

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,


I have been deeply distressed to see thousands of experienced, dedicated United States Agency of International Development (USAID) employees who pledged to uphold the Constitution and advance U.S. interests around the world, summarily terminated without cause or credible justification. I am particularly distressed because their termination, and the termination of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign assistance programs on which hundreds of millions of people depend for their health, safety and well-being, are in direct contravention of the law.

These funds were included in prior appropriations acts on a bipartisan basis. They included many pages of provisions requiring the Administration to obligate the funds for explicit purposes. While I recognize that you are responding to the President's urgency in demanding cost-savings, it cannot be done in a manner that plainly violates federal law and the Constitution. As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, I am concerned by such blatant disregard for our constitutional system, while ignoring Congress's clear statutory directives. Simply put, the Constitution does not provide authority for the President to ignore the law.

Therefore, I request a written response by March 14, 2025, with an explanation of how you intend to come into compliance with the law with respect to the obligation of funds at or above the amounts specified for each of the countries, programs, projects, and activities specified in Titles I-7 of the Fiscal Year 2024 Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (Division F of Public Law 118-47) and the accompanying Explanatory Statement.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator