

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I recently returned from Israel and the West Bank on a congressional delegation visit led by Leader Schumer, where we had a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. On our behalf, Senator Schumer reinforced the commitment we all have to our relationship with Israel, its security, and to its identity as a Jewish and democratic state.

We also reiterated our support for the long-standing policy of the United States government to support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The basis of this policy, of course, is the conviction that it is the only practical way to ensure and sustain Israel as both a Jewish and democratic state.

Yet, it is time to acknowledge what is painfully apparent: as far as the Netanyahu government is concerned, the two-state solution is dead.

I am gravely concerned that Mr. Netanyahu's regime dismisses the long-term security threat his government's policy of de facto annexation poses to Israel. If this policy continues, our advocacy for the two-state solution is meaningless.

Despite increasing obstacles, the two-state solution must be reinvigorated.

The day after we departed Israel, there was an escalation of conflict in the West Bank—resulting in the deaths of Israelis and a Palestinian, and attacks on Palestinian homes. Sadly, this is just the latest example of the vicious cycle of violence between Israeli settlers and Palestinians.

We have a choice: stand by passively as a withered two-state approach recedes into oblivion or do our best to reenergize it with more assertive efforts to persuade the Netanyahu government to stop further expansion of settlements in the West Bank, to halt all de facto annexations, and to reaffirm Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution. Any hope for peace and prosperity in the region depends on the United States making the right choice, right now.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator