

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 9, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to affirm our unwavering support for Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, and call on the U.S. Department of State to freeze the accounts in Qatar containing \$6 billion in Iranian funds that were released from South Korean accounts in September.

Since Hamas began its attack on Israel on Saturday, more than 4,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza, countless Israelis have been injured, and more than 130 individuals have been kidnapped by Hamas terrorists. Hundreds of civilians have been brutally murdered in Israel, and recent reports confirm that several Americans were killed in the attacks.

Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, and *Wall Street Journal* reported that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps worked with Hamas to plan the ongoing attacks on Israel. These horrific attacks come on the heels of the State Department issuing sanctions waivers for Iranian funds held in South Korean accounts to be converted from won to euros and then transferred to bank accounts in Qatar.

To stand by and allow Iran access to these funds as Hamas infiltrates Israel and murders, rapes, and mutilates countless Israelis is unconscionable. Your administration claims these funds are only available for humanitarian use, but money is fungible, and there is a significant risk they could be used to further efforts by Iran or Hamas against Israel. Moreover, allowing \$6 billion to flow into Iran's economy, even if the purpose is for humanitarian aid, allows the Iranian regime to reallocate even more funds to supporting terrorism. Oversight over the use of this \$6 billion is not enough, and the oversight mechanism is crippled by your reported decision to pull the longstanding Treasury attaché from Qatar. The State Department should immediately rescind the waivers that allowed Iranian funds to be converted and moved to more accessible bank accounts, as well as work with U.S. ally Qatar to immediately freeze the accounts containing these funds.

We must stand with Israel and restrict access to these Iranian funds. Iran should be placed under the most stringent sanctions admissible. Anything short of this is unacceptable and only aids in the ability of Iran and Hamas to fund these heinous acts.

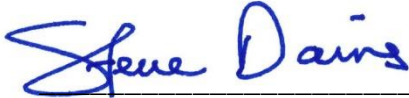
Sincerely,



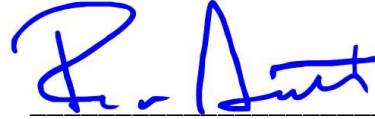
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



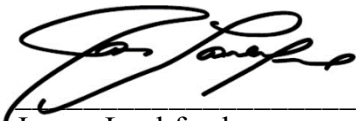
Rick Scott
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



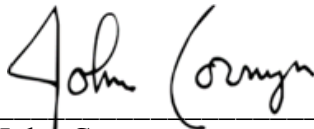
John Thune
United States Senator



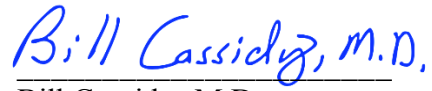
James Lankford
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



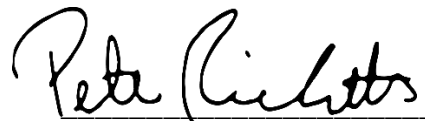
Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

CC: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken