

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

May 12, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with regard to the ongoing rocket attacks against Israel by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas. Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel. They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel's capital Jerusalem. This is troubling as members of your administration are currently in Vienna negotiating with Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. In light of these recent attacks by Hamas against Israel, the United States should take all steps necessary to hold Tehran accountable and under no circumstances, provide sanctions relief to Iran. This is especially important as Iran is supporting terrorist activity against the United States' closest ally in the region, Israel.

As you know, Palestinian terrorist groups launched more than 1,000 rockets targeting Israel over the last few days alone. This includes the first rockets aimed at Jerusalem since 2014. While the United States and countries around the world condemned these rocket attacks, Iran resoundingly supports this aggression. Shortly after the attacks began, and as they continued, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted that Palestinians should unite to "use the tools of their disposal" to attack Israel, which he recently called not a nation, but a "terrorist garrison." Even the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammed Javad Zarif, who currently is supervising Iran's negotiating team in Vienna, called Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh to express Iran's support for the group's actions.

The United States designated Hamas as a terrorist organization in 1997 and as such, is prohibited from providing any funds to Hamas. Iran, however, is a longtime financial and material supporter of Hamas. The United States engaging in active negotiations with Iran and potentially providing billions of dollars in sanctions relief will no doubt contribute to Iran's support of Hamas and other terrorist organizations who attack Americans and our allies. We call on you to immediately end negotiations with Iran, and make clear that sanctions relief will not be provided. Doing so would demonstrate a firm commitment to our closest ally in the region and to our own security interests.

The United States must not do anything to enrich Israel's enemies, such as by offering sanctions relief to a regime that seeks to destroy Israel. As a longtime friend of the Jewish state, we also urge you to unequivocally support Israel's right to defend itself against any and all terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,



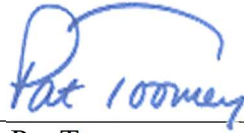
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



James E. Risch
U.S. Senator



James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



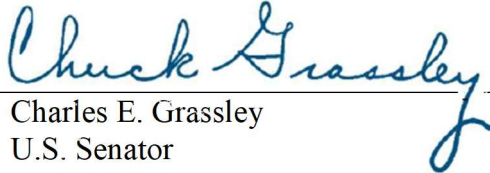
Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator



Todd Young
U.S. Senator



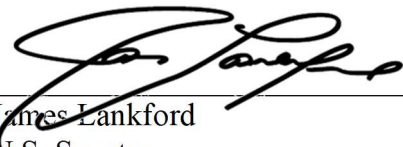
Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator



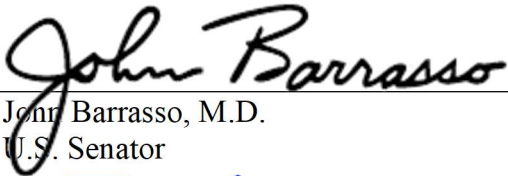
Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator



James Lankford
U.S. Senator



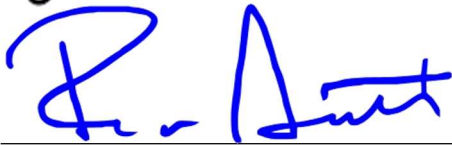
Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



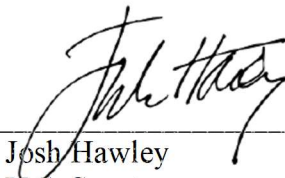
John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senator



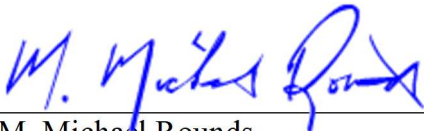
Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



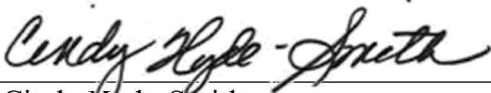
Josh Hawley
U.S. Senator



M. Michael Rounds
U.S. Senator



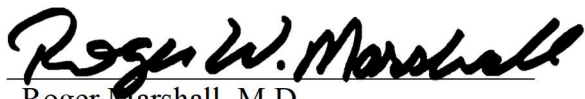
Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



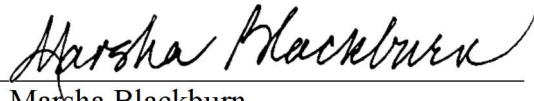
Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senator



Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator



Mitt Romney
U.S. Senator



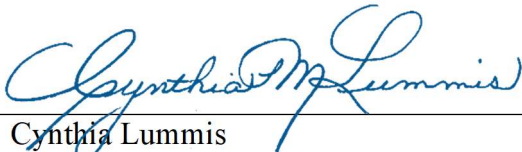
Mike Braun
U.S. Senator



Deb Fischer
U.S. Senator



Joni K. Ernst
U.S. Senator



Cynthia Lummis
U.S. Senator



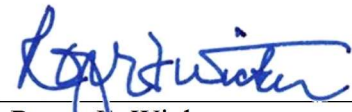
Ben Sasse
U.S. Senator



John Thune
U.S. Senator



Tim Scott
U.S. Senator



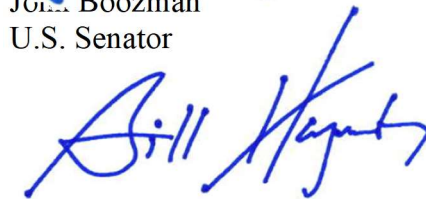
Roger H. Wicker
U.S. Senator



John Boozman
U.S. Senator




Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Bill Hagerty
U.S. Senator



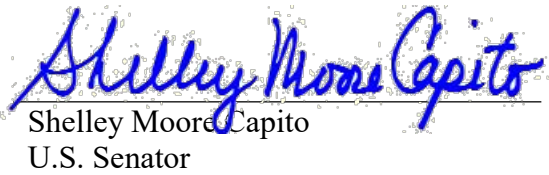
Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator



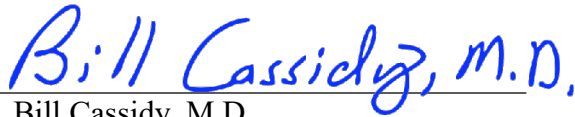
Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator



Michael S. Lee
U.S. Senator



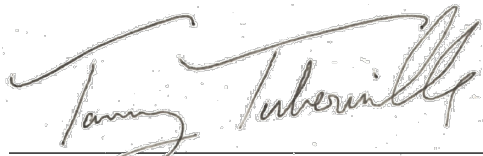
Richard Burr
U.S. Senator



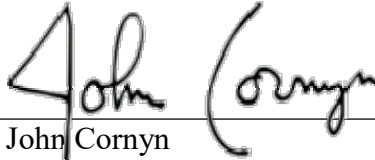
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



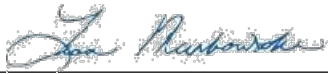
Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator



Tommy Tuberville
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator