

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As proponents of a strong U.S.-Pakistan relationship, we write to express our concerns about the current situation in Pakistan and urge you to use all diplomatic tools at your disposal to pressure the Government of Pakistan towards a greater commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. This should include a commitment to investigate any infringement upon freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in Pakistan.

Over the past several months, we have become increasingly concerned by the blanket bans on demonstrations and deaths of several prominent critics of the government. We ask for your help pressuring the Government of Pakistan to ensure protestors can assert their demands in a peaceful and non-violent way, free from harassment, intimidation, and arbitrary detention. As both Democrats and Republicans who care about the bilateral relationship, we are concerned that violence and increased political tension could spiral into a deteriorating security situation in Pakistan.

As supporters of a strong bilateral U.S.-Pakistan relationship, we wish to commend your sustained focus on Pakistan and your efforts to provide humanitarian assistance following historic, devastating floods. We now urge you to use all diplomatic tools—including calls, visits, and public statements—to demonstrate U.S. interest and prevent the erosion of democratic institutions in Pakistan. Supporting democracy in Pakistan is in the national interest of the United States.

In this critical moment, U.S. diplomatic leadership is necessary to prevent further erosion of democratic protections. We thank you for your work and again urge you to do all you can to address this situation. We look forward to supporting you in this effort.

Sincerely,



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



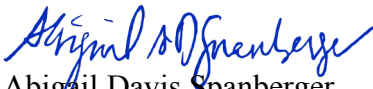
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



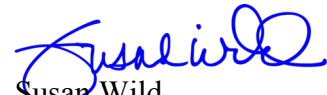
André Carson
Member of Congress



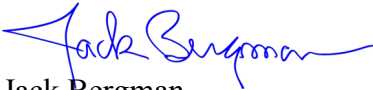
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



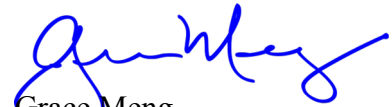
Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress




Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



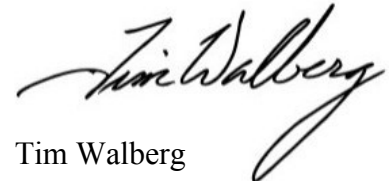
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



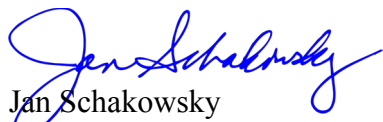
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress




Tim Walberg
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Steven Horsford
Member of Congress




Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress




Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



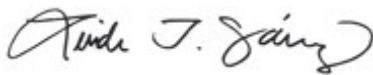
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



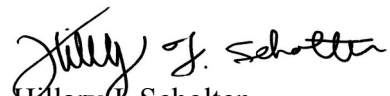
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



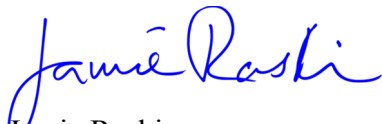
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Summer Lee
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



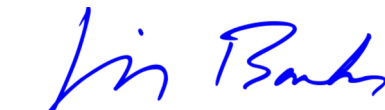
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress




Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



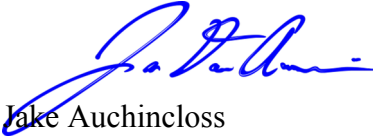
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



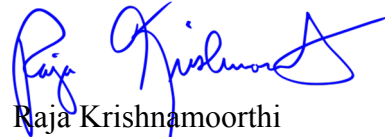
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John James
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



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