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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
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ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

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October 9, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I urge you to use all appropriate U.S. resources and tools to arrange for the immediate evacuation of American citizens in Israel who are desperately trying to return home.

The dangers these U.S. citizens face are so grave, and the responsibility of the U.S. Government for their safety so paramount, that their evacuation must be the uppermost immediate priority of the U.S. Government in Israel and the Middle East. You must act rapidly and decisively providing the full support that American citizens need for their immediate safe evacuation to the United States.

In the past thirty-six hours I have received many reports from constituents who are U.S. citizens currently in Israel, or whose relatives and friends are U.S. citizens currently in Israel, and who seek to return to the United States as soon as possible but are unable to do so. As you must be aware, most airlines have cancelled flights out of Israel, with little information about when they may resume. Remaining flights do not suffice to evacuate the large number of U.S. nationals in Israel, and the administration should consider engaging or facilitating chartered flights to get our citizens home.

Given the unprecedentedly savage nature of Hamas's sneak attack—which included the abduction and threat to execute hostages, the systematic committing of unspeakable atrocities on civilians, and the threat that Iran or its proxies will act to trigger general war in the region—we have an obligation to give Israel the support it needs to definitively defeat its terrorist enemies.

At the same time, you must move heaven and earth to get U.S. citizens out from harm's way. Every American who is looking to return home must have the opportunity to do so. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress