

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2025

Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart
Subcommittee on National Security and Department
of State
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Lois Frankel
Subcommittee on National Security and Department
of State
2365 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel:

As you craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request that you allocate \$8 million to the State Department to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to the abduction of children from Ukraine. Specifically, we urge you to include the report language below to appropriate funds under the “Economic Support Fund” to be made available to the State Department for this purpose.

Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, President Putin has waged a systematic campaign of kidnapping children from Ukraine and forcibly relocating them to Russia, Belarus, and Russia-occupied territory. The Ukrainian government has identified approximately 20,000 children abducted by Russia and illegally concealed within the Russian adoption system. The actual number of children remaining in Russia is likely significantly higher, with a Russian official stating Russia had brought 700,000 children from conflict zones in Ukraine to Russia in July 2023.

Russia has targeted vulnerable groups of children for deportation, including orphans, children with disabilities, children from low-income families, and children with parents in the military. At nearly 60 relocation facilities, children have been physically abused, denied communication with their families in Ukraine, and given inadequate access to food and care. Regional officials have subjected them to “re-education,” fracturing their connection to Ukrainian language and heritage, and listed them for adoption or placed them in Russian families. Their indoctrination has also included military training, in which Russia has set recruitment quotas and designated a cadet school for them to create a direct pipeline into federal security service.

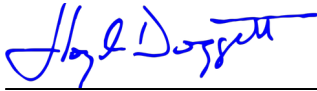
We request that you include the following report language in the FY26 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations bill:

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

The Committee expects that no less than \$8,000,000 will be made available to ensure the Department of State collects, analyzes, and preserves evidence and information related to the abduction and forcible transfer of children from Ukraine.

Preserving evidence of abducted children from Ukraine will help bring them home to their families. Ensuring that children are returned prior to the end of the war protects these children—and children in the future—from being taken as hostages during conflict. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



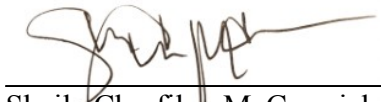
Greg Landsman
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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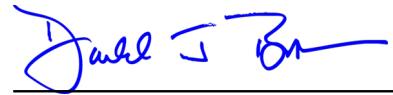
Mikie Sherrill
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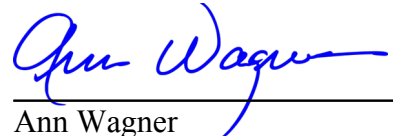
Chellie Pingree
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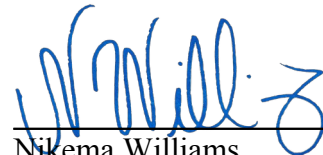
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Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
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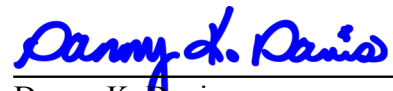
Nikema Williams
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Jason Crow
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Danny K. Davis
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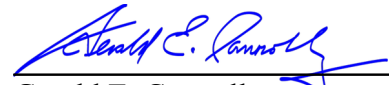
James P. McGovern
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



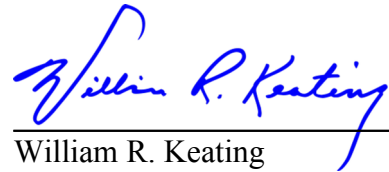
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Brendan F. Boyle
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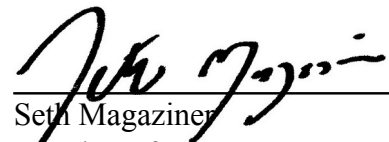
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Shri Thanedar
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Jasmine Crockett
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Seth Magaziner
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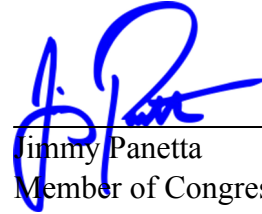
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



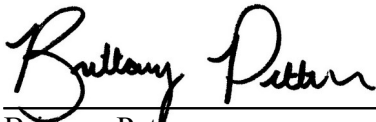
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



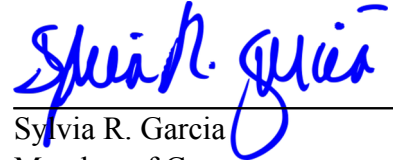
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



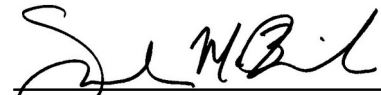
Brittany Pettersen
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Jared Moskowitz
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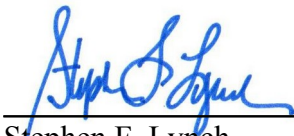
Jennifer L. McClellan
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Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



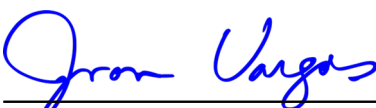
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



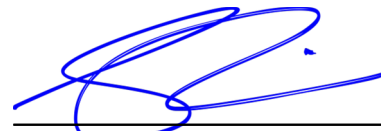
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



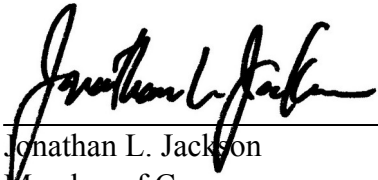
Ilhan Omar
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Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



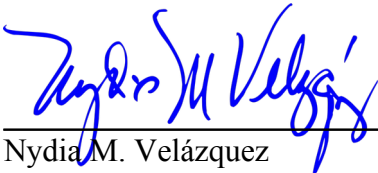
Ro Khanna
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Ted W. Lieu
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Michael T. McCaul
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Nellie Pou
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