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One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

September 17, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Speaker,

We write to express our strong support for inclusion of critically important provisions for Ukraine in a Continuing Resolution as the Ukrainian people continue their fight against Russia's brutal campaign of aggression. Ukraine's military has made courageous gains in its Kursk counter-offensive and continues to defend its people from countless Russian missile barrages, aerial bombings and ground incursions. The Ukrainians have effectively used U.S. and European assistance on the battlefield, not least to supplement much needed infantry armored capabilities as well as replenishment of air defenses. Any Continuing Resolution must include critical legislative provisions and authorities to support Ukraine's effort. These provisions, along with certainty and stability for our defense and diplomatic programs and workforces, are vital not only for Ukraine's effort but for U.S. national security.

Extension of Foreign Assistance Act Sec.506(a)(1) President Drawdown Authority (PDA) is critical to ensure the Administration can continue to provide much-needed military assistance—not only to Ukraine but to Israel, and other global partners, including in the Indo-Pacific. This authority is the primary means by which the U.S. has worked with allies and partners to ensure Ukraine's military can repel Russian advances, defend civilians, and win the war.

The legislation must also include vital language necessary to extend the authority for the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Direct Loan program and loan guarantee authority within the Department of State. Doing so will enable the Administration to continue providing critical

foreign military financing support for Ukraine and its neighbors who have provided Ukraine much needed assistance with U.S. origin arms and defense equipment.

Continuing this Foreign Military Financing clearly benefits our own defense industrial base. It helps keep the U.S. as the partner of choice as Russia and China seek to wield their influence through military contracts and coercion. Increasing and modifying the loan guarantee authority will also position the Department of State to make use of interest from seized Russian assets to benefit Ukraine through continued security assistance. It also allows Ukraine, along with its global partners, to better plan for the future of this unprovoked war and bring it closer to an end on Ukraine's terms.

Finally, any Continuing Resolution must also include language extending the Department of State's direct commercial contract authority for Ukraine. This authority was last provided in the 2022 Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act. Without its inclusion and extension, Ukraine would be unable to use Foreign Military Financing to procure defense articles and services directly from U.S. defense firms and service providers, which expedites certain procurements, further contributing to Ukraine's ability to defend itself.

Ahead of the coming winter, helping Ukraine fight and win is a U.S. national security imperative and signals to the world that the U.S. will stand by democratic peoples. By continuing to stand by the free, courageous and independent people of Ukraine—as the House did in April under your leadership with the national security supplemental package—we will significantly improve their chances of victory and send a clear message to dictators and autocrats the world over. We must stand by Ukraine.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee



WILLIAM R. KEATING
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe



NANCY PELOSI
Speaker Emerita



JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress



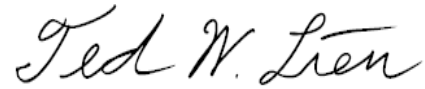
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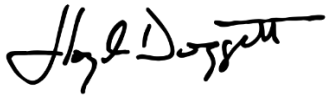
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