

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

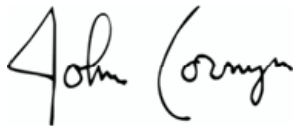
Dear President Biden:

We write to express our full support for any and all constructive efforts to secure Austin Tice's release. As you know, this August will mark nine years since Austin was detained at a checkpoint near Damascus, Syria, while reporting on the suffering of the Syrian people as a freelance journalist. A beloved son, brother, Eagle Scout, journalist, and veteran Marine Corps Captain, Austin represents the best our nation has to offer, and we are committed to working with you to return him to his loving family.

Austin's parents, Marc and Debra, have worked tirelessly with both the Obama and Trump Administrations in efforts to secure his return. While serving as Vice President, you witnessed firsthand Marc and Debra's inspiring perseverance to bring their son home. Due to the diligent work of the intelligence community, previous Administrations have been able to assure the family that Austin remains alive. Every day Austin is held captive causes immeasurable pain for the Tice family and the countless Americans across the country committed to the mission of freeing him. As demonstrated by your decision to retain Ambassador Roger Carstens as the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, securing the release of Americans held captive overseas is a vital and non-partisan mission.

The recent release of others in Syria, including one American, give Marc and Debra confidence that their son's release can also be secured. We are calling on you at the outset of your Administration to use your full capabilities to secure Austin's long overdue release. We trust that will include appropriately following up on efforts by previous Administrations, as well as talks initiated by the Syrians.

Across multiple Administrations, Congress has stood united in supporting action to free Austin Tice. The Tice family's unyielding perseverance and efforts to secure their son's return inspire us all, and we commit to supporting you using every constructive tool in your power to secure Austin's safe return. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important issue.



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



TED CRUZ
United States Senator



GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress

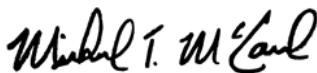
Sincerely,



PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



MARSHA BLACKBURN
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

/s/

ROBERT P. CASEY
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator



JONI K. ERNST
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



TIM KAINE
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator



MARK KELLY
United States Senator



JAMES LANKFORD
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



JON OSSOFF
United States Senator



M. MICHAEL ROUNDS
United States Senator



BEN SASSE
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



TINA SMITH
United States Senator



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator



RAPHAEL WARNOCK
United States Senator



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator

/s/

JACK REED
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator



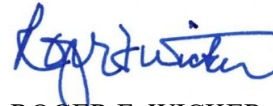
DAN SULLIVAN
United States Senator



THOM TILLIS
United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator



COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress



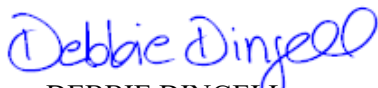
GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



JOHN CURTIS
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



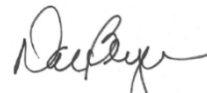
STENY HOYER
Member of Congress



FRED KELLER
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
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HENRY CUELLAR
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TED DEUTCH
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MIKE DOYLE
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LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress



TREY HOLLINGSWORTH
Member of Congress



RONNY L. JACKSON
Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



KEVIN McCARTHY
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress



ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress



LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress



JAMES McGOVERN
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Member of Congress



VAN TAYLOR
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress