

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 12, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
Department of State

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Recently, the Biden administration provided Iran access to \$6 billion as part of a prisoner swap agreement.¹ Today, it was reported that Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo told House Democrats that the U.S. and Qatari governments have agreed to block Iran from accessing this money.² And, today, you addressed the media regarding the \$6 billion and claimed that “[w]e have **strict oversight** of the funds and we retain the right to freeze them.”³

In order for Congress to better understand what oversight mechanisms you have referred to, please provide answers to the following questions no later than October 26, 2023:

1. Please describe what you meant by “strict oversight” of these funds, including which government agencies are involved and their respective roles, and what enforcement mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance and, if necessary, punish Iran for violating the terms of the deal.
2. Please describe what components of the State Department are responsible for conducting this oversight, to include the title and ranks of responsible government officials.
3. Please describe the information that led “[t]he U.S. and Qatari governments...to block Iran from accessing this money.”⁴
4. When, if at all, will the \$6 billion be accessible by Iran? Please describe any actions or agreements that the Biden administration has requested from Iran in order to unfreeze this money.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jace Pimentel on my committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget

¹ Monica Alba, Elyse Perlmutter-Gumbiner, & Katherine Doyle, *U.S. and Qatar agree to not release Iran's \$6B*, NBC NEWS, (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/us-qatar-agree-not-release-iran-6-billion-prisoner-swap-rcna120135>.

² *Id.*

³ MSNBC (@MSNBC), X (Oct. 12, 2023, 1:07 PM), <https://twitter.com/MSNBC/status/1712515356961480743> (emphasis added).

⁴ Alba, et al., *supra* note 1.