

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

May 10, 2024

Mr. Jake Sullivan
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability is continuing to conduct oversight of foreign assistance to Gaza and the West Bank. Following the devastating October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel the Committee launched an investigation into the Biden Administration's decision to reinstate funding to the United Nation's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) given reporting that some staff actively participated in the attack.¹ Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about aid given to Gaza and the West Bank being at high-risk of falling into the hands of Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).²

The Committee is alarmed by the Biden Administration's willingness to play political games with U.S. taxpayer funded assistance going to Israel.³ On May 9, 2024, President Biden made public that he would not supply offensive weapons that Israel could use in its offensive on Rafah—the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza.⁴ Further reporting indicates that the National Security Council actively chose to withhold this information from the public eye for days, in part so that news of the decision would not be known when President Biden delivered a speech touting support for Israel on Holocaust Remembrance Day.⁵ The Committee seeks a briefing, as well as documents and information related to this decision, including any legal justification for withholding essential supplies from Israel in its fight against Hamas terrorists who still have Israeli and American hostages.

Hamas' terrorist attack on October 7, 2023, killed approximately 1,200 people in Israel, and led to about 250 being taken captive by terrorists.⁶ Among the approximately 100 hostages

¹ Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability to Antony Blinken, Sec'y, Dep't of State (Feb. 16, 2024).

² Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability to Samantha Power, Administrator, USAID (Oct. 24, 2023).

³ Zeke Miller & Aamer Madhani, *Biden says US won't supply weapons for Israel to attack Rafah, in warning to ally*, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (May 9, 2024).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

still held captive by Hamas in Gaza, five are Americans.⁷ However, President Biden signed off on a pause of a weapons delivery to Israel, a longtime U.S. ally.⁸ Given President Biden's scheduled speech on Tuesday, May 8, 2024, to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, the White House Security Council reportedly chose to keep news of this decision to withhold vital military support out of the public's attention until after his remarks.⁹ The Committee finds both the decision to withhold essential military aid and hiding that decision from the public for political purposes disturbing, especially given that on President Biden's first day in office, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki pledged that the administration would, "bring transparency and truth back to government."¹⁰ Hiding information from the public for political gain does not meet this Committee's definition of transparency.

The Biden Administration's priorities appear to be motivated by public perception, and not what is best for national security or diplomacy. The Committee requests the following documents and information, covering the time period October 7, 2023, to the present, as soon as possible, but no later than May 24, 2024:

1. All documents and information detailing the decision to pause or withhold the delivery of military aid, including offensive weapons, to Israel, including but not limited to any memos, reports, emails, or written communications justifying the decision to delay the delivery of weapons;
2. All documents and information detailing any legal justification for pausing or withholding the delivery of military aid, including offensive weapons, to Israel, including but not limited to any legal opinions, analysis or guidance that was provided to the White House Security Council;
3. All documents and information regarding the decision to withhold this information including but not limited to communications or records of discussions within the White House Security Council, or any guidance that was provided to the President regarding the decision to keep the pause in weapons delivery out of the public eye; and
4. All documents and information detailing any other factors affecting the decision-making process of the White House Security Council and the President to withhold aid from Israel.

In addition to the documents listed above, the Committee requests a briefing from representatives of the White House Security Council to provide further clarification and information on the decision to pause the delivery of weapons to Israel and the reasoning behind withholding this from the public.

⁷ Amna Nawaz, *Niece of American held hostage in Gaza updates efforts to bring him home*, PBS NEWS HOUR (May 2, 2024).

⁸ *Supra* n. 3.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Anna Diakun, *Biden promised transparency. Has he delivered?* CNN (Jan. 21, 2022).

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To arrange for the delivery of responsive documents and to schedule the briefing, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Thank you in advance for cooperating with this inquiry.

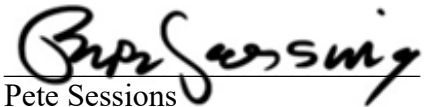
Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Glenn Grothman
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
the Border, and Foreign Affairs



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



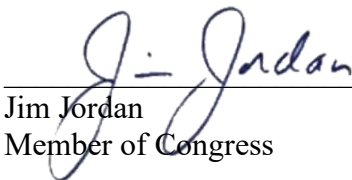
Nancy Mace
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology, and
Government Innovation



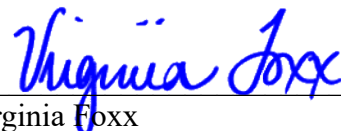
Pat Fallon
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,
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Lisa McClain
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Health Care and
Financial Services



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

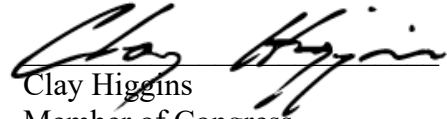
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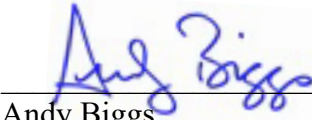
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Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



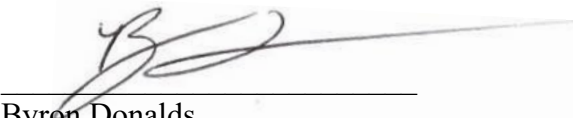
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



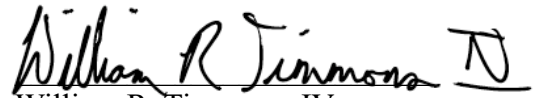
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



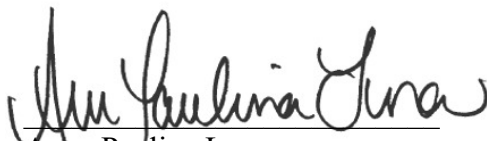
Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



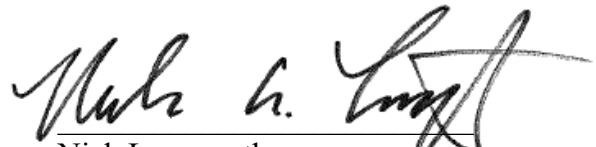
Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



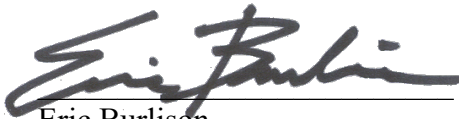
Russell Fry
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress



Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

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cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation

The Honorable Cori Bush, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs

The Honorable Katie Porter, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services