

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 3/7
DeLauro-Schakowsky-McGovern Letter to Biden
Administration to protect viability of a negotiated two-state
solution

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO TUESDAY 3/7 COB

**COSIGN DeLauro-Schakowsky-McGovern Letter to Biden Administration to protect viability
of a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

Current Signers (45): Adams, Balint, Beyer, Blumenauer, Carbajal, Castro, Cleaver, Cohen, Connolly, Courtney, D. Davis, Dean, DeGette, DeLauro*, DeSaulnier, Doggett, Escobar, Evans, Garamendi, Green, Hayes, Houlahan, Jayapal, Johnson, Kamlager-Dove, Kaptur, Kildee, A. Kim, Kuster, Larson, B. Lee, Lofgren, Lynch, McGovern*, Moore, Nadler, Payne, Peters, Pocan, Scanlon, Schakowsky*, Takano, M. Thompson, Tokuda, Tonko

Dear Colleague,

In light of the recent escalation in violence in Israel and the West Bank, the far-right Israeli government's efforts to strip the judiciary of its independence, as well as actions by Israeli and Palestinian extremists aiming to undermine the viability of two states for two peoples, we invite you to join us in a letter to the Biden administration praising their efforts to deescalate tensions and urging them to engage in consistent and sustained diplomacy to prevent actions that further undermine the viability of a two-state solution.

With conditions in Israel and the West Bank alarmingly reminiscent of the days before the Second Intifada, it is critical that the U.S. use all diplomatic tools to address these converging crises.

This letter will close for signers **COB Tuesday, March 7.**

To sign this letter, please use this [QUILL LINK](#).

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro

Janice Schakowsky

James P. McGovern

Letter Text:

Dear Mr. President:

We write as supporters of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship who seek to protect the viability of a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We wish to commend your administration's efforts to deescalate heightened tensions in Israel and the West Bank, as well as share our deep concern regarding the planned changes to the structure of the Israeli judiciary, the fragile security situation in the West Bank, and the threat of partial or full annexation of areas that would most certainly be part of a future Palestinian state. We urge you to use all diplomatic tools available to prevent Israel's far-right government from further damaging the nation's democratic institutions and undermining the potential for two states for two peoples.

The proposals to grant members of the Knesset control over judicial appointments, eliminate judicial review of legislation, and permit the legislature to overturn Supreme Court decisions would jeopardize Israeli democracy, which in turn would undermine the very foundation of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Stripping the judiciary of its check on the governing coalition would empower far-right lawmakers seeking to entrench settlement of the West Bank and advance a pro-annexation agenda, undermining the prospects for a two-state solution and threatening Israel's existence as a Jewish and democratic state. As Israel has seen massive and sustained [protests](#) against the plans, it is crucial that the Israeli government live up to the democratic ideals on which it was founded and avoid a constitutional crisis. As you have [stated](#), "the genius of American democracy and Israeli democracy is that they are both built on strong institutions, on checks and balances, on an independent judiciary." We could not agree more.

We are also deeply alarmed by the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the West Bank and the potential for sustained violence, and we applaud your administration's recent attempts to stabilize the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority, teetering on [financial](#) collapse, has lost much of its popular legitimacy and effective control of many northern Palestinian cities, such as Jenin and Nablus, to extremist groups. In response to increased and credible terrorist threats in the West Bank, the Israeli Defense Forces have executed raids in Palestinian cities targeting members of armed militia groups, oftentimes leading to civilians being caught in the crossfire. Inclusive of settler attacks, more than 60 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank so far this year, a pace that is on track to surpass last year's record-breaking casualties.

Palestinian violence against Israelis also has increased recently with a number of horrifying attacks, including the killing of Jewish worshipers and children in East Jerusalem. We condemn these killings and have repeatedly criticized actions by Palestinian leaders and organizations, including incitement, acts of terror, and payments to the families of terrorists, that harm Israelis, exacerbate the conflict, and put a negotiated resolution to the conflict further out of reach. We are profoundly concerned that the recent violence and increased tensions could spiral into a major conflict, despite the recent steps taken. U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William J.

Burns recently [warned](#) that Israel appears to be on the brink of confronting a third intifada. The political and security vacuum in the West Bank is a serious threat to Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike.

In this fragile and combustible moment, consistent and sustained U.S. diplomatic leadership is critical to preempt counterproductive unilateral actions and prevent violent escalations. As committed supporters of the U.S.-Israel relationship, we commend your administration's firm [opposition](#) to actions that imperil the future of a two-state solution. The recent joint statement with our NATO [allies](#) and the signing of a United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement are important demonstrations of the U.S.' commitment to opposing settlement expansion, such as the new plans to build thousands of settlement units and retroactively legalize more than a dozen illegal outposts. With the Knesset on the cusp of stripping the judiciary's check over the far-right government, we urge you to make clear that the U.S. will firmly oppose any moves toward annexation that the Israeli government may pursue as a result. We thank you for your work and again urge you to use all diplomatic tools at your disposal to address this grave situation. We look forward to supporting you in this effort.