

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security
and Department of State
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security
and Department of State
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel:

We write to express our strong support for meeting our financial obligations to the United Nations (UN) in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs appropriations bill. Specifically, we request \$1.741 billion for the Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account, \$1.481 billion for the Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account, and \$444 million for the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) account. We also request the inclusion of bill language lifting the arbitrary 25 percent cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.

The UN continues to serve as a critical force-multiplier for the United States, helping to make America stronger, safer, and more prosperous with the support of international partners. U.S. assessments for the UN regular budget, funded through the CIO account, support core UN activities that advance our national interests, including efforts to monitor and improve international compliance with sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council targeting terrorist groups and U.S. adversaries. They also fund UN political missions established by the UN Security Council and sent to countries undergoing or emerging from conflict. The Trump Administration's disastrous cuts in foreign assistance to UN agencies have undermined humanitarian responses around the world and endangered countless lives.

In countries as diverse as Colombia, Somalia, and Iraq, UN missions help facilitate peace negotiations, investigate and report on human rights abuses, and coordinate the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance by the international community to increase efficiency and reduce duplication and bottlenecks. Our regular budget assessments also help fund the architecture at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime that plays a key role in facilitating international cooperation to combat fentanyl smuggling. Over the past year alone, overdose deaths in the U.S. have dropped by 25 percent, in part due to these types of international control efforts.

U.S. contributions to the UN through the CIO account fund a host of other essential activities as well, including the work of the World Health Organization (WHO), which helps detect, track, treat, and prevent outbreaks of infectious disease in other countries before they reach U.S. shores and threaten American lives. We urge you to sustain funding for the WHO to demonstrate our

commitment to U.S. and global health security. Additionally, U.S. funding also supports the work of International Atomic Energy Agency, which is on the ground in Ukraine working to ensure the safety of the country's nuclear facilities amidst Russia's invasion and serves as the international community's eyes and ears on Iran's nuclear program.

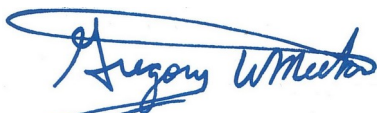
U.S. funding for UN peacekeeping operations is another force multiplier helping to protect our interests and promote our values with the support of international partners. UN peacekeeping operations are highly cost-effective. Successive Government Accountability Office reports have found UN peacekeeping operations to be one-eighth the cost to American taxpayers of deploying U.S. troops. By helping to mitigate and contain armed conflict and create the conditions for a sustainable peace to take hold in volatile regions of the world, UN peacekeeping operations advance core American national security and economic interests and do so without requiring the U.S. to put its own boots on the ground.

Your Subcommittee plays an essential role in ensuring that these critical investments in our national security and prosperity are adequately funded. We were pleased that Congress ultimately allocated significant funding for these accounts in Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025, and we must work together to ensure the Executive Branch allocates funding at the levels Congress specifies. However, we are concerned that the U.S. continues to accrue arrears due to the 25 percent statutory cap on U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. Our arrears, which exceed \$1 billion, undercut our efforts promoting a reform agenda at the UN. Foreign adversaries often point use our poor financial standing in the UN to undermine U.S. credibility while creating space for them to expand their clout. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is the second largest financial contributor to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets, providing 20 percent and 23 percent of total funding for each, respectively. As part of the PRC's comprehensive, long-term strategy to replace the U.S. as the global leader, the PRC is leveraging these contributions to push peacekeeping in a direction that more closely aligns with its own interests and worldview at our expense.

For the United States to remain successful in efforts to lead the international community against our foreign adversaries and competitors, it is critical that we prioritize constructive engagement with the UN. We urge you to temporarily waive the statutory peacekeeping cap and provide sufficient funding in the CIPA and PKO accounts to pay our peacekeeping arrears. We also urge you to fully fund our share of the UN's other core activities through the CIO account.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the U.S. maintains its leadership role at the UN and continues to support UN activities and programs that serve vital American interests. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



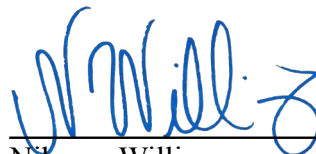
Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign
Affairs



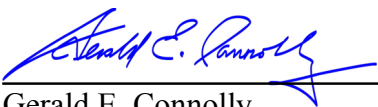
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



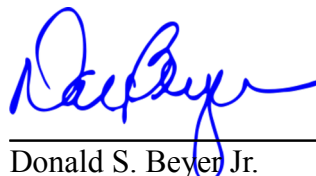
Jason Crow
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Nikema Williams
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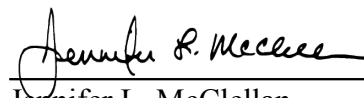
Gerald E. Connolly
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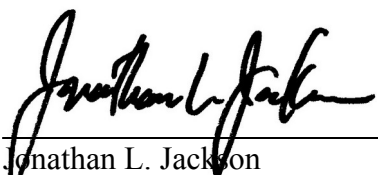
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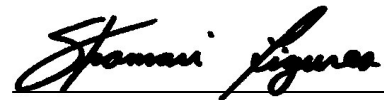
Dina Titus
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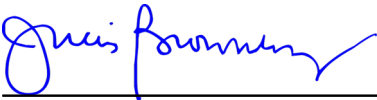
Melanie Stansbury
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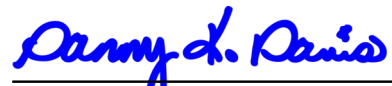
Seth Moulton
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Shomari Figures
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Julia Brownley
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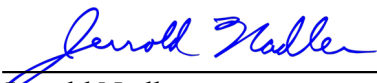
Danny K. Davis
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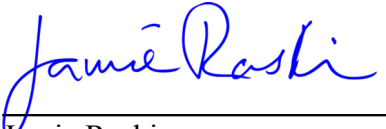
Ami Bera, M.D.
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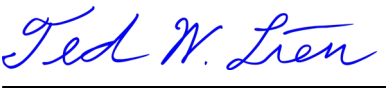
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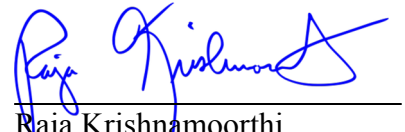
Jamie Raskin
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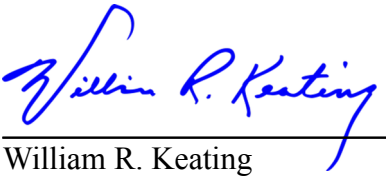
Jim Tokuda
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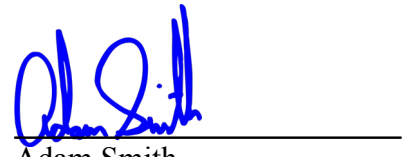
Ted W. Lieu
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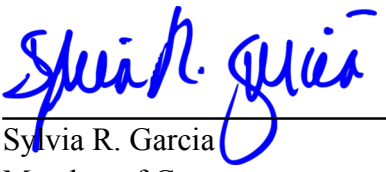
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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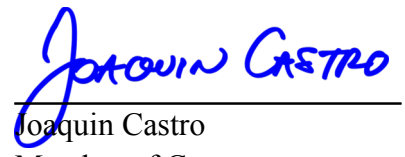
William R. Keating
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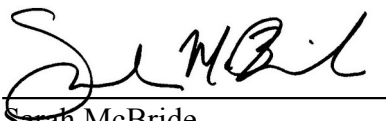
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Sarah McBride
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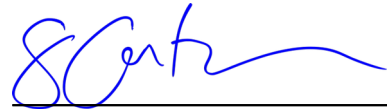
Delia C. Ramirez
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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John Garamendi
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Sean Casten
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