



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

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
The White House

The Honorable Russell Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
The White House

Dear Director Mulvaney and Acting Director Vought:

We write to express our deep concern regarding reports that the Office of Management and Budget is holding up significant security assistance funding in support of Ukraine's defense. These funds, which were appropriated by Congress as Foreign Military Financing and as part of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and signed into law by the President, are essential to advancing U.S. national security interests. We urge you to make them available for obligation without delay.

This funding, a bipartisan response to Russia's assaults on Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity since 2014, is critical to the Ukrainian people to deter ongoing Russian aggression and territorial expansion. Congress continues to believe that unwavering support for Ukraine to counter Russian malign influence is a vital component of U.S. national security.

Congress fully agrees on the need to conduct robust oversight to ensure that all U.S. assistance is spent wisely, and that it is important for Ukraine to continue to make needed reforms and combat corruption. The Departments of State and Defense have already determined that Ukraine has met the significant conditionality requirements put in place to ensure that security assistance is accompanied by reforms by the Ukrainian government.

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We strongly urge immediate action to ensure this central component of security assistance to Ukraine moves forward. Inasmuch as the authority to obligate the funds under the OMB "hold" expires on September 30, we are concerned that further delay would effectively cancel this appropriation in contravention of an Act of Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Michael Pence, Vice President of the United States
The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense