

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

It has now been more than seven years since Austin Tice, a veteran Marine Corps Captain who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was detained at a checkpoint near Damascus, Syria while working in the country as a freelance journalist. This talented young man is an Eagle Scout who began college at the University of Houston at the age of 16, received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, proudly served his country as a Marine, and was about to begin his final year at Georgetown University Law Center. At the time of his capture, Austin was preparing to return home after having spent the summer covering the suffering of the Syrian people as a freelance reporter. Austin's lifelong dedication to serving others represents the best of our country's ideals and values.


The Tice family and your own administration are confident that Austin is alive. We strongly urge that you continue to use the full weight of your national security team — including dispatching the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs — to secure his release. Seven years is simply too long for Austin to be separated from his loved ones.

The recent releases of American Sam Goodwin and Canadian Kristian Baxter from their captivity in Syria are encouraging developments. These events lead us to believe that there is a strong prospect of finally securing Austin's safe return.


Congress remains united in our commitment to supporting any and all constructive efforts to bring Austin home to his family. We urge you to make Austin's immediate and safe return a priority.

Sincerely,


JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

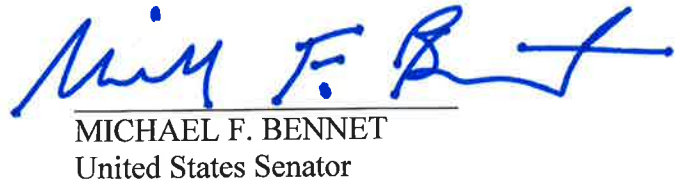

PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress


MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Member of Congress


AL GREEN
Member of Congress

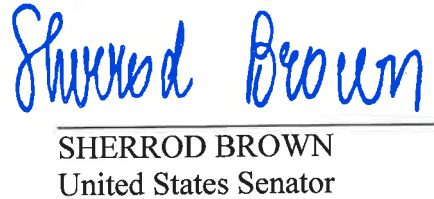

TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator


MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator

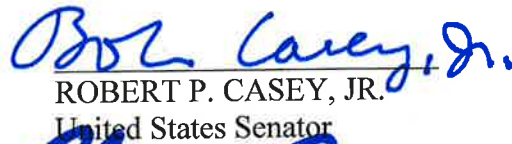

MARSHA BLACKBURN
United States Senator


RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

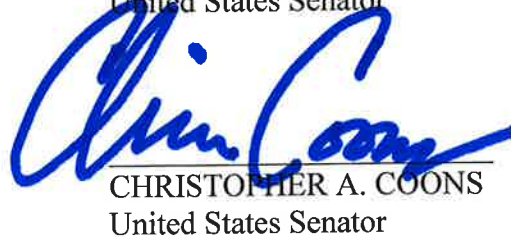

MIKE BRAUN
United States Senator


SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator



MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator


ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator


SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

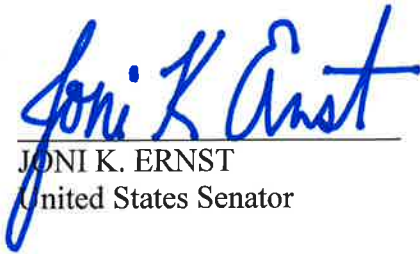

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator

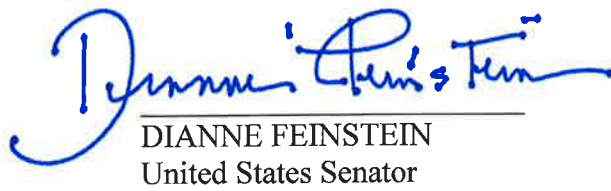

TOM COTTON
United States Senator

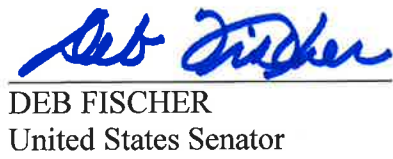

TED CRUZ
United States Senator

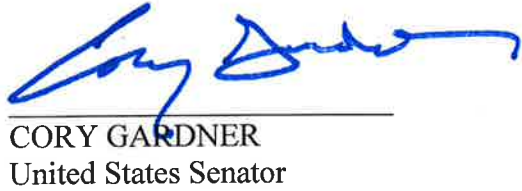

TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator


RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator


JONI K. ERNST
United States Senator

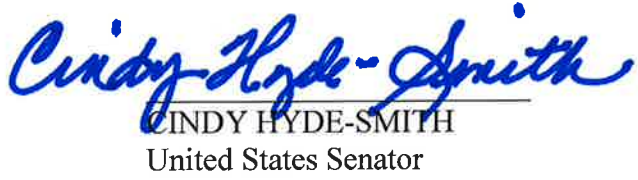

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

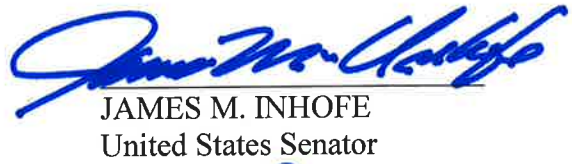

DEB FISCHER
United States Senator


CORY GARDNER
United States Senator

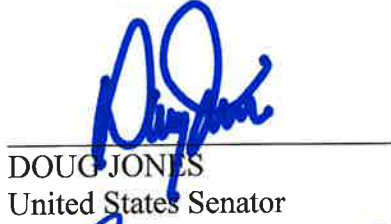

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

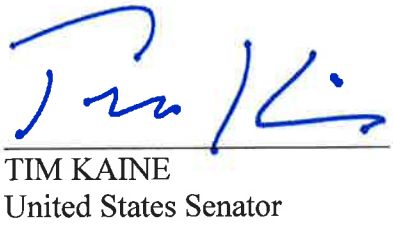

MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator

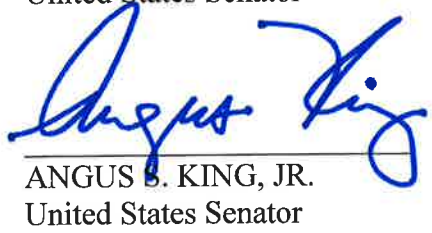

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator

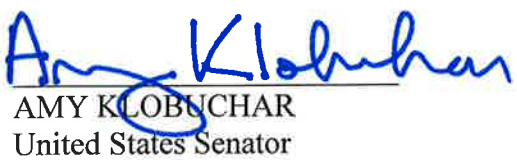

JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator


JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator


DOUG JONES
United States Senator


TIM KAINE
United States Senator


ANGUS B. KING, JR.
United States Senator


AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

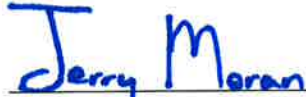

JAMES LANKFORD
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



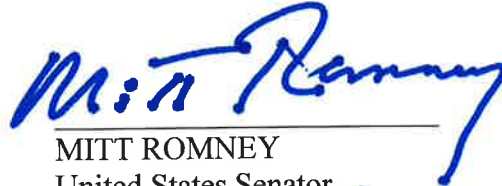
JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



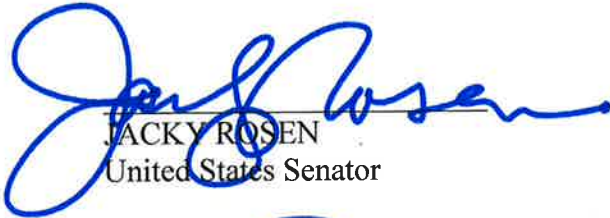
LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



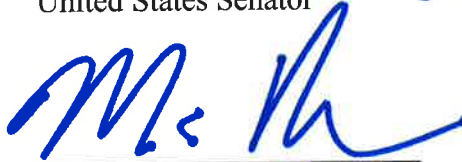
JACK REED
United States Senator



MITT ROMNEY
United States Senator



JACKY ROSEN
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



BEN SASSE
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



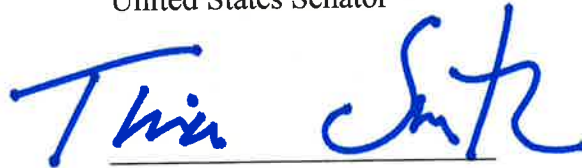
RICK SCOTT
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator



