

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

June 21, 2023

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

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas:

We write to express our support for efforts to include Israel in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and to encourage both the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize finalizing Israel's accession this year.

Approximately 450,000 Israelis travel annually to the U.S., and that number has been increasing each year. With 93 weekly direct flights from Israel to U.S. airports, there is already significant demand for travel. As such, Israel's participation in VWP would significantly increase the potential for both tourism and business travel.


In pursuit of these benefits for both countries, the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security – particularly Ambassador Nides and the entire staff at the U.S. Embassy in Israel – and the Government of Israel have all worked diligently to enable Israel's eligibility for VWP. In January, Israel's non-immigrant visa refusal rate fell below 3%, satisfying one key requirement of eligibility for the program, and since that time the Government of Israel has been working to implement the necessary technical requirements for inclusion. Finally, Israel's parliament has passed all of the legislation to facilitate requisite data sharing, which underscores Israel's commitment to meeting the necessary benchmarks and gaining admission into VWP.

We recognize that there are still outstanding issues that must be addressed before Israel's participation in the program can be finalized, and we urge both sides to continue working toward addressing these issues – including the reciprocal treatment of U.S. citizens – to ensure Israel's compliance with all program requirements before the deadline of September 30, 2023.

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
June 21, 2023  
Page Two

We hope that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security will continue efforts to ensure that the momentum that has yielded the aforementioned progress is not lost, and that Israel's accession to VWP is finalized this year.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



John Thune  
United States Senator



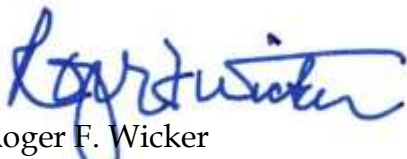
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



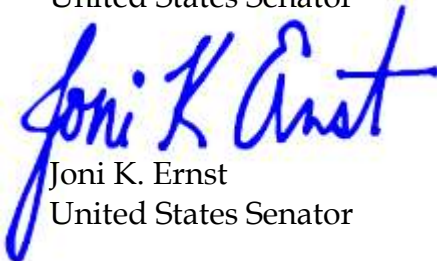
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
June 21, 2023  
Page Three



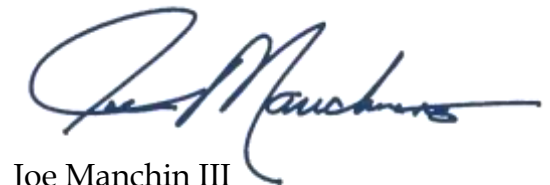
Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator




Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Mike Braun  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



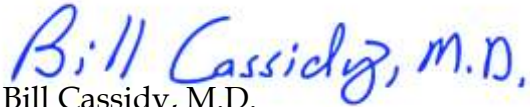
John W. Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



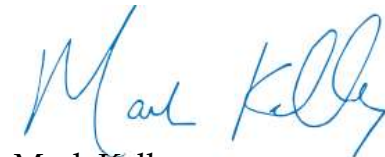
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator




Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



John Fetterman  
United States Senator



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
June 21, 2023  
Page Five



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



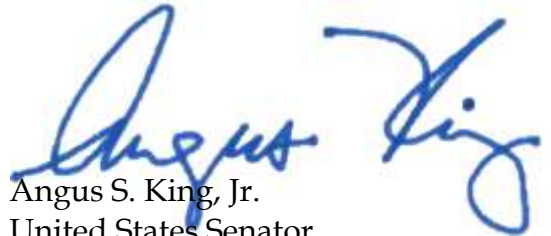
Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



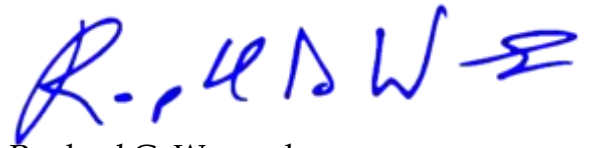
Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



Tim Scott  
United States Senator



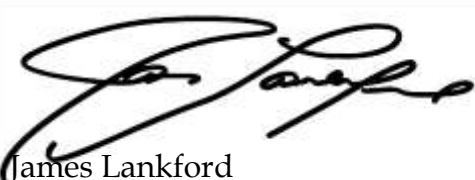
Mike Lee  
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



JD Vance  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
June 21, 2023  
Page Seven



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt  
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Mitt Romney  
United States Senator