



February 23, 2024

Dear Speaker Johnson and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

Ahead of Saturday, February 24, when the world will mark two years since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and American Jewish Committee (AJC) implore you to act swiftly to support supplemental funding to aid the territorial defense of both Ukraine and Israel. The Senate recently passed a bipartisan package to support Ukraine, Israel, and other allies and bipartisan efforts have emerged in the House. Providing such assistance aligns with U.S. national security interests and affirms the American commitment to critical partners.

The Jewish community has aggressively supported Ukraine since the onset of the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and AJC has staunchly supported a free and democratic Ukraine for more than 30 years. In 1991, AJC became the first Jewish organization outside Ukraine to call on the United States to recognize the country's independence from Moscow.

U.S. leadership can ensure that there is a strategy for success in Ukraine. Funding is necessary to allow Ukraine to continue fighting, and a successful outcome is worth investing in. As Former Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley stated in October 2023, "If Ukraine loses [the war] and Putin wins, I think you would be certainly increasing, if not doubling, your defense budget in the years ahead." Supporting assistance now does not guarantee prolonged support, nor does it preempt any further American involvement beyond the scope of the package.

UCCA and AJC were aligned on the need to support democratic allies fighting authoritarian aggression before the October 7th attack on Israel. The war against Hamas has cemented the need to prioritize support for allies in their fight for democracy, freedom, and justice. It is no accident that Hamas is working with Russia and Iran to destabilize the region. If no action is taken, there will no doubt be severe repercussions for America and our interests and allies across the globe.

Thank you for considering our urgent request to pass crucially-needed supplemental funding for Ukraine and Israel. As wars continue in Ukraine and Israel, it is essential that the U.S. Congress reassure our allies across the world that America can show resolve beyond partisanship.

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Futey
President
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Julie Rayman
Managing Director of Policy and Political Affairs
American Jewish Committee