

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write regarding the Administration's actions over U.S. foreign aid, including the State Department's plans to reallocate nearly \$2 billion that Congress had appropriated for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) toward vaguely defined initiatives aimed to advance President Trump's "America First" agenda. This follows the Administration's request to establish the \$2.9 billion America First Opportunity Fund (AIOF) for "flexible" foreign aid spending in May, despite its appeal that Congress rescind \$8.3 billion in previously appropriated foreign aid in June and unilateral cancellation of \$5 billion in foreign aid already signed into law in August. Given the Administration's pledge to eliminate "waste, fraud, and abuse" in U.S. foreign aid, we request more information on the potential transformation of these Congressional budget accounts into multi-billion-dollar funds that your Department has argued "make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous" without providing any further explanation.

The Department's September 12 notification to Congress outlines that the \$1.8 billion previously appropriated for programs implemented by USAID would instead be obligated for State Department-run programs, including countering "Marxist, anti-American regimes" in Latin America, supporting "U.S. immigration priorities" in Africa, and "economic development and conservation work" in Greenland. Meanwhile, the cancellation of at least \$19 million in emergency food assistance for famine-stricken Sudan and \$27 million to counter deadly infectious disease in the conflict-afflicted Democratic Republic of Congo risks infectious disease outbreaks and global conflict that endanger Americans, running counter to the President's stated mission.

The President's FY2026 Budget Request to Congress indicated the AIOF would utilize \$2.9 billion to "focus on strategic investments that make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous" and fund "new activities to strengthen America's national security priorities." Unlike previous Congressional Budget Justifications, it did not specify what those activities would be nor the amount of funding allocated for each activity. The Administration suggested the AIOF could be used for initiatives as varied as U.S. contributions to the United Nations; international peacekeeping; international security assistance; loan guarantees; global disease outbreaks; or anything else the President deems necessary.

After the Administration justified its dismantling of USAID to eliminate "waste, fraud, and abuse," it may be creating an unaccountable foreign aid system highly susceptible to the very corruption it claimed to have addressed. Considering our constitutional responsibility to serve as stewards of taxpayer dollars, we request your prompt answers to the following questions by December 30.

Regarding the reallocation of USAID funds:

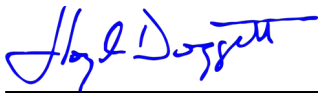
1. Knowing that the \$1.8 billion had to be obligated by September 30, did the Administration have a plan for what specifically to fund before it abruptly cancelled USAID programs in July?
2. Regarding the \$1.8 billion obligated by September 30, please provide an itemized list of every country and/or organization that is receiving funding, the amount, and the purpose.
3. What specific activities will be supported by funding dedicated to “[confronting] the Marxist, anti-American regimes of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua”?
4. What specific activities will be supported by funding dedicated to “U.S. immigration priorities” in Africa? Will this include deporting third-country nationals from the United States to African countries?

Regarding the AIOF:

1. Who is the individual responsible for recommending to you any awards?
2. What governs the agreements under the AIOF? Will there be a competitive, open process for making awards? Will these be contracts, grants, or compacts?
3. What policies or procedures are being developed to ensure that AIOF funds will be administered with internal control standards comparable to those in place for foreign assistance programming prior to January 2025?
4. The AIOF proposal references investment funds. How do you classify waste, fraud, or abuse under an investment fund? What are the reporting requirements for these funds?
5. How will AIOF funding be monitored in conflict zones? How and to whom will waste, fraud, or abuse be reported?
6. The AIOF proposal directly references India and Jordan as potential funding recipients. What other countries are being considered, and under what criteria?
7. Are you consulting with local organizations and communities in deciding which projects to fund?
8. If funds are to be invested via private firms, how do you ensure for-profit programs are not advantaged over nonprofit programs?
9. What are the criteria used in awarding funds?
10. What are the branding and marking requirements under the agreements that indicate that funding was provided by the U.S.?

