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



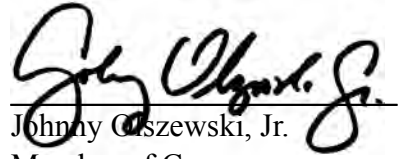
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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



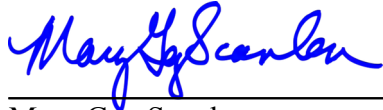
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Johnny Guszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



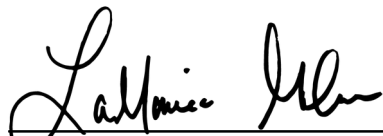
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



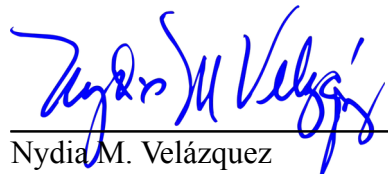
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



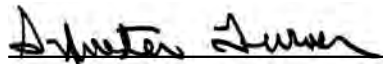
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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




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Sylvester Turner  
Member of Congress



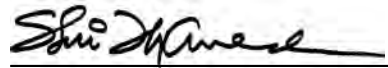
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



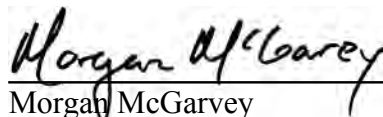
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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



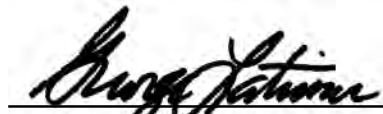
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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



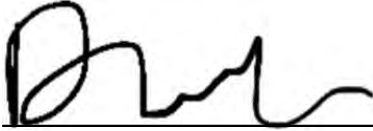
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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



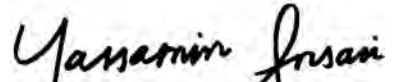
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



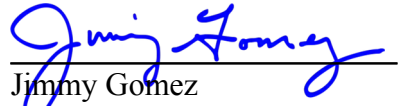
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



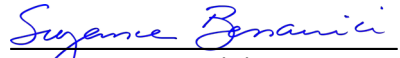
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



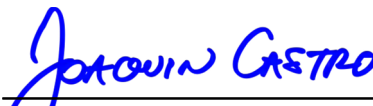
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



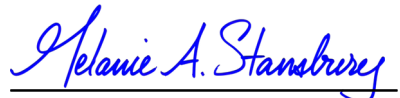
Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



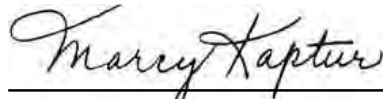
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



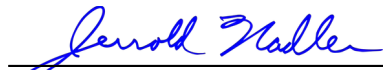
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Terrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



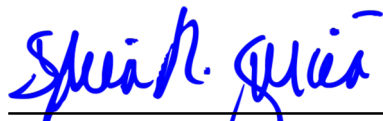
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



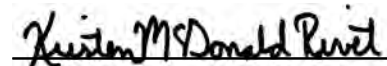
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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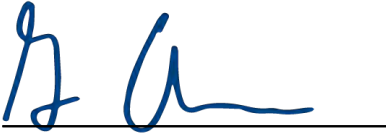
Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



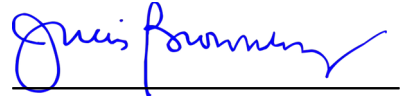
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



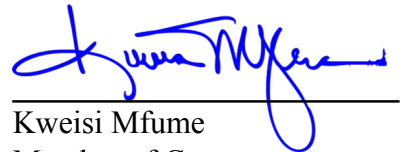
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



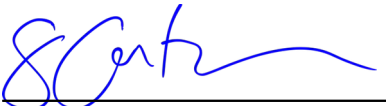
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



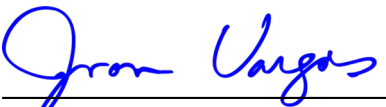
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



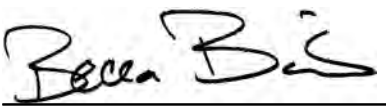
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



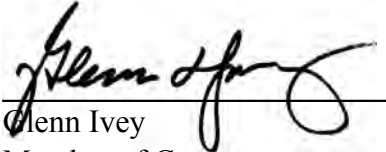
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress

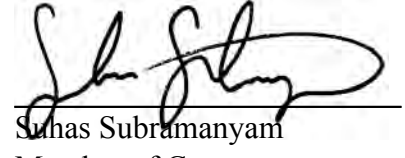


Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress




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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



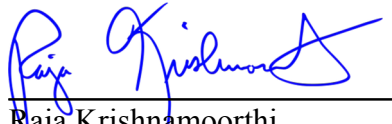
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



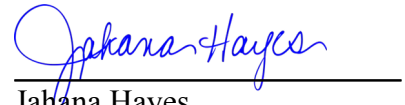
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress




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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress




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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



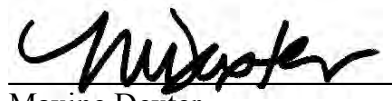
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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress




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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



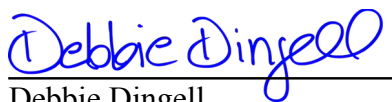
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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress




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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress




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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



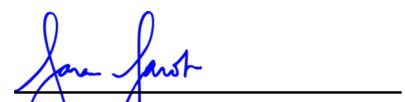
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



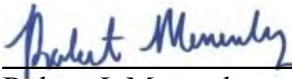
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



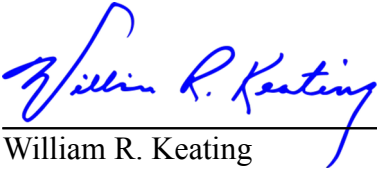
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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



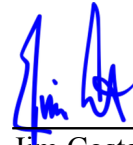
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



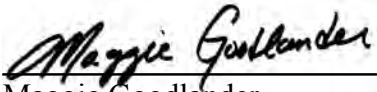
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress