Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee 2170 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable James Risch Ranking Member Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 423 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Risch:

As Members of Congress, we write to respectfully urge you to lift your hold on the State Department's request for \$94 million for the Multinational Security Support mission (MSS) to Haiti.

As you know, the situation in Haiti is dire. The people of Haiti have faced profound political, security, and humanitarian crises with dignity and determination. While the future of Haiti needs to be determined by Haitians, no nation can surmount a challenge of this scale and scope on its own.

The Biden-Harris Administration has strongly supported the establishment of the MSS, under Kenya's leadership, to pave the way for Haitian security and self-determination.

However, for over six months, congressional Republicans have refused to deliver the necessary resources to carry out this mission, even as the situation on the ground has deteriorated. The instability in Haiti is not only a humanitarian crisis, but a threat to our national security. We believe the MSS would advance the national security interests of the United States, demonstrate American leadership in the Caribbean, and provide a lifeline to the Haitian people.

Haiti is at an inflection point. Funding for the MSS is critical to jumpstart international efforts to improve the security situation. Without such efforts, it is very likely that Haiti will devolve into further chaos and potentially civil war. If the U.S. Congress acts decisively and together, Haiti has a fighting chance. If we dither and delay, we are likely to watch as the Haitian National Police collapses, violent gangs overrun the country, and irregular migration to the United States and countries across the region surges.

As Members of Congress, we have a shared responsibility—to assess how U.S. taxpayer dollars will be used to support the MSS. After more than 90 briefings by the State Department on the proposed use of funds, we believe that the burden of persuasion has been met and that it is time to release the remaining \$94 million.

Like you, we regard American leadership as indispensable, not only in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, and other regions far from our shores—but also, and perhaps especially, in

our own neighborhood. Again, we urge you to reconsider and lift your hold on this critical assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaine

United States Senator

Stacey E/Plaskett
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick

Member of Congress

Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator

Jam€s E. Clyburn∕⁄

Member of Congress (SC-06)

Jack Reed

United States Senator

Steven Horsford

Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin

United States Senator

vette D. Clarke

Member of Congress

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff Member of Congress

Jeffrey A. Merkley United States Senator

Grace Meng

Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen United States Senator Debbie Wasserman Schultz Member of Congress

John Hickenlooper United States Senator

Darren Soto

Member of Congress

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

R.,UBW=

Josh Gottheimer Member of Congress Peter Welch

United States Senator

Robert Menendez **United States Senator**

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

Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Lois Frankel Member of Congress

Lois Frankel

Dan Goldman Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Summer Lee Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown Member of Congress Katty Castor

Kathy Castor

Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume

Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey

Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Gabe Amo Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis Member of Congress Jernifer L. McClellan Member of Congress

oaquin Castro Member of Congress

Valerie P. Foushee Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

André Carson Member of Congress Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Lucy McBath

Member of Congress