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.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator

TED CRUZ
United States Senator

MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress

MICHAEL T. McCaul
Member of Congress

AL GREEN
Member of Congress
MARSHA BLACKBURN
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

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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

CHRISS 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
KEVIN McCARTHY
Member of Congress

JAMES McGOVERN
Member of Congress

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Member of Congress

ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

VAN TAYLOR
Member of Congress

LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress