



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

February 03, 2024

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is enjoying a productive weekend back in your districts. I am writing to let you know that this afternoon our colleague Ken Calvert will release legislative text related to support for our ally Israel. We will plan a vote on his bill next week.

As you know, one of the first bills passed by the House after I became Speaker was a supplemental spending package of \$14.3 billion to support Israel in its war against Hamas. We paid for that measure with an equal reduction in funding for the IRS. Sadly, the Democrats have refused to consider that offset to support Israel (even though they agreed to additional cuts to the IRS to pay for their domestic priorities in the final appropriations topline).

In the three months since we passed our bill, the war with Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists has intensified, rockets have landed in Israeli cities, attacks on U.S. forces in the region have accelerated, and our retaliatory strikes against Iranian targets in Syria and Iraq are currently underway to deter further aggression. We have learned more about the monstrous nature of Hamas's atrocities in Israel and even the shocking participation of personnel from a United Nations humanitarian agency in the brutality of the terrorist attacks on October 7. The need to support our closest ally and our own forces in the region has never been more pressing, and many members of our Conference have urged immediate action.

While the Senate appears poised to finally release text of their supplemental package after months of behind closed doors negotiations, their leadership is aware that by failing to include the House in their negotiations, they have eliminated the ability for swift consideration of any legislation. As I have said consistently for the past three months, the House will have to work its will on these issues and our priorities will need to be addressed.

Given the Senate's failure to move appropriate legislation in a timely fashion, and the perilous circumstances currently facing Israel, the House will continue to lead. Next week, we will take up and pass a clean, standalone Israel supplemental package. During debate in the House and in numerous subsequent statements, Democrats made clear that their primary objection to the original House bill was with its offsets. The Senate will no longer have excuses, however misguided, against swift passage of this critical support for our ally.

I look forward to discussing this more when we return to Washington next week. In these historic times, I am grateful to serve with you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Johnson".

Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House