

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Samantha Power  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Ronald Regan Building  
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Secretary Austin, Secretary Blinken, and Administrator Power:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the federal government's administration of U.S. taxpayer-funded assistance to Ukraine. Since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly a year ago, Congress has provided more than \$113 billion for security, humanitarian, economic, and governance assistance.<sup>1</sup> It is critical that government agencies administering these funds ensure they are used for their intended purposes to prevent and reduce the risk of waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee seeks documents and information to understand how the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of State (State), and the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) are conducting oversight of these funds.

On January 25, 2023, U.S. National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications, John Kirby claimed, "We have not seen any signs that our budgetary assistance has fallen prey to any kind of corruption in Ukraine," and that all direct budgetary

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<sup>1</sup> DEPT. OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GEN., et. al. JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR UKRAINE RESPONSE, 3 (Jan. 2023).

assistance, “goes through the World Bank.”<sup>2</sup> Mr. Kirby continued, “I would go so far as to say the same on the security assistance side as well.”<sup>3</sup> These claims came one day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky fired several top Ukrainian officials amid a corruption scandal.<sup>4</sup> Ukrainian government officials allegedly engaged in bribery, used government vehicles for personal use, and purchased inflated food supplies for Ukrainian forces.<sup>5</sup> In response, President Zelensky named a new Minister of Defense.<sup>6</sup> Based on Mr. Kirby’s remarks, however, the U.S. National Security Council appears unaware of this corruption scandal, heightening concerns that U.S. agencies are not conducting oversight of taxpayer assistance to Ukraine.

Providing security and humanitarian assistance for warfighting and reconstruction purposes comes with an inherent risk of fraud, waste, and abuse.<sup>7</sup> The United States must identify these risks and develop oversight mechanisms to mitigate them. We learned from efforts in Afghanistan that the World Bank does not always have effective monitoring and accounting of funds, and often lacks transparency.<sup>8</sup> We also learned that unrealistic timelines and expectations that prioritize spending quickly lead to increased corruption and reduced effectiveness of programs.<sup>9</sup> As the United States continues to filter assistance through multilateral organizations with pressure to spend funds quickly, we must ensure proper protections are in place to prevent the misuse of funds.

To assist the Committee’s investigation into what is being done to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer funded assistance to Ukraine, please provide the following documents and information, covering the period February 24, 2022, to the present, as soon as possible, but no later than, March 8, 2023:

1. All documents and communications regarding strategies for end-use monitoring of weapons, equipment, direct budgeting assistance, and any other form of economic or security assistance for the Ukrainian people;

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<sup>2</sup> Press Briefing, The White House, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby (Jan. 25, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Michael Schwartz & Maria Varenikova, *Ukraine Fires Officials Amid Corruption Scandal, as Allies Watch Closely*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 24, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Ty Rousch, *Senior Ukrainian Officials Fired Over Corruption Allegations Amid EU Membership Push*, FORBES (Jan. 24, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> Tom Balmforth, *Ukraine to replace defence minister in wartime reshuffle, top lawmaker says*, Reuters (Feb. 5, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> SPECIAL INSPECTOR GEN. FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION, 2021 HIGH-RISK LIST (2021); U.S. GOV’T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, GAO-21-32R, AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION; GAO WORK SINCE 2002 SHOWS SYSTEMIC INTERNAL CONTROL WEAKNESSES THAT INCREASED THE RISK OF WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE (Jan. 27, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> SPECIAL INSPECTOR GEN. FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION, SIGAR 18-42, AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION TRUST FUND: THE WORLD BANK NEEDS TO IMPROVE HOW IT MONITORS IMPLEMENTATION, SHARES INFORMATION, AND DETERMINES THE IMPACT OF DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS, 6 (Apr. 19, 2018).

<sup>9</sup> SPECIAL INSPECTOR GEN. FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION, SIGAR 21-46-LL, WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN: LESSONS FROM TWENTY YEARS OF AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION, VIII (Aug. 2021).

2. All documents and communications regarding any anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine, including but not limited to any documents and communications detailing plans to condition assistance on Ukraine's anti-corruption efforts and how the U.S. is assisting Ukraine in developing an anti-corruption strategy;
3. All documents and communications regarding how much money has been disbursed for Ukrainian assistance and how much remains in the spending pipeline;
4. All documents and communications regarding any economic assistance programs for the Ukrainian government;
5. All documents and communications regarding funds given to multilateral organizations for the purpose of Ukrainian assistance and any information regarding any oversight mechanisms with respect to those organizations;
6. All documents and communications regarding any benchmarks for success of programs funded by assistance to Ukraine; and
7. All documents and communications regarding any conditions imposed on funds provided as assistance to Ukraine.

The Committee has provided instructions regarding how these materials should be produced and defined certain terms in the accompanying attachment.<sup>10</sup> To arrange for the delivery of documents or to ask any follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

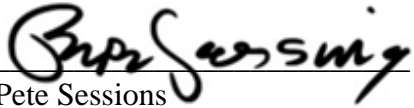


Glenn Grothman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
the Border, and Foreign Affairs

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<sup>10</sup> See Attachment A.

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Samantha Power  
February 22, 2023  
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Pete Sessions  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations  
and the Federal Workforce



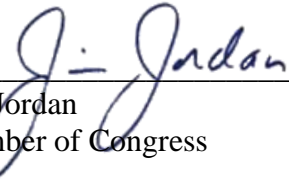
Nancy Mace  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,  
Information Technology, and  
Government Innovation



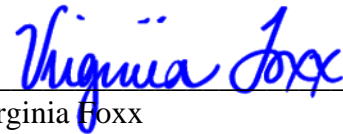
Pat Fallon  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,  
Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs



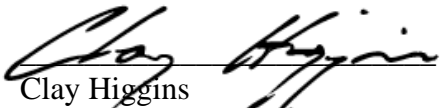
Lisa McClain  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Health Care and  
Financial Services



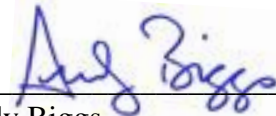
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



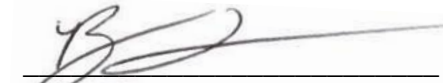
Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress

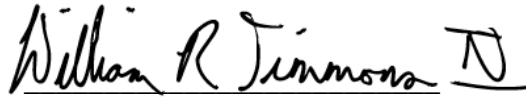


Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Scott Petry  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Samantha Power  
February 22, 2023  
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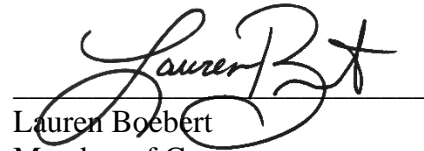
William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



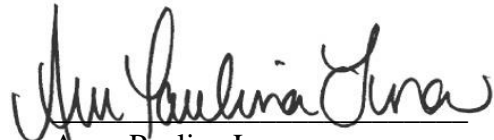
Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress



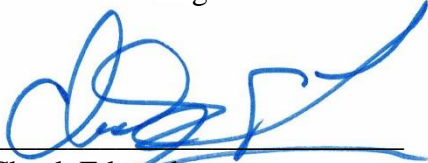
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



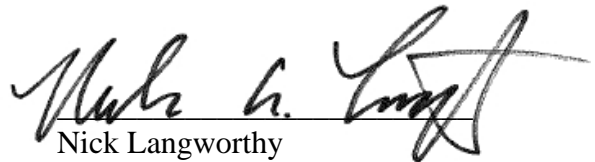
Russell Fry  
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress



Nick Langworthy  
Member of Congress



Eric Burlison  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability