



October 31, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

The American Jewish Congress deeply appreciates the expressed overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support for our ally Israel, and in particular the congressional emphasis on the need to provide Israel with critical security aid in its fight against Hamas. However, we would like to express our position that the process of providing emergency aid needs to be expedited, and as such, tying it up with budgetary rescissions is detrimental to the goal of making sure that Israel has the means to defend itself. Therefore, we urge you to reconsider this decision.

Since Hamas launched a war on October 7, more than 1,400 people in Israel have been murdered, including over 40 babies. More than 240 victims remain kidnapped and missing. Due to the over 8,000 rockets launched into Israel from terror groups in Gaza and Lebanon, more than 120,000 Israelis have been forced to flee their homes and are displaced. While Israel's security was breached by Hamas, the Islamic Regime in Iran and its terror proxy groups in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, are emboldened and have escalated in their threats to destroy the Jewish State.

At a time when we are still grasping the monstrosity of the heinous and barbaric attack by Hamas, the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, it is critical that we provide emergency aid to Israel in the fastest and most bipartisan way possible. This is a singular event in Israel's modern history, and the United States needs to respond adequately to the need of the hour.

The suggestion to offset emergency aid to Israel from funds appropriated for other purposes sets the stage for political debates that are polarizing and divert attention from the very immediate security needs that our ally faces. We acknowledge the need for our elected officials in Congress to engage in discussions about budgetary expenses and appropriations. Nevertheless, considering the gravity of the moment and the existential threat that Israel faces, it is imperative that Israel's ability to defend itself and its citizens is not hindered by these extended deliberations.

By passing the emergency supplemental straightforwardly, the United States would showcase our position in support of Israel to allies and adversaries alike - expressing that we will not be a

bystander to the terrorist threat. This moment is a test for America's ironclad commitment to Israel's security, and we need to ensure that other malignant actors in the region are deterred.

As Iran, Hezbollah, and other Iranian-backed terror groups in the region continue to wage violence and vow destruction targeting Israel, it is vital that America does not equivocate in its support. Similarly, Congress should not be ambiguous when demonstrating the commitment to support other U.S. allies, such as Ukraine and Taiwan. With so much at stake, every message and action counts, and American leadership on the global stage is more important than ever.

The American Jewish Congress appreciates your consideration of these critical concerns. We remain at your disposal for any further assistance or discussion on this vital matter.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Rosen".

Jack Rosen
President
American Jewish Congress