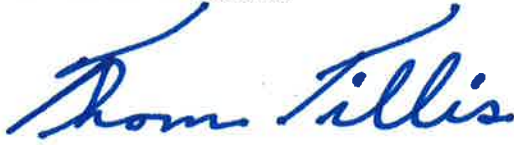
TINA SMITH
United States Senator



DAN SULLIVAN
United States Senator



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



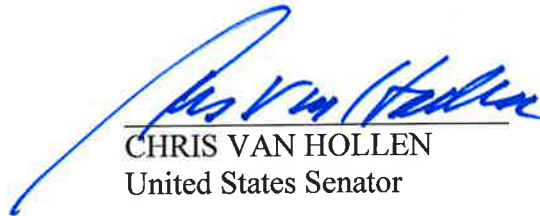
THOM TILLIS
United States Senator



PAT TOOMEY
United States Senator



TOM UDALL
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



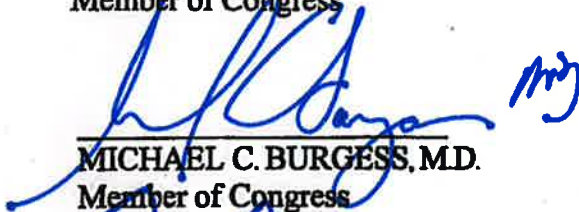
ROGER WICKER
United States Senator



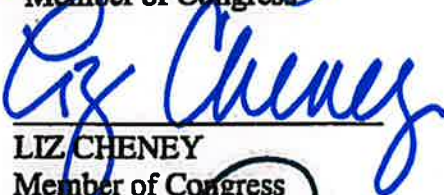
COLIN Z. ALLRED
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
Member of Congress



LIZ CHENEY
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER II
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



CYNTHIA AXNE
Member of Congress



TIM BURCHETT
Member of Congress



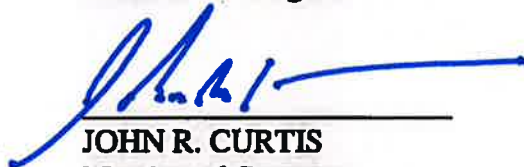
STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



JOHN R. CURTIS
Member of Congress



THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



BRIAN BABIN
Member of Congress



DON BACON
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



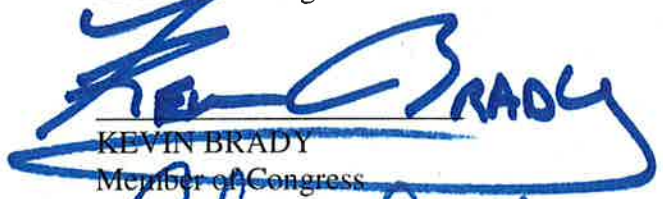
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress



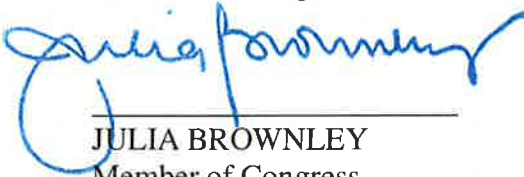
MIKE BOST
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



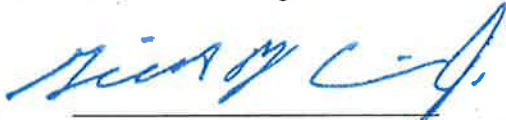
KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



GILBERT RAY CISNEROS,
JR.
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CLOUD
Member of Congress



DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress



JASON CROW
Member of Congress



HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress



PETER A. DeFAZIO
Member of Congress


BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ

Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER

Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES

NORTON

Member of Congress



WILL HURD

Member of Congress



HANK JOHNSON, JR.

Member of Congress



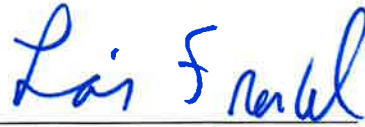
RO KHANNA

Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER

Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL

Member of Congress



JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-
COLÓN

Member of Congress



J. FRENCH HILL

Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN

Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE

Member of Congress



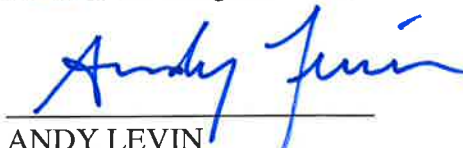
WILLIAM R. KEATING

Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER

Member of Congress



ANDY LEVIN

Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



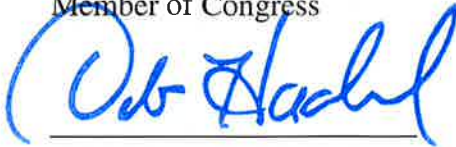
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress



LANCE GOODEN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL GUEST
Member of Congress



DEBRA A. HAALAND
Member of Congress



JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress



STENY H. HOYER
Member of Congress



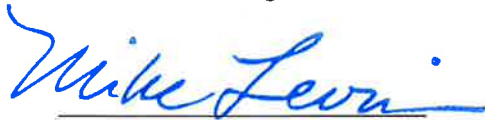
DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



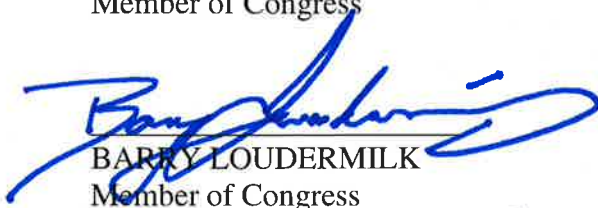
SUSIE LEE
Member of Congress



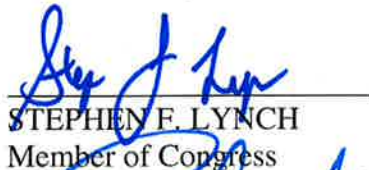
MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



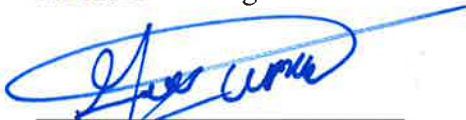
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



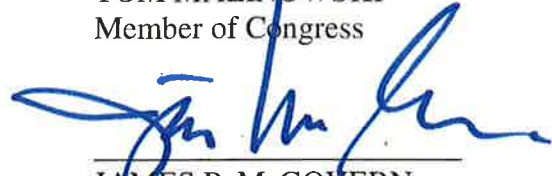
NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



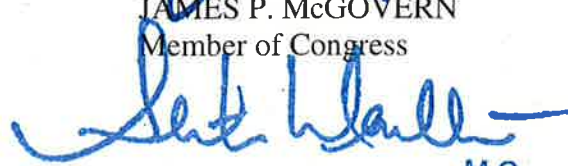
KEVIN McCARTHY
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



DEBBIE MUCARSEL-
POWELL
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE N. MURPHY
Member of Congress



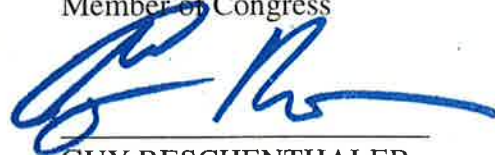
CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



JOHN RATCLIFFE
Member of Congress



GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress



FRANCIS ROONEY
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



HAROLD ROGERS
Member of Congress



MAX ROSE
Member of Congress



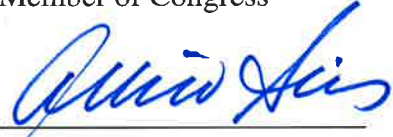
HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress



STEVE SCALISE
Member of Congress



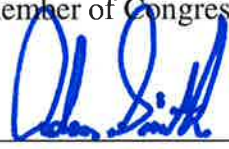
JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



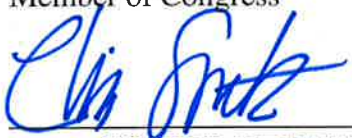
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress



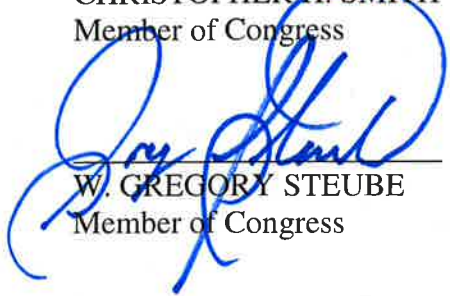
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress

DE Shill

DONNA E. SHALALA
Member of Congress

Abigail D Spanberger

ABIGAIL DAVIS
SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner

MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky

PETER J. VISCIOSKY
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins

STEVE WATKINS
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

Ron Wright

RON WRIGHT
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner

ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

RANDY K. WEBER, SR.
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress

Don Young

DON YOUNG
Member of Congress


HALEY M. STEVENS
Member of Congress


VAN TAYLOR
Member of Congress


GLENN THOMPSON
Member of Congress


SCOTT R. TIPTON
Member of Congress


LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress


DAVID J. TRONE
Member of Congress


JEFFERSON VAN DREW
Member of Congress