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Re: Open Letter to Congress on Israel and Gaza

Thank you for the opportunity to give some thoughts on the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel and the ensuing conflict in Gaza. I continue to support the Biden Administration's proposed aid package that includes billions in assistance to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, as well as funding for missile defense for Israel, such as the Iron Dome, to continue protecting itself from Hamas and other militant groups in the region. Unfortunately, House Republicans put forth legislation that deliberately excludes any humanitarian aid for Palestinian and Israeli civilians. I voted against this cynical political stunt.

The House should be allowed to debate and approve the national security supplemental that was already passed by the Senate, because it provides investments to both help meet our nation's national security challenges and provides billions in much-needed humanitarian aid for the civilians who are suffering and in desperate need of additional help from the international community. In particular, denying the funding provided for Ukraine in that bill would allow Vladimir Putin to win his unjust war and threaten other democracies across the world, as well as embolden other totalitarian regimes like China and Iran.

Durable peace in the Middle East is impossible if we are not also helping civilian communities that have been caught in the middle of continuing fighting between Hamas and Israel. The funding provided in the legislation I support would provide much-needed humanitarian aid, and much of the funding to support Israel will replenish defensive weapons systems whose only purpose is to stop attacks on civilians.

American diplomacy is working around the clock to push Israel to limit its operations to precise military targets against Hamas, and I have supported President Biden as he and his administration have used nonstop diplomacy to bring an end to this war. It is critical for all sides to agree on the new ceasefire parameters being brokered by the United States as soon as possible, which would include release of hostages still held by Hamas and a halt in the fighting to allow this much-needed humanitarian aid a better path to reaching those in need.

The United States must also remain committed to bringing a resolution to the conflict that ensures that the tragedy of October 7th, which included the murder of around 1,200 people, the rape and mutilation carried out against women, and the continued captivity of over 100 hostages, will never happen again.

Along with many of my colleagues, I support a pathway to a two-state solution, to ensure the dignity and security of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.O. Carbajal".

Salud Carbajal | Member of Congress