

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, Leader Jeffries, Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request urgent action to advance critical and sustained security assistance and economic support for Ukraine. We appreciate the bipartisan statement issued by Senate leadership over the weekend, reiterating that support for Ukraine remains a top legislative priority. Congress cannot sit idly by while Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine continues.

This past weekend, Congress came together to pass a bipartisan continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded and avoid an unnecessary and devastating government shutdown. We supported this important compromise to ensure a functioning United States government. However, we share our constituents' frustration and concern that this package failed to include emergency funding necessary to support Ukraine in its response to Putin's inhumane and illegal war. The bipartisan Senate CR included significant emergency funding for Ukraine, and we urge you to build on this work and put forward a bipartisan, bicameral funding package for Ukraine as soon as possible.

Now is not the time to slow our aid to Ukraine. Russian forces continue to bomb civilian populations – targeting hospitals,¹² schools,³ churches,⁴⁵⁶ and apartment buildings.⁷⁸⁹ Such brutal, egregious violations of Ukrainian sovereignty and Ukrainian citizens’ basic human rights must not go unanswered. Our allies and partners continue to look to the United States to lead the effort to hold Russia accountable and stand up for democratic values and norms.

While Ukraine has started its counteroffensive and made progress in stemming the tide of the war, without sustained support, Ukraine’s aerial defense will falter, and munitions will run critically low. The Department of Defense (DOD) has exhausted nearly all available security assistance funding for Ukraine. While the Ukrainian soldiers are some of the world’s best fighters, the Russian war machine funding is not stopping and dictators, like North Korea’s Kim Jong Un, are aligning themselves with their malign effort. Our resolve signals to bad actors around the world – including the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) – that the U.S. and world’s democracies will not let an authoritarian regime invade a sovereign nation.

Our states are home to thousands of members of the Ukrainian diaspora. We hear from them daily, and they remind us of the importance of continuing our commitment to helping Ukrainians defend themselves and their homes. They have shared stories about their friends and family members who are living under constant threat of indiscriminate aerial bombing of civilian targets. We must follow their lead and reaffirm that American leadership remains committed to democracy and human rights.

Two weeks ago, President Zelenskyy addressed Members of Congress and made clear the vital need for additional aid. We appreciate the commitment exhibited both by President Biden and Senate leadership toward meeting President Zelenskyy’s call for action. Now that a government shutdown has been averted, we must provide Ukraine the resources necessary to defend themselves.

It is past time for the U.S. Congress to take up and pass legislation guaranteeing Ukraine has the critical resources necessary to continue defending themselves against Putin’s illegal war. We urge you to act immediately to advance legislation that will provide critical and sustained security and economic support for Ukraine to the President’s desk for his signature.

¹ [Report: Nearly one in every 10 hospitals in Ukraine have been damaged by attacks since Russia's invasion | CNN](#)

² [Photos: Maternity hospital bombed in Ukraine | CNN](#)

³ [War Crimes Watch: Targeting Ukraine Schools, Russia Bombs Future \(pbs.org\)](#) (stating that the Ukrainian government reports that 1000 schools have been bombed).

⁴ [Report: 500 Ukrainian Churches and Religious Sites Damaged..... | News & Reporting | Christianity Today](#) (noting that one-third of the churches attacked are evangelical churches where members are attacked as “American spies”.)

⁵ [Russia Attacks Church in Ukraine on Easter Sunday, 2 Casualties: Report \(newsweek.com\)](#)

⁶ [Issue Update: Russia’s Religious Freedom Violations in Ukraine \(uscirf.gov\)](#)

⁷ [Dnipro apartment building attack: Death toll rises to 40 | CNN](#)

⁸ [Zaporizhzhia: Russian missiles hit Ukraine apartment complex as China's Xi departs Moscow | CNN](#)

⁹ [More Russian missiles slam Ukrainian apartments, killing 13 in Zaporizhzhia | PBS NewsHour](#)

Thank you for your attention to this critical priority.

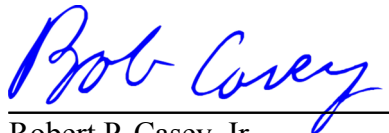
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



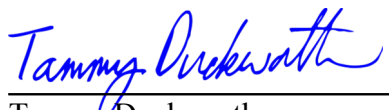
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator