Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 9, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Russell T. Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Hegseth and Director Vought:

As Ukraine prepares for its fifth winter campaign since Russia's full-scale invasion, timely American security assistance is critical to the survival and livelihood of the resilient Ukrainian people. We write regarding the $400 million Congress provided for Ukraine security assistance in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The Administration's delay in executing these funds requires an explanation, and we urge that their delivery to Ukraine be accelerated.

The FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act, which the President signed on December 18, 2025, authorized $400 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.[1] The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026, with its accompanying explanatory statement,[2] provided that $400 million in full and was allocated for Ukraine.[3] These funds have strong bipartisan support, a clear intent, and an established deadline for obligation.

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[1] CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026.
https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ75/PLAW-119publ75.pdf

[2] Fields, A. (2026, April 29). Hegseth says $400M in Ukraine support released after McConnell's angry op-ed. The Hill. https://thehill.com/policy/defense/5856026-pentagon-releases-ukraine-aid/

Durbin, Grassley Urge Defense Secretary Hegseth To Immediately Release Congressionally Approved Funding To The Baltic Security Initiative, Ukraine | U.S. Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois. (2026, May 22). Senate.Gov. https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-grassley-urge-defense-secretary-hegseth-to-immediately-release-congressionally-approved-funding-to-the-baltic-security-initiative-ukraine

[3] Special Inspector General for Operation Atlantic Resolve | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026 | Office of Inspector General. (2026, August 13). Stateoig.Gov. https://www.stateoig.gov/report-338

The Department of Defense has now obligated these funds, but only after months of unnecessary delay and without an acceptable delivery timeline. Despite Secretary Hegseth's public claims in April that the funds had been released, and despite repeated congressional correspondence,[4] the Department waited until the final weeks of the fiscal year to obligate most of these funds. Worse, the Department's spend plan does not project final delivery of assistance until FY2029, following the end this Administration's term in office. The package also reportedly does not include Patriot interceptors,[5] the only system in Ukraine's arsenal that can reliably defend against Russian ballistic missiles. That need will only grow as Russia intensifies its strikes on Ukraine's cities and energy infrastructure this winter.

Accordingly, we request a written explanation, no later than November 30, 2026, of why these funds were not obligated until the final days of the fiscal year. The explanation should identify any conditions or holds the Office of Management and Budget placed on their apportionment. We also request a detailed delivery schedule for the assistance, with the reasons delivery is projected to extend into FY2029 and the steps the Administration will take to accelerate it. We also request an explanation as to why Patriot interceptors were excluded and whether future USAI funding can address Ukraine's air defense needs. Finally, OMB must ensure that any FY2027 Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative funding Congress provides is apportioned promptly and executed without similar delay.

Ukraine's armed forces need and deserve continued American support, and Congress has provided the resources to deliver it. Accordingly, we urge you to ensure the $400 million in FY2026 security assistance reaches Ukraine without further delay. Such a gap, particularly as Ukraine enters another winter of Russian attacks on Ukrainian civilians and infrastructure, undermines the credibility of American commitments and our ability to adequately deter Russian aggression. We remain committed to supporting Ukraine's defense and will continue to hold the Administration accountable for delivering these funds as Congress intended. We expect your prompt response to this urgent matter.

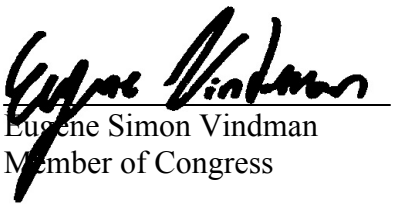
Sincerely,



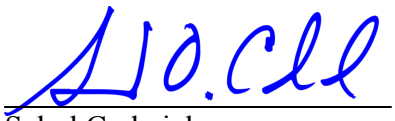
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

[4] Patricia Zengerle and Mike Stone, Reuters. (2026, September 25). Trump administration obligates $307M for military aid to Ukraine. Defense News. https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2026/09/25/trump-administration-obligates-307m-for-military-aid-to-ukraine/

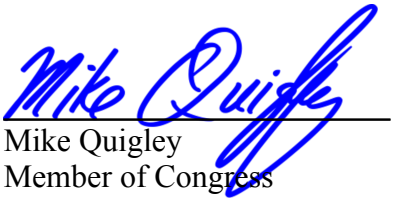
[5] NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ60/PLAW-119publ60.pdf



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



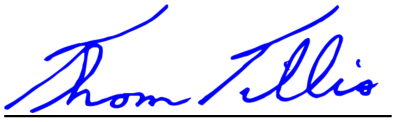
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



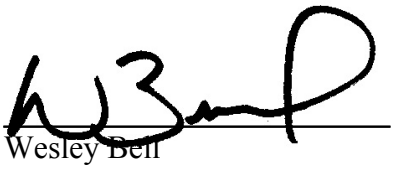
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



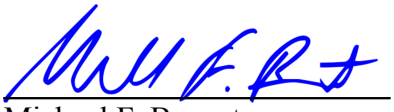
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



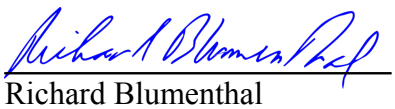
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



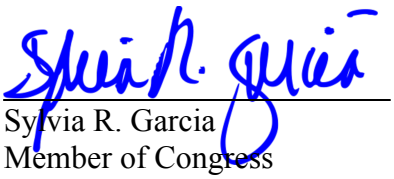
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



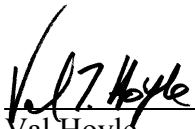
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



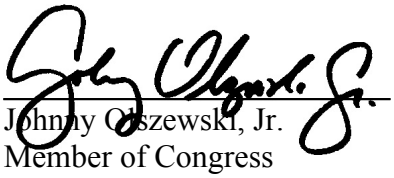
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



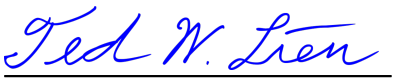
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



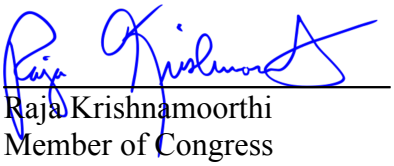
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



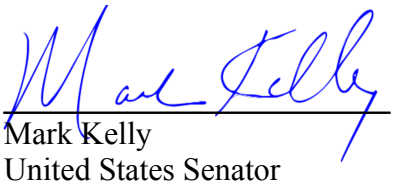
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



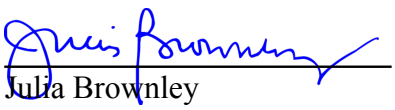
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



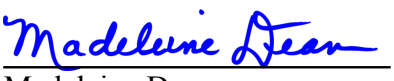
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



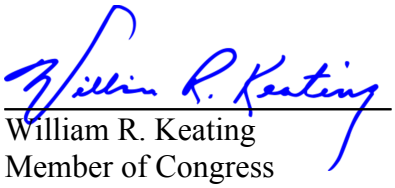
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

cc: Comptroller General of the United States