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STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February, 27th 2024

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned Vermont elected officials, implore you to take immediate action to demand a permanent ceasefire in the Israeli government's military campaign in Gaza, to conditionally halt any further arms sales or military aid to the Israeli government, and to use diplomatic means to urge all parties to cease hostilities and talk peace. The ongoing violence has resulted in catastrophic loss of life, widespread displacement, and the destruction of vital infrastructure, leaving countless innocent civilians in dire and desperate circumstances.

As representatives entrusted with the well-being and concerns of our constituents, we will not remain silent in the face of such egregious violations of human rights and international law. The United States must use its influence to bring about an immediate end to the bloodshed and to work tirelessly toward a just and lasting resolution to the conflict.

The attack on Israeli civilians by Hamas on October 7th was horrendous, abhorrent, and reprehensible. The hostages still held by Hamas must be immediately returned to their loved ones.

In the time since that attack, the Israeli government's response has developed to an alarming and disproportionate level. We are deeply troubled by the escalating violence and the impact it is having on civilians, young and old. The trauma and poverty being inflicted on the entire civilian population of the region is unacceptable. We cannot stand idly by while civilian lives are lost and communities are destroyed. Israel has a right to self-defense, and we stand with observers worldwide who are concerned that the impact on civilians is punitive and far in excess of military objectives.

We recognize the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the profoundly entrenched grievances. We also firmly believe that the current path of violence and destruction will only lead to further suffering and despair. Now is the time for bold leadership and decisive action to break the cycle of violence and to create the conditions for a meaningful and lasting peace.

We stand ready to support efforts to achieve a ceasefire and to work toward a future where all people in the region can live safely, with security, and in dignity.

Sincerely *(In alphabetical order).*

Vermont State Representatives

Joseph Andriano
Peter Anthony
John Arrison
Angela Arsenault
Daisy Berbeco
Tiffany Bluemle
Michelle Bos-Lun
Erin Brady
Jana Brown
Mollie S. Burke
Elizabeth Burrows
R. Scott Campbell
Melanie Carpenter
Conor Casey
Robin Chesnut-Tangerman
Kevin “Coach” Christie
Brian Cina
Esme Cole
Peter Conlon
Mari Cordes
Leonora Dodge
Kari Dolan
Caleb Elder
Bobby Farlice-Rubio
Rey Garofano
Leslie Goldman
Troy Headrick
Rebecca Holcombe
Dennis LaBounty
Saudia LaMont
Josie Leavitt
Kate Logan
James Masland
Kate McCann
Jubilee McGill
Marc Mihaly
Mike Mrowicki
Emma Mulvaney-Stanak
Logan Nicoll
John O’Brien
Kelly Pajala
Avram Patt
Phil Pouech
Monique Priestley
Tristan Roberts
Larry Satcowitz
Katherine Sims
Taylor Small
Gabrielle Stebbins
Mary-Katherine Stone
Heather Surprenant
Curt Taylor
David Templeman
Tristan Toleno
Joseph “Chip” Troiano
Dara Torre
Kirk White
Jonathan Williams

Vermont State Senators
Christopher Bray
Ann Cummings
Ruth Hardy
Wendy Harrison
Nader Hashim
Jane Kitchel
Anne Watson
Tanya Vyhovsky
Andrew Perchlik

Executive Branch
Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman