

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

The steadfast commitment to the alliance between America and Israel has been a significant pillar of President Trump's administration. We must continue to stand with Israel against threats and hostile behavior from state and non-state actors in the region. We applaud President Trump's efforts to bring accountability to U.S. foreign aid. It is essential we ensure that the assistance is helping those it is targeted at, while bolstering America's interests and national security.

That is why we write today to bring to your attention a disturbing piece of information concerning the Palestinian Authority's (PA) use of U.S. taxpayer funds. In March, 2018 Congress took a clear and bi-partisan stance on how aid dollars are to be used by the PA by passing the Taylor Force Act. This law prohibits U.S. taxpayer funds from being made available to the PA if they continue their practice of paying terrorists and their families. Yet, despite clear Congressional intent, media reports have stated that the PA's 2018 budget has codified this abhorrent practice. The budget sets aside 8% of its total to the so-called "martyr's fund", which amounts to over \$350 million in US taxpayer funded aid.

Additionally, President Mahmoud Abbas recently stated: ***"There is something that the Americans are telling us to stop—the salaries of the martyrs and the martyrs' families. Of course we categorically reject this. We will not under any circumstances allow anyone to harm the families of the prisoners, the wounded, and the martyrs. They are our children and they are our families. They honor us, and we will continue to pay them before the living."***

The Taylor Force Act allows the Secretary of State to withhold funds from the PA if they continue to make these payments and if they are not taking "credible steps to end acts of violence against Israeli citizens and United States citizens". From the content of the PA's budget, President Abbas's recent statement, and the violence perpetrated by terrorists in Gaza recently, it is clear where the PA stands on this matter.

As such, we are concerned with the potential of US taxpayer funds continuing to support terrorists. Please provide a written response to the following questions:

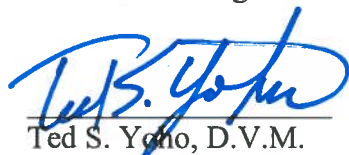
1. How many foreign aid dollars went to the PA that were then used to fund terrorists prior to passage of the Taylor Force Act?
2. What measures are you planning to take to enforce the law and suspend aid to the PA, given the above statements and the content of their proposed budget?

Given the disturbing information outlined in the above paragraphs, we urge you to immediately suspend all aid payments to the Palestinian Authority. Further, we urge you to make the cessation of this abhorrent practice that incentivizes terrorism a pre-condition for any US brokered peace talks between the sovereign state of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

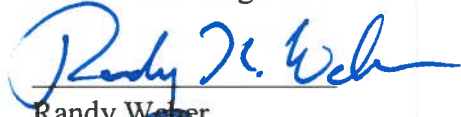
Sincerely,



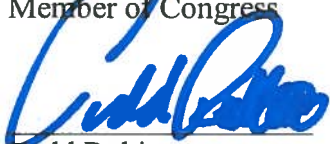
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



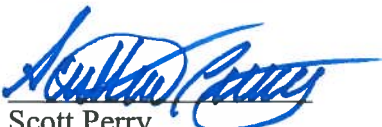
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



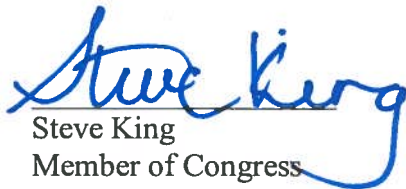
Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



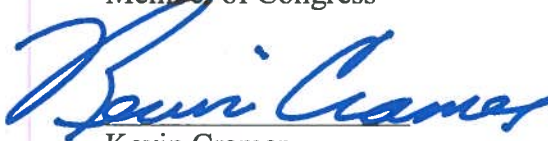
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



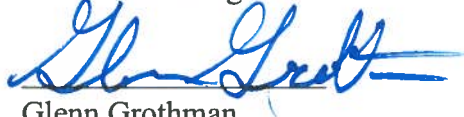
Steve King  
Member of Congress



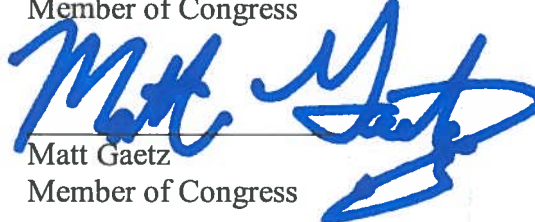
John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

CC: President Donald J. Trump