It is critical that Congress maintain effective oversight over the world’s largest foreign aid budget that encompasses vital national security priorities like military assistance, arms agreements, and counterterrorism efforts. We look forward to your prompt responses justifying where, why, and how the Administration intends to spend billions of taxpayer dollars around the world.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



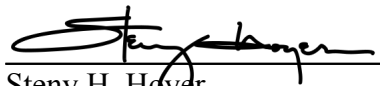
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



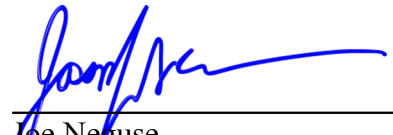
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



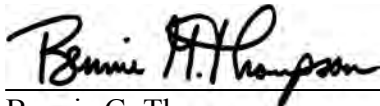
Andy Kim  
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



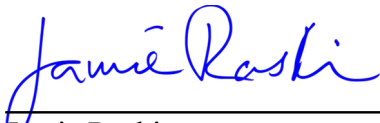
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



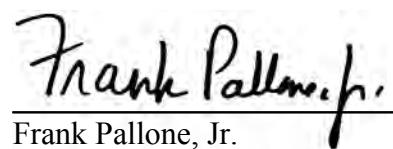
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



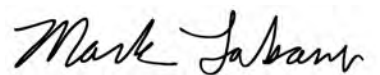
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



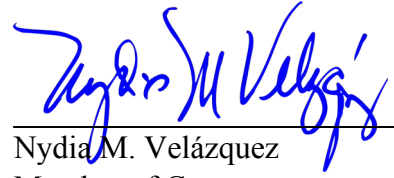
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



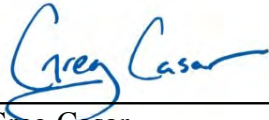
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



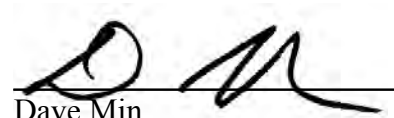
Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



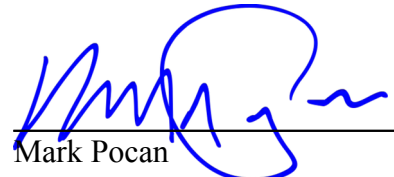
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



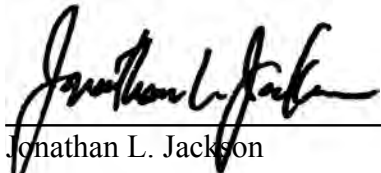
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



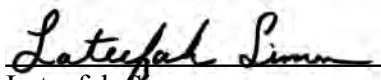
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



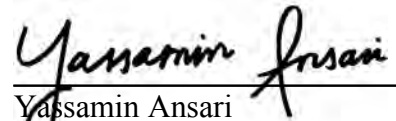
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress




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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



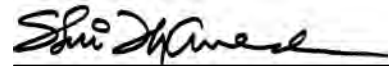
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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



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



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



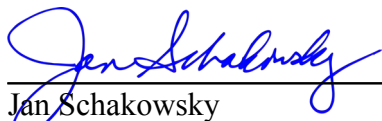
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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



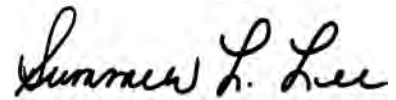
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



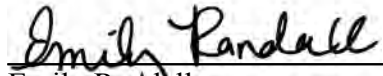
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



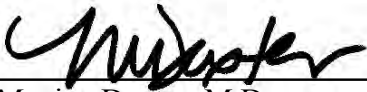
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



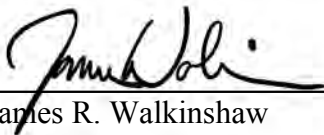
Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



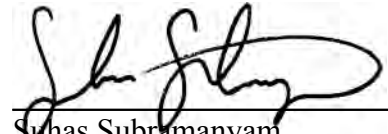
Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



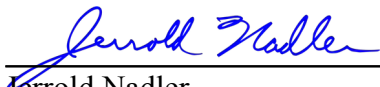
Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



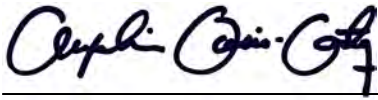
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



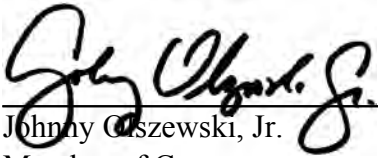
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



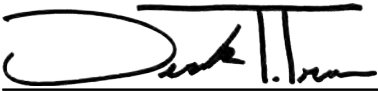
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Johnny Gushewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



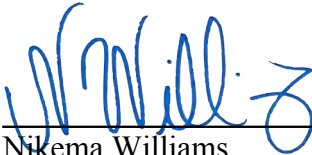
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



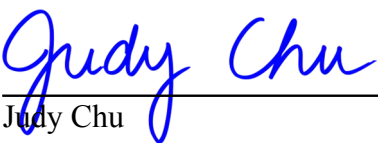
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



