

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

There are reports that lawmakers are [eyeing the lame-duck Congress](#) as an opportunity to push through a \$50 billion aid package to Ukraine, possibly as part of a larger government funding bill, dwarfing the \$12 billion disbursed in September and nearly doubling the \$66 billion already sent to Kyiv this calendar year.¹ Proponents want to move before new majorities in either the House or Senate have an opportunity to weigh in on America's Ukraine policy on behalf of [increasingly skeptical constituents](#).²

An aid bill of this magnitude would have profound effects on the United States' national security and add to our already substantial national debt and budget deficit.

Accordingly, we the undersigned urge the current United States Congress not to rush through another large assistance package for Ukraine during the lame-duck session. Any new aid package to Ukraine should be thoroughly debated, examined, and voted on in the 118th Congress.

Consider that this proposed provision could bring total congressional assistance to Ukraine to a staggering \$116 billion since the beginning of the current Russo-Ukrainian War. Outside of the U.S. and China, this figure is more than [any country's](#) annual defense budget.³ That alone should require substantial debate and a standalone vote.

Moreover, circumventing the incoming Congress undermines the legislature's responsibilities for oversight of military funding and arms deliveries. It flouts the will of American voters, whose mandate arrives to Washington in January with our newly elected officials. Moreover, it flagrantly disregards the fiscal constraints facing this country—and its citizens—amidst historic

¹ Dan De Luce, Julie Tsirkin, and Scott Wong, "With GOP skeptics of Ukraine aid poised to gain seats in Congress, lawmakers look to lock in a huge military assistance package," *NBC News*, October 20, 2022. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/gop-ukraine-skeptics-poised-gain-congress-lawmakers-look-lock-billions-rcna53167>

² Cameron Easley, "Russia-Ukraine Crisis Tracker," *Morning Consult*, October 31, 2022. <https://morningconsult.com/tracking-the-russia-ukraine-crisis/>

³ Diego Lopes Da Silva, et. al., "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2021," *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*, April 2022. https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/fs_2204_milex_2021_0.pdf

inflation, high fuel prices, and a \$31 trillion national debt, for which interest payments alone are expected to exceed U.S. defense spending by 2029.⁴

Beyond the obvious legislative and fiscal concerns facing Washington, not linking Ukrainian aid to matching agreements with Europe is strategically unsound. These gargantuan sums of financial, humanitarian, and military aid provided by the United States have created a clear moral hazard, contributing to embarrassingly lackluster contributions from America's wealthy European allies, in whose very region the war is taking place. Even discounting the proposed \$50 billion, the United States far [surpassed](#) the combined contributions of the European Union and its member states in 2022 in aid to Ukraine.⁵ And when counting aid as a percent of total GDP, the United States has [contributed more](#) than the nations of Western and much of Central Europe.⁶

America cannot and should not be more committed to European security than Europe is.

In September, Concerned Veterans for America commissioned a [poll](#) with YouGov which clearly demonstrated most Americans oppose giving Ukraine additional aid if European countries do not match our giving.⁷ That said, it is unlikely that recent deployments of additional U.S. troops and military hardware to Europe will encourage our allies to correct their feeble defense spending and share of aid to their Ukrainian neighbors.

Finally, it would be a major blunder to rush another massive aid package to Ukraine without first determining the appropriate end-state toward which our expenditures are committed. Having already drawn down our treasuries and emptied [our armories of hard-to-replace weaponry](#),⁸ the Congress must demand clear answers from the Biden administration about its goals in Ukraine and how aid will advance them beyond vague allusions to a decisive Ukrainian victory which it [doesn't believe](#) Kyiv can achieve.⁹

We understand the desire to help the people of Ukraine. They are the victims of a brutal and immoral Russian invasion. Our sympathies with the Ukrainian cause, however, do not negate the

⁴ "The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2022 to 2032," *Congressional Budget Office*, May 2022.

<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57950>

⁵ Antezza, et. al., "Government support to Ukraine: By country group, € billion," *The Ukraine Support Tracker*. *Kiel Institute for the World Economy*. October 3, 2022. https://app.23degrees.io/view/5V9AdDpw1pmLx01e-bar-stacked-horizontal-figure-1_csv

⁶ Antezza, et. al., "Government support to Ukraine: By donor country GDP, incl. and excl. EU share," *The Ukraine Support Tracker*. *Kiel Institute for the World Economy*. October 3, 2022.

https://app.23degrees.io/view/F1tc2gv8QzFCs1ij-bar-stacked-horizontal-figure_3_4_csv_v2-1

⁷ "New Poll: Americans want wealthy European countries to step up in Ukraine, wary of American military involvement in conflict." *Concerned Veterans for America*. September 15, 2022. <https://cv4a.org/news-media/new-poll-americans-want-wealthy-european-countries-to-step-up-provide-aid-to-ukraine-wary-of-direct-intervention-in-conflict/>

⁸ Gordon Lubold, Nancy A. Youssef, and Ben Kessler, "Ukraine War Is Depleting U.S. Ammunition Stockpiles, Sparking Pentagon Concern," *The Wall Street Journal*. August 29, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraine-war-depleting-u-s-ammunition-stockpiles-sparking-pentagon-concern-11661792188>

⁹ Natasha Bertrand, "Biden officials privately doubt that Ukraine can win back all of its territory," *CNN*. June 28, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/28/politics/white-house-ukraine-projection/index.html>

responsibility of the United States Congress to place American interests first and foremost when shaping U.S. foreign policy.

Pushing through another aid package during this Congress' lame-duck session with little debate or consideration for the will of the American people would disregard legislators' responsibilities to U.S. interests. The 118th Congress should be sworn in before further deliberations on additional Ukrainian aid occur so that these critical issues can enjoy the thorough debate they deserve by officials who more accurately reflect the current will of the American people.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
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Kevin Roberts
President
The Heritage Foundation

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Cesar Ybarra
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