

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 29, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Mr. Steve Witkoff
U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Rubio and Special Envoy Witkoff:

With recent efforts to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas being unsuccessful, the situation in Gaza remains perilous. Efforts to secure an agreement are as critical and urgent as ever and we urge the resumption of good-faith talks as quickly as possible. While we appreciate that additional aid is beginning to enter Gaza, the humanitarian situation remains dire. Yet there still remains a viable pathway to end this war, bring home Israeli hostages, and achieve a diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Israeli hostages, held in Gaza by Hamas since their brutal attack on Israel on October 7th, have suffered far too long, as have their families. It is imperative that those still living be brought home as soon as possible, before more perish as the war drags on. And it is essential that the remains of those presumed killed – including Americans Omer Neutra and Itay Chen – be reunited with their loved ones. After many months of despair, it is long past time to bring all of the hostages home.

The acute humanitarian crisis in Gaza is also unsustainable and worsens by the day. Hunger and malnutrition are widespread, and, alarmingly, deaths due to starvation, especially among children, are increasing. The “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” has failed to address the deepening humanitarian crisis and contributed to an unacceptable and mounting civilian death toll around the organization’s sites. To prevent the situation from getting even worse, we urge you to advocate for a large-scale expansion of humanitarian assistance and services throughout the Gaza Strip, including through the use of experienced multilateral bodies and NGOs that can get life-saving aid directly to those in need and prevent diversion.

Beyond a negotiated ceasefire, a permanent end to this war will also require an end to Hamas rule in Gaza and ensuring that Hamas can no longer pose a serious military threat to Israel. We reaffirm our strong support for continued U.S.-led diplomacy with Israel, Palestinian leaders, and other partners in the Middle East in pursuit of the long-term goal of a negotiated two-state solution with Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in lasting peace, security, dignity, and mutual recognition.

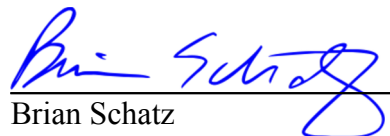
Finally, we write to underscore our strong opposition to the permanent forced displacement of the Palestinian people. This would be antithetical to international humanitarian law, to a sustainable end to this war that prioritizes the long-term safety and security of Israelis and Palestinians alike, to achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East, and expanding the Abraham Accords. We ask that the Administration make this clear as it seeks an end to the war.

We stand in strong support of diplomatic efforts to return all hostages, end the fighting in Gaza, and bring humanitarian relief for the safety and prosperity of the Israeli and the Palestinian people.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



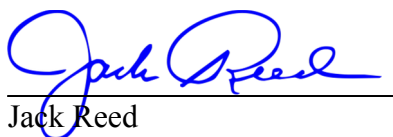
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



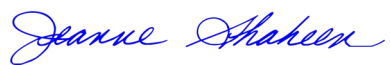
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Foreign Relations Committee



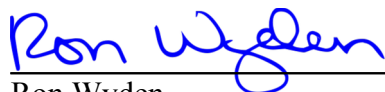
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



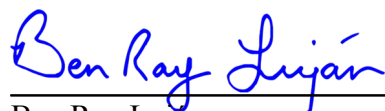
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



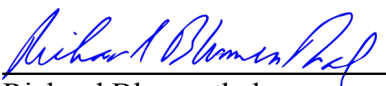
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



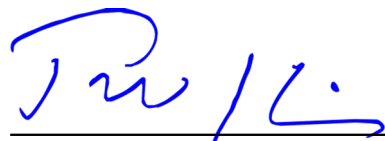
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



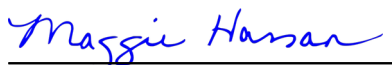
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



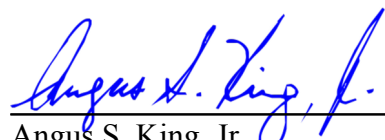
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



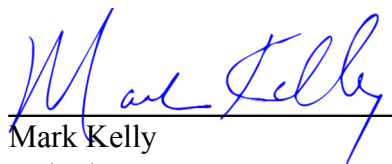
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



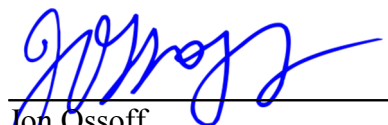
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator



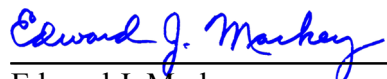
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator