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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

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April 18, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We commend your leadership in guiding the U.S.-Israel relationship to its best years in recent history, and also for finally recognizing that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. As you know, many presidents have made this promise but you are the first to follow through with the American people's and Congress' conscience. The Jerusalem declaration is an important step in reaching a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We have tremendous confidence that you will continue taking such steps to resolve the conflict, and encourage you to next address the so-called "Palestinian refugee" population.

America has provided \$1 billion to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) over the last four fiscal years, and nearly \$6 billion since UNRWA's inception in 1950. We are concerned that hard-earned American taxpayer dollars are not being used properly. Your withholding of funds from UNRWA in January on the condition that they reform was a tremendous first step. American taxpayers deserve to know how their tax dollars are spent on Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

In order to investigate the matter, the Senate Report 112-172 to the Department of State, Foreign Operations, And Related Programs Appropriations bill in 2012 directed the Department of State to issue a report to Congress detailing "the approximate number of people who, in the past year, have received UNRWA services: (1) whose place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948 and who were displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict; and (2) who are descendants of persons described in subparagraph (1)."

This mandate was reaffirmed by Congress in both the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 consolidated appropriations bills. Finally, in 2015, the Obama State Department delivered the mandated report to Congress in classified form despite no apparent national security threat or known historical precedent for classifying such a report. We believe this classification was

inappropriate and a deliberate attempt to conceal information from American taxpayers. The report should be declassified without further delay.

We respectfully request that you instruct the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to declassify this report. The issue of the so-called Palestinian "right of return" of 5.3 million refugees to Israel as part of any "peace deal" is an unrealistic demand, and we do not believe it accurately reflects the number of actual Palestinian refugees. Just like your courageous action in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving our embassy there, it is time to end the fiction of the "right of return" and bring the conflict one step closer to conclusion.

As we work towards a just resolution to this conflict, we thank you for your leadership in stating what everyone already knows: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Your courage to say these words, and more importantly, to implement them with the May 14 relocation of our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has ushered in a unique opportunity for peace.

Mr. President, we know you are tackling an innumerable amount of issues that require your focus, but believe that this issue is also deserving of your immediate attention. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

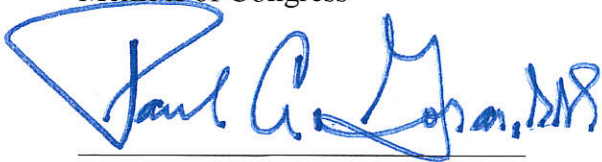
Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



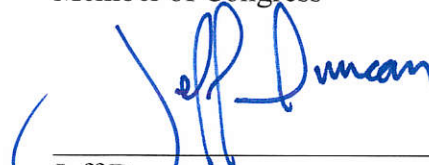
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann  
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Jeff Duncan  
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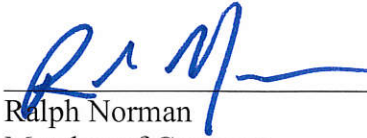
Claudia Tenney  
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Lloyd Smucker  
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Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
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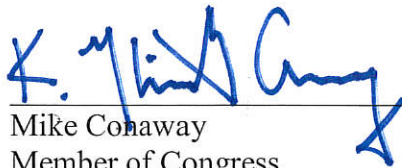
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Louie Gohmert  
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David B. McKinley  
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Mike Conaway  
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Steve Pearce  
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Luke Messer  
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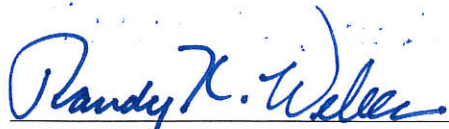
Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



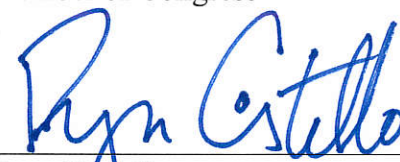
Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress



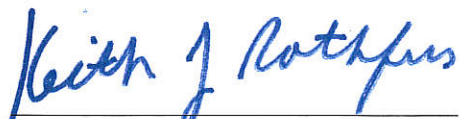
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Alex X. Mooney  
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Matt Gaetz

Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



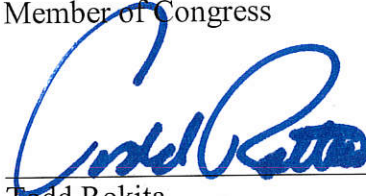
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



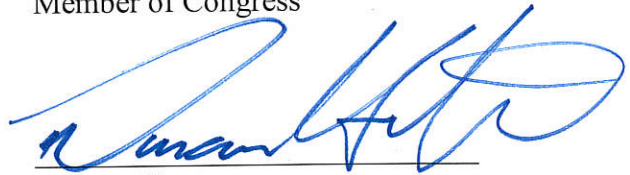
Tom Marino  
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Rick Allen  
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Duncan Hunter  
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Dave Trott  
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Chris Stewart  
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Jim Banks  
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