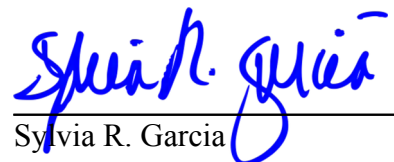
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



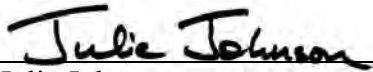
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



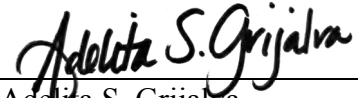
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



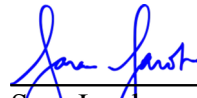
Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress




Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



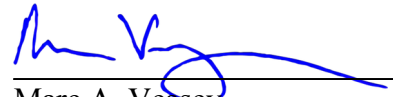
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



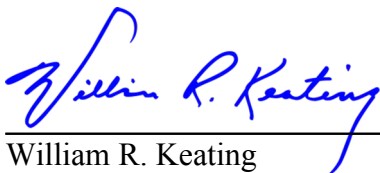
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



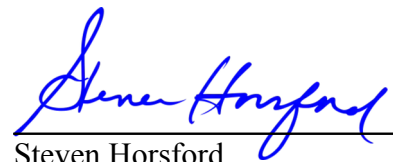
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

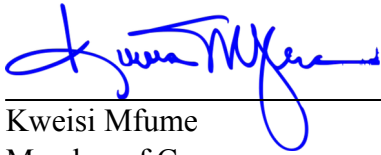


William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

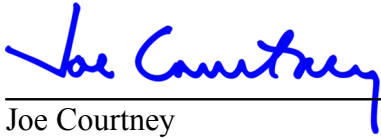




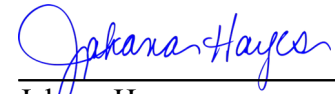
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



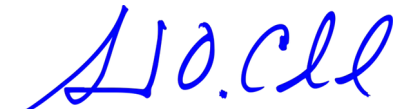
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



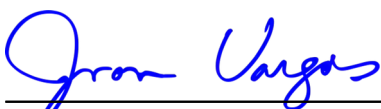
Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



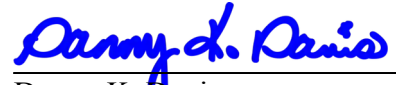
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



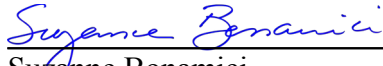
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



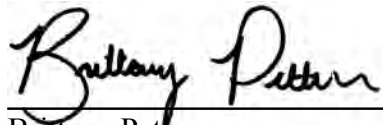
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



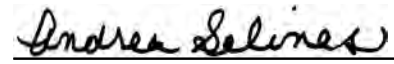
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



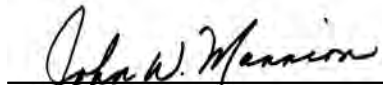
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



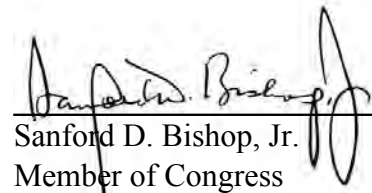
Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



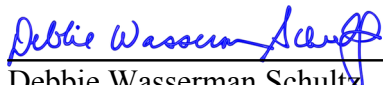
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



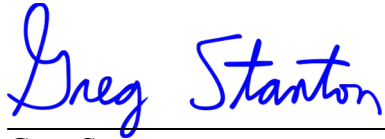
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



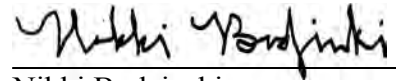
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



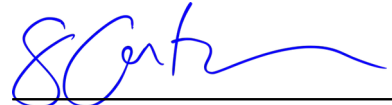
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



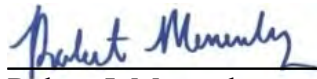
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



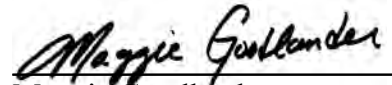
Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



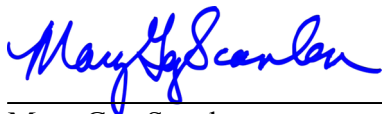
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



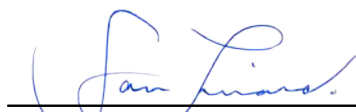
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress