

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

We write to express our strong support for meeting our nation's financial obligations for United Nations peacekeeping in the Fiscal Year 2021 State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Your Subcommittee has long recognized the importance of cost-effective multilateral means of maintaining international peace and security such as UN peacekeeping operations, and we firmly believe these programs are deserving of your continued bipartisan support.

Peacekeeping operations are a critical component of the international community's conflict mitigation and stabilization toolbox, as the UN Security Council authorizes such missions to separate warring parties, protect civilians, and support democratic elections. For example, in Mali, UN peacekeepers have worked to restore democratic governance and prevent extremists linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State from controlling territory in the country's volatile north. In South Sudan, despite the existence of a relatively shaky peace deal between the government and armed opposition forces, peacekeepers continue to protect more than 200,000 civilians from political and ethnic violence. In eastern Congo, currently experiencing the second-worst Ebola outbreak on record, UN peacekeepers are protecting health workers from attack and providing logistical and operational support to the international health response. In all of these cases, the missions are far less financially burdensome than other forms of intervention: a 2018 Government Accountability Office report, for example, found that deploying UN peacekeepers is one-eighth the cost of sending U.S. forces to do the same job.

With respect to costs, we are increasingly concerned by the financial challenges currently facing UN peacekeeping, which are mainly the result of underpayments of U.S. assessments. As you know, for the past four years, Congress and the Administration have enforced an arbitrary 25% cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, causing the United States to run up nearly \$1 billion in arrears. As a result, countries that participate in peacekeeping missions are not being fully reimbursed for their contributions of personnel and equipment, which cost them tens of millions of dollars. This creates significant challenges for troop-contributors, most of which are lower-income countries like Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Bangladesh, that rely on reimbursements to help sustain complex, longer-term peacekeeping deployments. In fact, the

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Two

State Department acknowledged this reality in a June 2019 report to Congress on the impact of U.S. arrears to international organizations.

The State Department has also recognized the growing influence of China within international organizations, including at the UN. China is now the second largest financial contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget, and the tenth largest provider of troops for peacekeeping operations. Chinese diplomats have moved to use this growing clout to advocate for cuts to human rights monitoring and civilian protection posts in UN peacekeeping missions. If the United States continues to accumulate debt and send the message that it does not prioritize peacekeeping, these efforts to sideline U.S. priorities will only gain further traction.

We were pleased that your Subcommittee included \$478 million in additional funding to help pay down our arrears as part of the House FY20 State/Foreign Operations bill. While we were disappointed that this provision did not make it into the final bill passed in December, the FY21 process fortunately provides a new opportunity to correct this situation. As a result, we request your support for a level of \$2.616 billion for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities account in FY21. This amount includes the funding necessary to pay our peacekeeping assessments at the current rate of 27.89%, which amounts to \$1.660 billion, as well as funds necessary to pay our arrears. As part of this request, we ask that you include bill language lifting the cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, similar to what has been done in the past under both Republican and Democratic leadership. We also ask that you support the Peacekeeping Operations account—which includes assessed funding for UN activities in Somalia—at a level of \$525.3 million.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that these vital missions are fully funded. Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

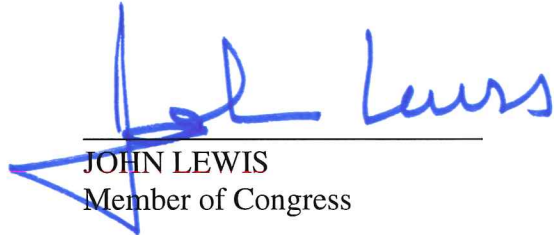


DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Three



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



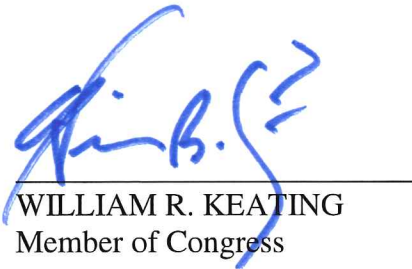
JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



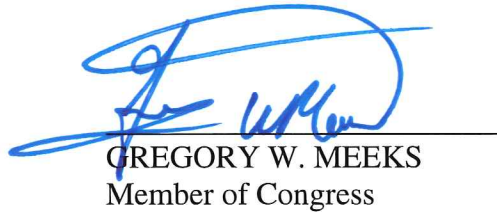
DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



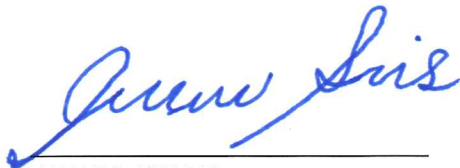
TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



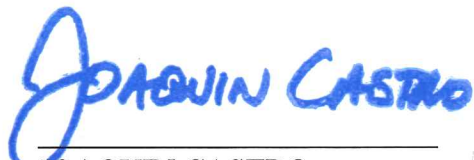
WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

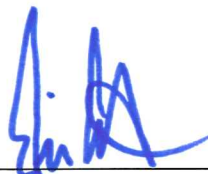
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Four




GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



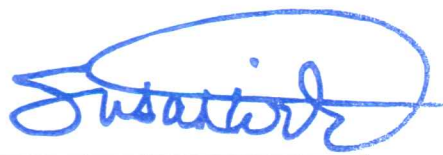
KAREN BASS
Member of Congress




AMI BERA
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress




SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Five



DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress



ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress



DAVID J. TRONE
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

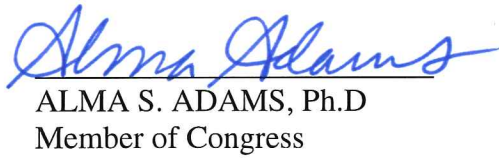
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Six



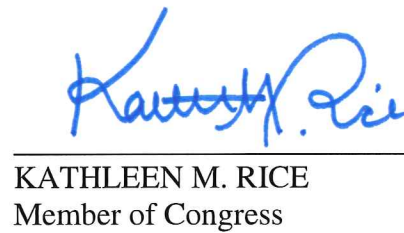
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



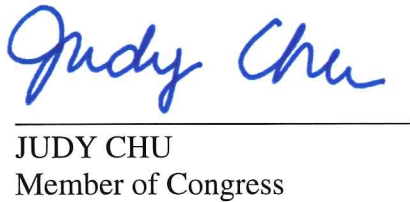
TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



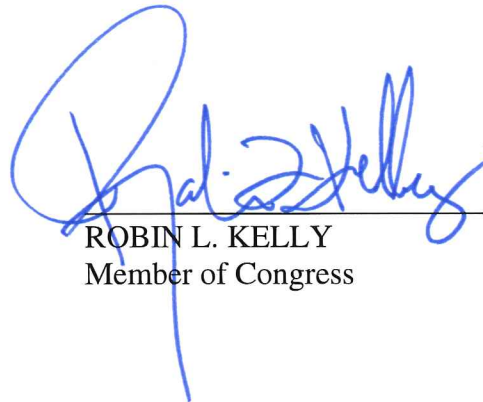
ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph.D
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress


The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Seven



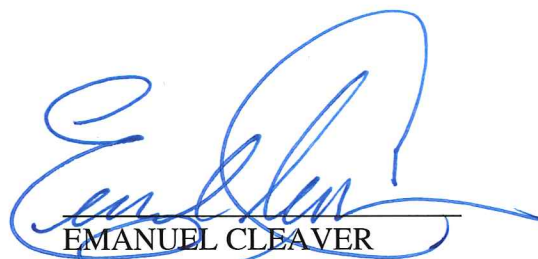
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress




EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress




JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

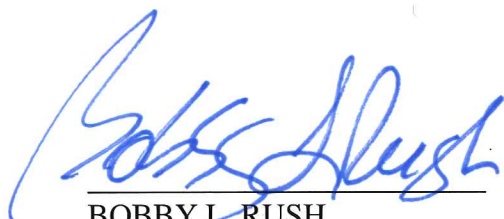
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Eight



GWEN S. MOORE
Member of Congress



C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



PETER A. DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



DINA DEGETTE
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Nine



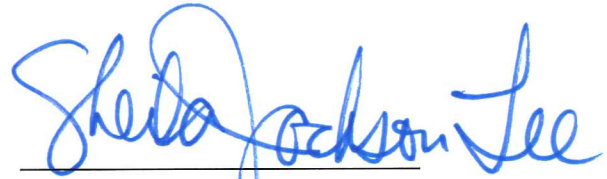
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



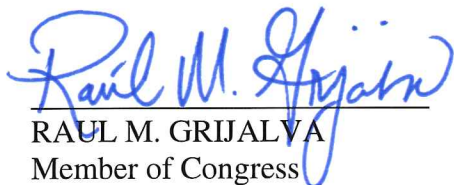
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Ten



VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress



SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress



STEVEN HORSFORD
Member of Congress



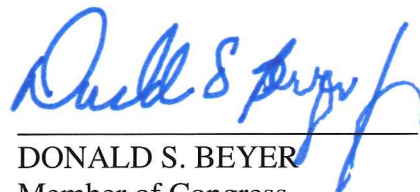
ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress



JASON CROW
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress

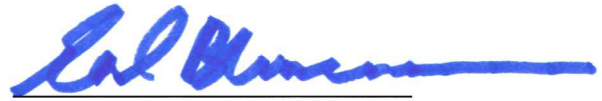


DONALD S. BEYER
Member of Congress

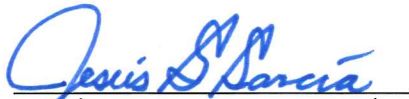
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Eleven



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress



MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



JAMES McGOVERN
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

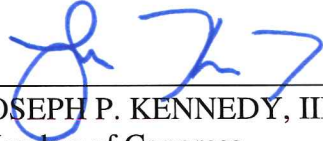


ANN McLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Hal Rogers
March 12, 2020
Page Twelve



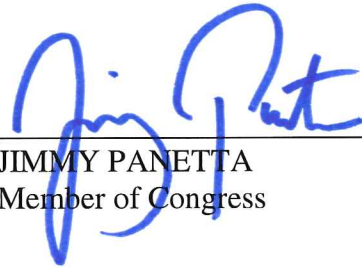
A. DONALD McEACHIN
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress