

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We are writing to express our deep concerns and objections regarding the Trump Administration's Friday night firing of employees at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and its broader efforts to dismantle this essential organization. As an institution devoted to advancing peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and conflict prevention, USIP has played a critical role in fostering global stability and promoting the values of democracy, human rights, and justice. Elon Musk's recent moves to undermine this vital organization are deeply troubling and have the potential to jeopardize the progress that USIP has made in these areas.

Created by Congress in 1984, USIP is a private organization whose mission supports research, policy analysis, education, and training on international peace and conflict resolution. USIP's work is indispensable to addressing the most pressing challenges of our time, including violent conflict, fragile states, and humanitarian crises. The loss of experienced and dedicated professionals within the organization weakens our nation's ability to respond effectively to global peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, dismantling such a vital organization sends the troubling message that we are no longer committed to peace and diplomacy.

This is another attempt by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to further implement inefficiency, and streamline unauthorized executive power, which will only weaken our global standing. As a private, nonprofit, Musk and President Trump do not have the authority to shut down USIP, an organization created and funded partially by Congress.<sup>1</sup> Private donors have contributed about \$80 million for the construction of USIP headquarters and to its endowment. The USIP is the owner of its building, which sits on land authorized for use by Congress; and its workers are not federal employees.<sup>2</sup>

We urge you to combat these efforts to dismantle USIP and prevent irreversible damage from occurring. The Administration cannot unilaterally modify USIP's mandate, structure, or budget without Congress. Congress must be involved in decisions about the organization's future. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding should remain at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, and USIP must be allowed to continue its vital work without political interference.

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<sup>1</sup> "U.S. Institute of Peace lays off most staff members," NBC News, March 29, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/us-institute-peace-layoff-most-staff-members-rcna198714>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Institute of Peace staff is laid off, escalating legal battle with Trump administration," NPR, March 30, 2025 <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/30/nx-s1-5345012/us-institute-of-peace-staff-laid-off-doge-trump>

Sincerely,



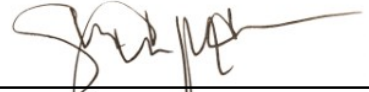
Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



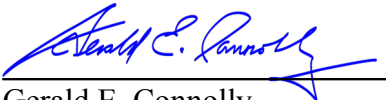
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



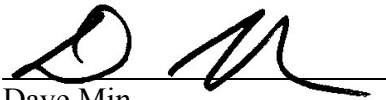
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



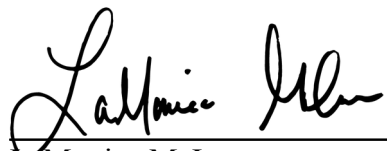
Dave Min  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

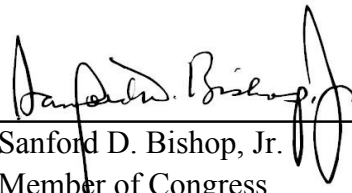


Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress




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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



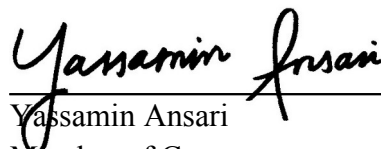
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



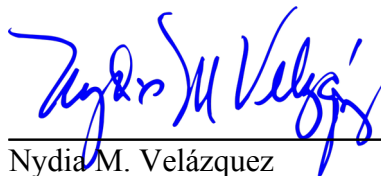
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress