

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

[[DATE]]

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Chairman  
House Foreign Affairs Committee  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Risch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Risch:

We write to respectfully request that you release the hold placed on the \$75 million in previously appropriated congressional funding in the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which is designated for the provision of food assistance to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

If these funds are not obligated shortly the UNRWA food pipeline could break and over a million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, including almost half a million children, could go hungry. This will create a humanitarian tragedy and poses a huge risk to regional security.

In Gaza, Palestinian refugees and vulnerable populations rely on food assistance from UNRWA or the World Food Programme (WFP). Despite this assistance, severe food insecurity continues to rise – now over 40% people in Gaza are severely food insecure.

Food insecurity in Gaza is already at a tipping point following the WFP's decision to reduce assistance from 300,000 Gazans down to 100,000 - necessitated by that agency's overall funding shortage.

Helping to assure the provision of food assistance to refugees in need is yet another reflection of American values as well as in diplomatic and security interests of the United States.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and hope you will act swiftly.

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