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One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Thank you for making John Bass, Under Secretary of State for Management, and Gentry Smith, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, available for a closed briefing with us on July 28<sup>th</sup> on the suspension of Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley's, security clearance.

Though we appreciated the briefers' time, we are concerned that some officials at the Department, including yourself, knew about Mr. Malley's situation for months but did not communicate to Congress about it, even as the Committee expressed bipartisan interest in receiving testimony or a briefing from Mr. Malley on Iran policy. We asked the briefers that the Department keep us regularly informed on this matter going forward, and we were told that they would take our request under consideration. We are sure you understand why we are not satisfied by that response.

Accordingly, we are writing to directly reiterate our request that the Department notify and brief the Committee upon any relevant developments regarding the status of Mr. Malley's employment and his ability to access classified information at the Department. This request is even more important with the recent news that Mr. Malley will be joining both Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs as a visiting professor and guest lecturer, and Yale's Jackson School of Global Affairs as a senior fellow.<sup>1</sup> Both developments would suggest a change to his employment status and that he will be leaving the State Department.

To improve communication and transparency with Congress going forward, we also request that the Department notify and brief this Committee when an Assistant Secretary or higher, a Deputy

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<sup>1</sup> [Durso, Tom, "Senior State Department Official to Join SPIA Faculty as Visiting Professor and Lecturer," Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, published August 15, 2023, accessed August 16, 2023.](#); ["Robert Malley, Senior Fellow," Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs, accessed August 18, 2023.](#)

Chief of Mission or higher, or an individual who is a direct report to you, such as a Special Envoy, has their clearance suspended or revoked.

We appreciate your commitment to transparency and look forward to your continued engagement on this troubling matter.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul  
Chairman



Brian Mast  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Oversight and Accountability

cc: Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Ranking Member