

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Kelly Craft
Ambassador of the United States of America
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Craft:

As COVID-19 pandemic numbers continue to rise, we write to seek your assistance in the effort to restart U.S. humanitarian assistance to Palestinians, including UNRWA. As you know, the pandemic has now reached the Gaza Strip with cases beginning to inexorably rise in a place with few resources to combat the outbreak. Coupled with the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, the pandemic now poses an unprecedented global health emergency.

It is important that we empower these public health officials, who are deliberately putting themselves in harm's way for the common good, by providing them the resources they need to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. government has funding available through its Migration and Refugee Assistance and Economic Support Fund programs for immediate obligation to address this deteriorating humanitarian situation. The administration need only obligate these funds - their use requires neither additional legislative language nor supplemental appropriations.

These funds could be put to instant use supporting the public health response, including the 3,300 health care workers staffing 144 UNRWA health clinics that are now on the front lines in combating this pandemic. UNRWA is working closely with host authorities and the World Health Organization with triage care and protocols in place to identify patients with respiratory symptoms. This funding could also support the six facilities comprising the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, as well as U.S. NGOs engaged in health work.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you can assist in making these potentially life-saving funds available for immediate obligation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
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Don Beyer
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
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David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
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Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
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Karen Bass
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Zoe Lofgren
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Jennifer Wexton
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Gerald E. Connolly
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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress