

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2301 C Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As Members of Congress deeply concerned by the rise of global anti-Semitism, we are writing in response to reports that the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism may be unstaffed as of July 1. Congress required the State Department to create the Office, headed by the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, in the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act (Public Law 108-332), through provisions authored by Rep. Chris Smith, a lead cosigner of this letter. The Act passed Congress in 2004 with broad bipartisan support. Earlier this year, 167 members of Congress from both parties sent a letter to President Trump, urging him to prioritize the appointment of Special Envoy after reports surfaced that the position may not be filled.

We now ask whether the State Department intends to comply with the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Omnibus Appropriations Act and plans to fill the position of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism in a timely manner. Further, we urge you to maintain staff in the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, which is crucial to ensuring U.S. efforts against global anti-Semitism match the scale and severity of threats to Jewish communities on the ground.

Under Public Law 108-322, the Special Envoy and the Office are to monitor and combat acts of anti-Semitism abroad, document these incidents in State Department reports, and consult with appropriate domestic and international nongovernmental and multilateral organizations. A strong leader needs solid staff support – particularly true for a position such as the Special Envoy who is tasked with tracking anti-Semitism around the globe.

Under the leadership of Ranking Member Nita Lowey, a lead cosigner of this letter, the FY17 Omnibus instructed federal departments to comply with the directives, reporting requirements, and instructions contained in the FY17 House and Senate reports unless specifically directed to the contrary. Page 14 of the House Report 114-693 states:

“Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL).--The Committee recommendation includes the requested funds for human rights vetting. The recommendation also includes funds for support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. The Committee remains concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism and the increase in anti-Semitic incidents around the world. The Committee supports efforts by the Department of State to emphasize Holocaust education.”

Because of the importance of this position and growing anti-Semitism abroad, the FY17 Omnibus included additional language regarding the Special Envoy on page 7 of its explanatory statement:

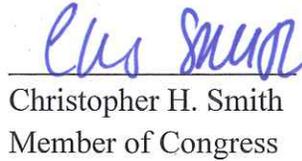
“The Secretary of State is directed to fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism authorized by Public Law 108-332 in a timely manner.”

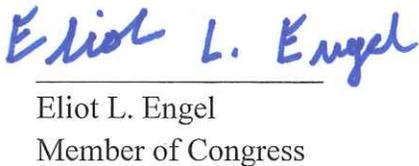
State Department spokesperson Mark Toner stated on April 14 that the Administration will appoint a Special Envoy. We understand that filling the position of Special Envoy takes time and the final placement of the Office may wait until a State Department reorganization is complete. Nevertheless, these new reports about the lack of staff in the Office raise questions about whether the State Department will comply with the directives and instructions regarding the Special Envoy contained within the FY17 Omnibus.

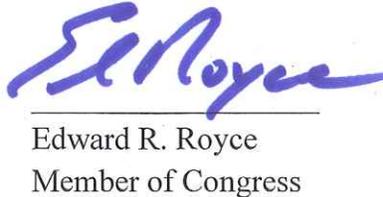
Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to your response about whether the State Department intends to comply with the FY17 Omnibus and fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism in a timely manner and fully implement Public Law 108-332 by maintaining staff in the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

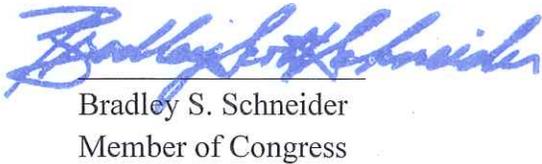
Respectfully,

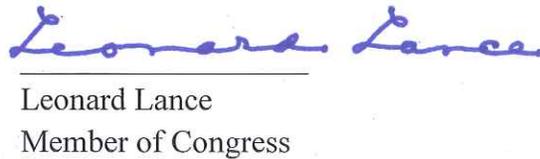

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

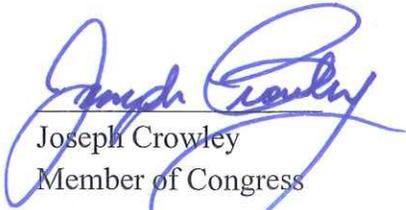

Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress


Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress

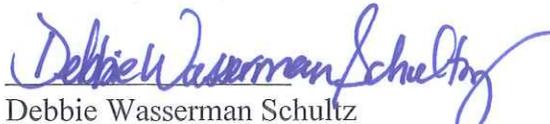

Kay Granger
Member of Congress



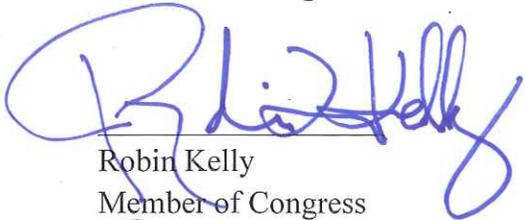
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



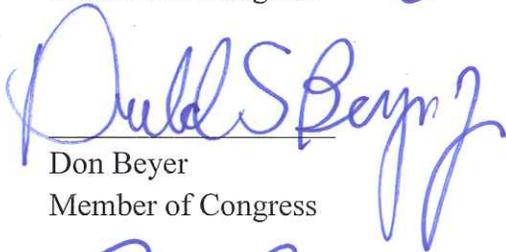
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



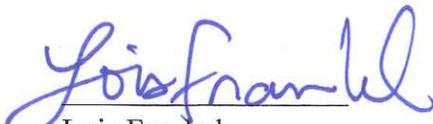
Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



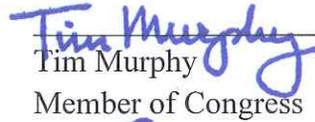
Don Beyer
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



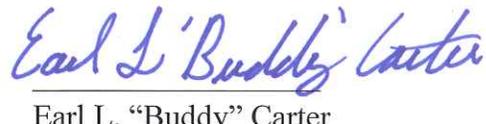
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



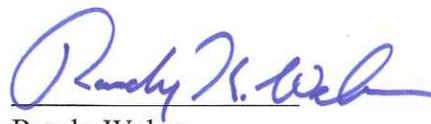
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



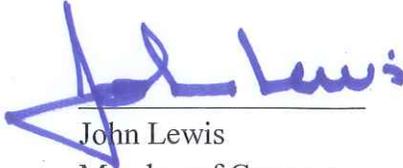
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



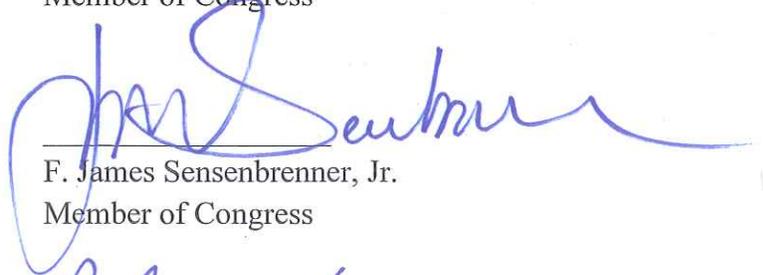
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



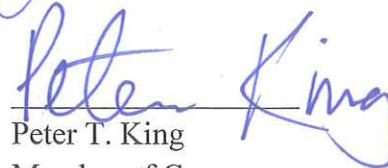
John Lewis
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



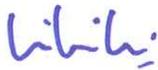
Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



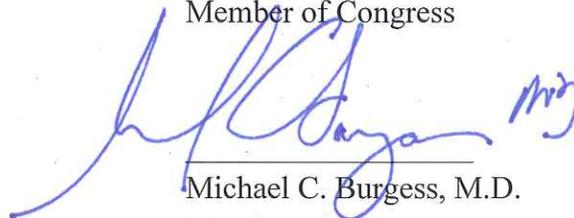
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



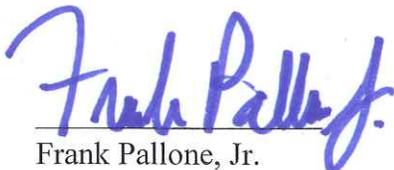
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



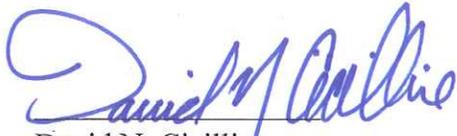
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



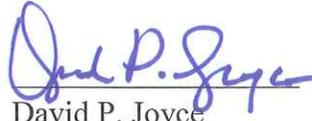
David N. Cicilline
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Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



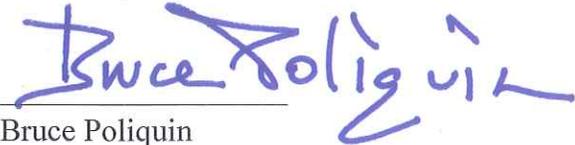
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



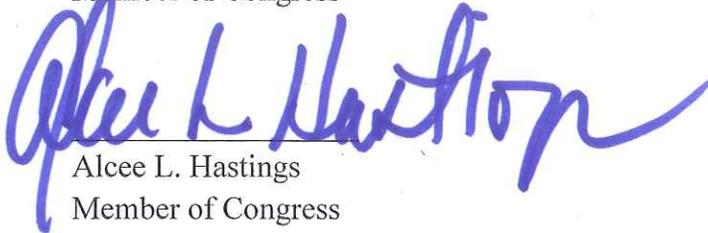
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



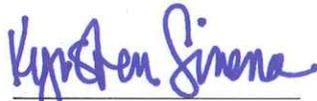
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



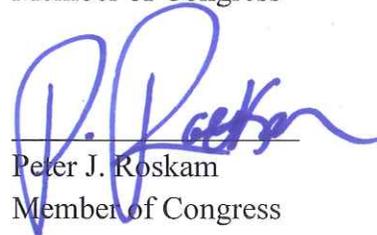
Ted Lieu
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Glenn Grothman
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Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



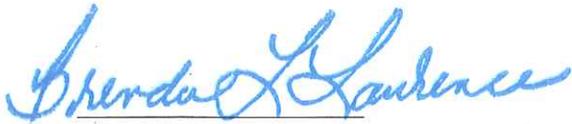
Peter J. Roskam
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



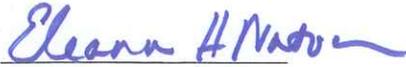
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



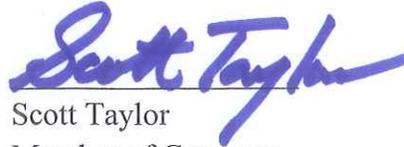
Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Scott Taylor
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



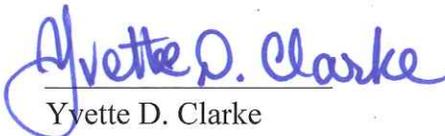
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Josh Gotteimer
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Jeff Duncan
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



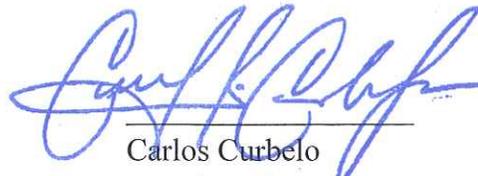
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dave Loefer
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Mike Doyle
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Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Barbara Comstock

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Ami Bera

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Suzanne Bonamici

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Brian Babin

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Madeleine Z. Bordallo

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Robert Brady

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Salud Carbajal

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Matt Cartwright

Matt Cartwright
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Charlie Crist

Charlie Crist
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Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



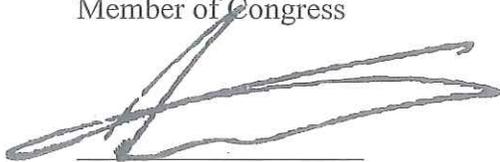
Val B. Demings
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Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



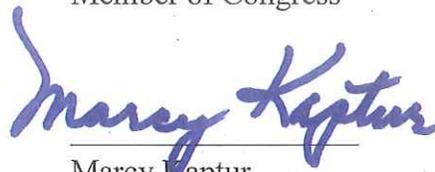
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



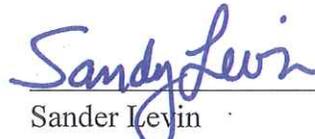
Gene Green
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Marcy Kaptur
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Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



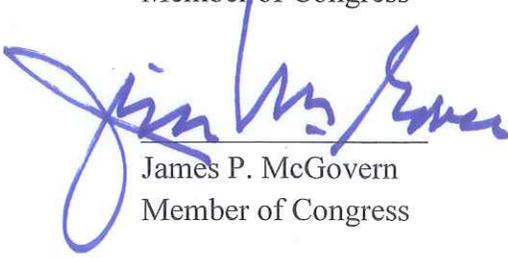
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



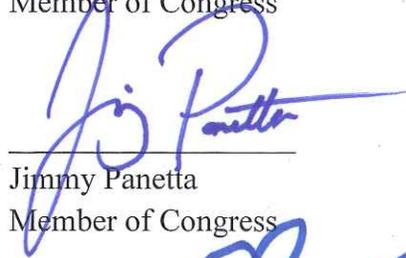
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



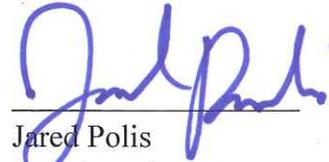
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



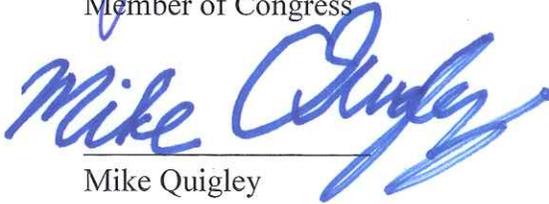
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



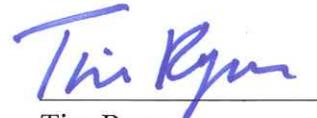
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



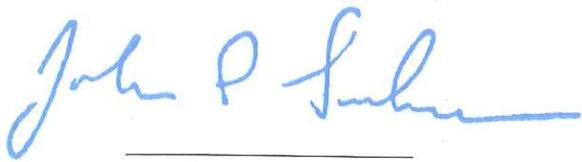
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



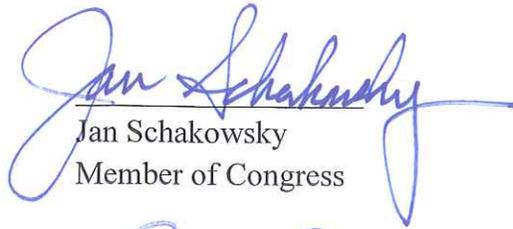
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



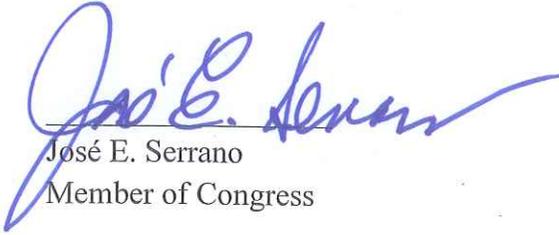
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



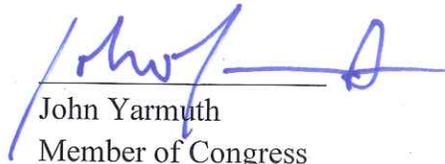
Thomas Suozzi
Member of Congress



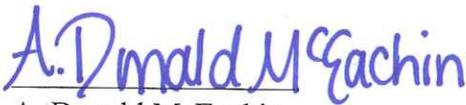
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



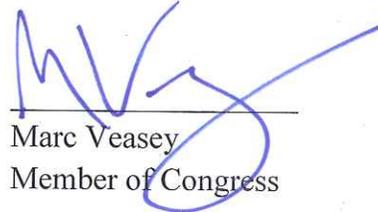
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress