

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

June 11, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20451

RE: Urgent Need to Restore Funding for Tracking of Children Abducted by Russia

Secretary Rubio:

Thank you for your attention to and temporary rectification of the State Department's previous termination of funding for the Ukraine Conflict Observatory. As you know, we wrote to you on March 19, 2025 calling for the reversal of this termination, and we were pleased to see you temporarily reinstate the Ukraine Conflict Observatory. Now, we feel compelled to write because we fear the stolen children from Ukraine are once again on the verge of being abandoned.

Pursuant to your previous decision to temporarily resume funding, the Ukraine Conflict Observatory will now cease to exist on June 26, 2025. As we noted in our last letter, Ukraine is not capable of rescuing these children without the ongoing work of the Ukraine Conflict Observatory. Final termination of this program could leave tens of thousands of abducted Ukrainian children in Russia.

We are aware of approximately \$8 million in funding duly appropriated to the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, which oversees the Ukraine Conflict Observatory. We understand that in late 2024, the State Department transmitted a Congressional Notification to congressional committees notifying them of the Department's intent to direct this funding for – among other objectives – support of the Ukraine Conflict Observatory's work to track and document Russian war crimes, including the abduction of these children from Ukraine. We also understand that a senior administration official working directly on this issue explicitly recommended, in early 2025, that these funds be used for the Ukraine Conflict Observatory.

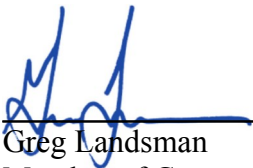
Our understanding, however, is that these funds have not been disbursed. Although we do not believe this to be your intent, we fear that withholding these funds could appear to be a betrayal of the thousands of innocent children stolen from Ukraine. Given that this previously notified funding could sustain the Ukraine Conflict Observatory for another year, we request further information on the following:

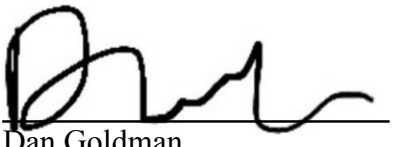
- 1) What is the current status of the approximately \$8 million notified last year?

- 2) Is there a plan to disburse this funding to the Ukraine Conflict Observatory in accordance with the Congressional Notification and official recommendation from the senior administration official?
- 3) Can you provide assurance that rescuing these Ukrainian children remains a top priority for you and the Administration and, if so, share the plan for achieving this goal?

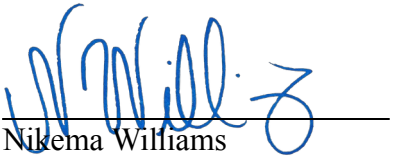
Thank you for your ongoing attention to this matter. We believe that the wellbeing of these Ukrainian children is of paramount importance to you, and we appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in this effort.

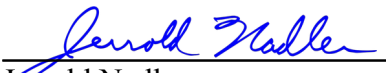
Sincerely,

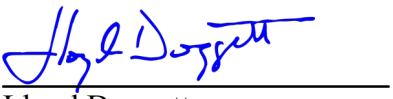


Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

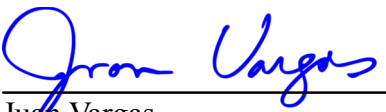
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Terrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

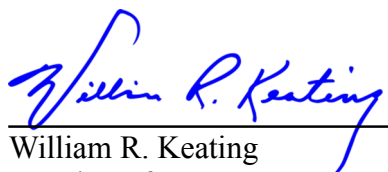
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



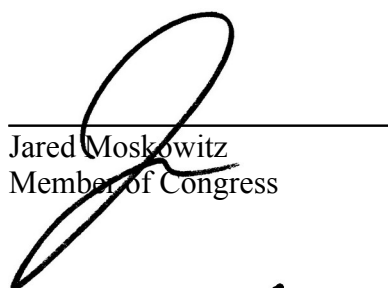
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



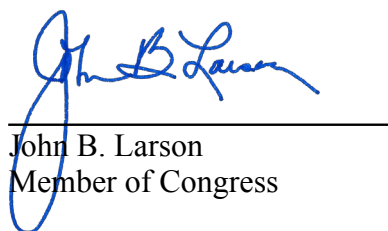
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



George Launer
Member of Congress



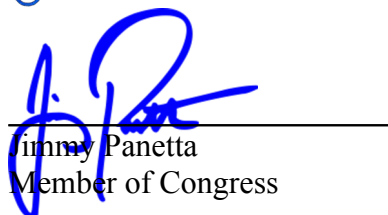
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress