

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

We write to express our strong support for meeting our nation's financial obligations to United Nations Peacekeeping in the Fiscal Year 2020 State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. UN peacekeeping operations play an important role in advancing key U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, are extremely cost-effective, and are a concrete example of the benefits of international burden-sharing in action.

UN peacekeeping missions perform critical tasks that many countries, including the United States, would be hard pressed to take on alone. In fact, the RAND Corporation, which has done several studies on UN peacekeeping, found that UN operations are "an effective means of terminating conflicts, insuring against their reoccurrence, and promoting democracy...and are much more cost effective than using U.S. forces." Moreover, by harnessing the resources of the international community, UN peacekeeping obviates the need to deploy U.S. forces and frees up our military to concentrate on other pressing security matters. Of the more than 90,000 troops, military advisors, and police personnel currently deployed in 14 UN missions around the world, a mere 41 are Americans.

For these reasons, UN peacekeeping operations have long enjoyed bipartisan support at the highest levels of the U.S. government. The administration of President George W. Bush, for example, actively used our nation's permanent seat on the UN Security Council to push for authorization of new missions in places such as Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Haiti, Timor-Leste, and Darfur. Since that time, several of these missions have closed after successfully completing their mandates and leaving more peaceful and stable societies in their wake.

In a range of other locales, UN peacekeepers are currently working to protect civilians, promote stability, and prevent flare-ups of conflict, including the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In South Sudan, the mission is currently working with formerly warring parties to adhere to the peace agreement, while also protecting 200,000 displaced

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persons who remain afraid of returning home. Moreover, in northern Mali, the UN mission has successfully prevented al-Qaeda-affiliated violent extremists from reoccupying major towns, and is working with the Malian government to rebuild national institutions and expand government authority.

Despite the critical nature of the UN's work, it is facing major financial problems, due in significant measure to Congressional and Administration enforcement of the arbitrary 25% cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, which was enacted in the 1990s. While the cap has been lifted over a dozen times by Congress in the past twenty years, the United States has accrued nearly \$750 million in peacekeeping-related arrears since FY 2017 due to this cap. As a result, the countries that provide troops to peacekeeping missions are not being fully compensated for their contributions and the daily risks their soldiers take in increasingly complex and deadly operations. In addition, funding shortfalls impact peacekeeper deployments, compromising their ability to fulfill civilian protection responsibilities mandated by the U.S. in the Security Council.

UN Peacekeeping is already a relatively austere enterprise: UN peacekeeping activities constitute less than 0.5% of total global military spending and are equivalent to just over 1% of the annual U.S. defense budget. Denying resources to missions that we voted to authorize on the Security Council is strategically and financially unsound. As a result, we request your support for a level of \$2.59 billion for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities account in FY 2020. This amount includes funding necessary to pay our peacekeeping dues at the current assessed rate of 27.89%, which amounts to \$1.84 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 past years under Republican and Democratic leadership. We also ask that you support the Peacekeeping Operations account—which includes assessed funding for UN activities in Somalia—at \$553.7 million.

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

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



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BARBARA LEE
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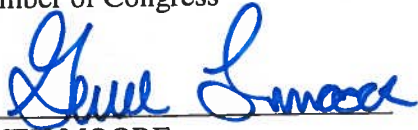
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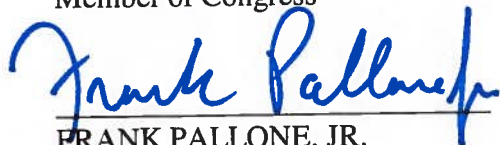
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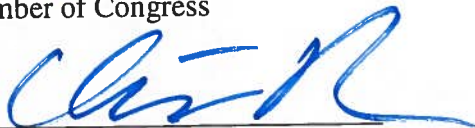
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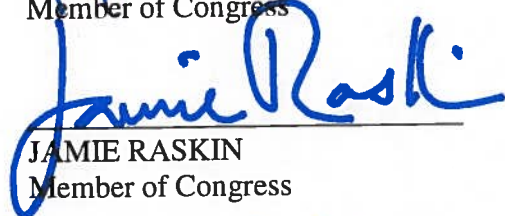
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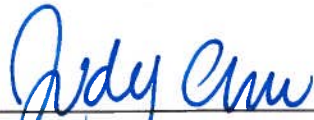
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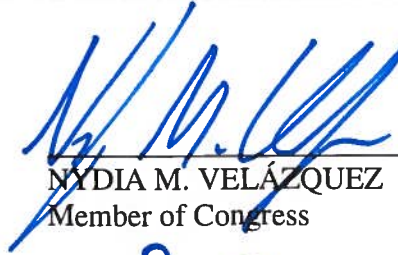
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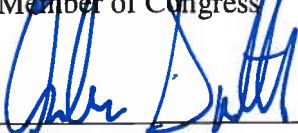
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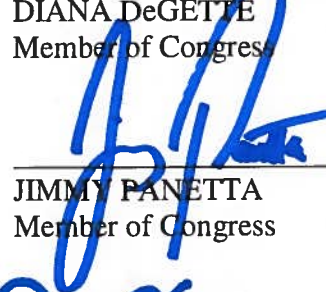
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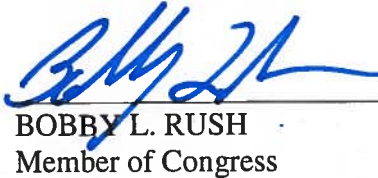
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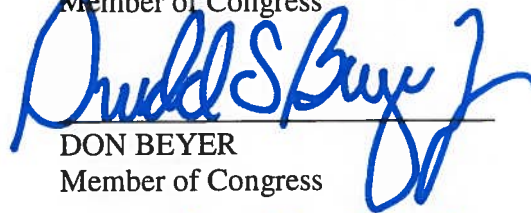
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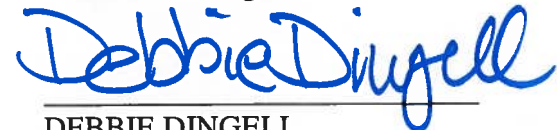
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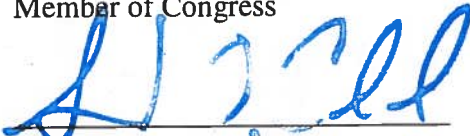
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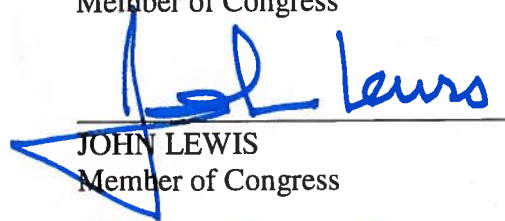
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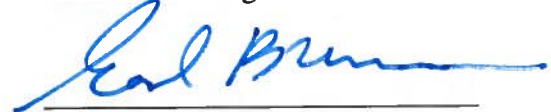
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