

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2019

Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear High Representative Mogherini,

We write to express our appreciation for your leadership in convening the upcoming International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant Crisis, scheduled for October 28th and 29th in Brussels. We strongly support this initiative and sincerely hope it will help address the devastating humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, which has forced over 4.4 million Venezuelans to leave their country, according to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

As you know, the United States has provided \$644 million in humanitarian aid and development assistance for the Venezuela crisis since 2017, including approximately three-fourths of all global contributions to the UNHCR's Regional Refugee and Migrant Response platform thus far. The United States government remains deeply committed to supporting a democratic transition in Venezuela and minimizing the suffering of the Venezuelan people, who are living through a humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Maduro regime.

There is bipartisan agreement in Congress that the United States should work closely with our allies to address the Venezuela crisis. We have heard repeatedly from UNHCR officials and stakeholders that other donors need to increase their financial support in order to secure the remaining \$362 million of the \$738 million the UNHCR initially requested.

Our allies in Europe are playing a key role in responding to the Venezuela crisis and we particularly appreciate the efforts the European Commission has made thus far, including its \$17 million contribution to the UNHCR platform. The government of Spain has also made considerable contributions and has received nearly 60,000 Venezuelan asylum-seekers. The response from the UNHCR and international non-governmental organizations has been laudable.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the sustainability of the humanitarian response, the longer this crisis drags on. The Colombian government and the Colombian people have shown tremendous generosity, even as the number of Venezuelans in Colombia could soon reach 1.5 million. But hospitals and schools in Colombia are already struggling to handle the volume of migrant flows from Venezuela and we worry that the scale of the crisis could soon overwhelm public resources in the country.

We recognize and appreciate your continued commitment to addressing the Venezuela crisis. Historically, our allies in Europe have played a leading role in responding to humanitarian crises throughout the world. We hope the upcoming meeting serves to further deepen cooperation between the United States and the European Union in response to the crisis in Venezuela and ultimately enables additional humanitarian support to reach the Venezuelan people.

Thank you for your continued attention to this urgent matter.

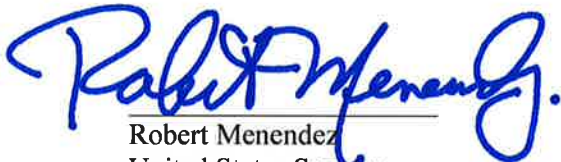
Sincerely,



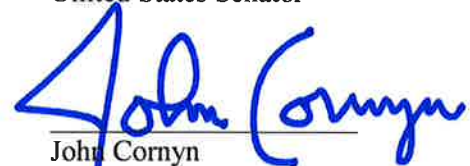
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



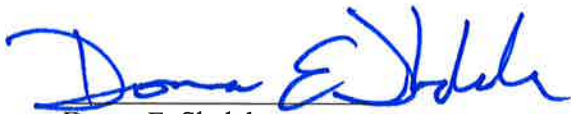
John Cornyn
United States Senator



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



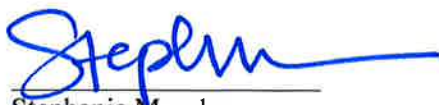
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



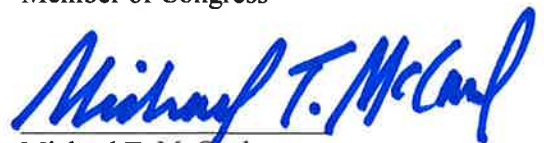
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress