



The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

DECEMBER 5, 2023

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My friend, as you and I have discussed many times, Americans are sick and tired of business as usual in Washington. Recently, their concerns have been represented by elected representatives willing to take unprecedented steps to force necessary change and lead America back on track. Your Speakership is a most welcome example of this. The fact that this year, for the first time in recent memory, there is no threat of a corrupt Christmas Eve omnibus, is evidence of this. Yet, I write to express my concerns about supplemental appropriations legislation being negotiated behind closed doors by a small gang of Senate Republicans and Democrats that, if passed, would undermine that cause.

The legislation comes in response to President Biden's request for more than \$100 billion in funding for the war in Ukraine, military support to Israel, operations at America's southern border, humanitarian assistance to foreign nations, and defense equities in the Indo-Pacific. It is no surprise that President Biden and Senate Democrats would pursue such a reckless, aimless, and feckless course. Sadly, it is also not surprising that a small number of Republican Senators would join them. However, it is alarming to read reports that Congressional Republicans are actively courting this supplemental spending package.

Under your leadership, the House has previously maintained that whatever the merits of each of these matters, they ought to be debated separately. Accordingly, the House passed \$12 billion in military assistance to Israel offset by a reduction in spending for additional enforcement at the Internal Revenue Service. This was sensible policy that met the demand to supply America's most important ally in the Middle East with the support it needs to respond to the atrocities of October 7 while not exacerbating America's ruinous deficit spending and debt.

Unfortunately, the Senate rejected the House bill providing necessary funding for Israel, preferring instead to tie those funds to its other policy priorities. Among those is humanitarian aid for Gaza and the West Bank. Previous international aid for Palestinians was diverted by Hamas to help fund the deadliest terrorist attack in Israel's history. We stand firmly and unabashedly on one side of this conflict – Israel's side. The House of Representatives must not join the Senate in funding both sides of the war in Israel.

Most of the funding in the President's budget request is for aid to Ukraine and not for military support for Israel. The U.S. public has been told that assistance to Ukraine is in America's security interests, yet President Biden is not treating the war exclusively as a military project. The Administration has already sent billions of dollars to subsidize Ukrainian farmers

and small businesses and even pay the salaries and pensions of Ukrainian government employees. The House of Representatives should strongly oppose aid to Ukraine when the European Union, which lags far behind the United States in its military assistance to Ukraine, should be required to fund greater levels of aid for Ukraine.

Additionally, any military funding for Ukraine should include a publicly available accounting of how the U.S. contribution so far has been used in Ukraine. It should also be debated and considered on its own merits and be legitimately paid for, and not cloaked in so-called “emergency” accounting gimmicks or combined with other funding provisions.

Furthermore, aid for Ukraine should not be provided until the administration provides a plan that defines the end goal in Ukraine, describes the expected U.S. commitment to achieve that goal, addresses the effects of the presidential drawdown authority on U.S. capabilities, and assures further commitments from our European partners. None of this will be included in the Senate’s supplemental package.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, President Biden’s request for \$13.6 billion to fund his version of “border security” should also be rejected. Biden’s clear purpose is not to stop the worst border crisis in American history, but to speed the processing and release of illegal aliens into the United States and provide grants to sanctuary cities overwhelmed with the consequences of President Biden’s decision to open the borders when he took office.

In response to the crisis at the border, earlier this year the House passed H.R. 2. It is the most significant border security legislation in American history. It is a down payment on what we must do to ensure the long-term security of the American people. H.R. 2 is not aspirational. The provisions of H.R. 2 are no more than what is required to regain control of the border and stem the deadly influx of terrorists, criminals, and drugs into this nation. The bill removes the four tools the Biden Administration uses to achieve its open border agenda: asylum fraud, mass immigration parole, unaccompanied alien children, and NGO money. Almost every Republican Senator is on the record supporting H.R. 2. There is no good reason to pass a bill in the name of border security that falls short of its provisions.

Please do not undermine the gains that have been made on behalf of the American people by substituting one corrupt, unaffordable end-of-year deal for another. Hold firm to the convictions you and I and the American people share in common.



DR. KEVIN ROBERTS

President,

Heritage Action for America