

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION



WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5441

DISTRICT OFFICE:
123 GRAND STREET, 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
845-561-1259

Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
18th District, New York

January 13, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

President Trump,

We write to you today to express our concern and dismay at the recall of Daniel Foote, the United States Ambassador to Zambia, after he expressed his opposition to the Lungu government's anti-LGBTQ policies. While there have been advancements around the world in protecting the rights of LGBTQ individuals, millions of people still live in countries where they can be fined, imprisoned, or even executed for who they are and who they love.

When Ambassador Foote spoke out against Zambia's imposition of a 15-year sentence on two men in a same-sex relationship, he was standing up for American values of freedom and equality. Ambassador Foote's actions aligned with both our values and the State Department's policy of opposing criminalization of LGBTQ relationships. Earlier this month, Ambassador Foote was attacked by Zambia's leaders for his stand, and President Lungu used hateful anti-LGBTQ language while doing so.

To bow to pressure and recall the ambassador after he spoke out in accordance with stated U.S. policy, sends the wrong message to the millions of people who still live under anti-LGBTQ regimes. It indicates to the world that we will back down to pressure, and it calls into question your administration's stated interest in combating anti-LGBTQ policies across the globe.

As members of Congress, we seek information about your administration's actions surrounding this situation. Specifically:

- (1) While our ambassador was being targeted by the Lungu government, did President Trump, Vice President Pence or Secretary Pompeo personally intervene to support Ambassador Foote?
- (2) How does Ambassador Foote's withdrawal from Zambia comport with your Administration's declared support for decriminalizing same-sex relations around the world?
- (3) Given reports of growing anti-LGBTQ sentiment across Africa, will your State Department commit to sending a message to all regional ambassadors clarifying that US policy remains to support the fair treatment and full equality of LGBTQ people?

While your administration's actions cannot be undone, we ask that you support our ambassadors and foreign service officers when they stand up for American values of freedom and equality around the world.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



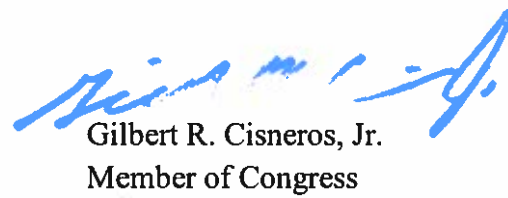
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



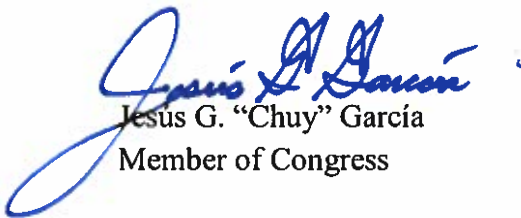
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



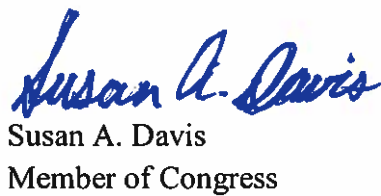
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Don Beyer
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



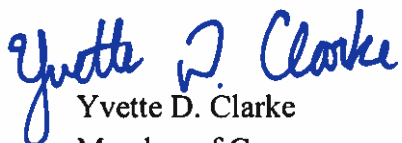
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

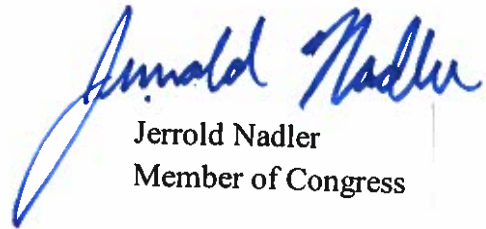



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress




Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress




Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



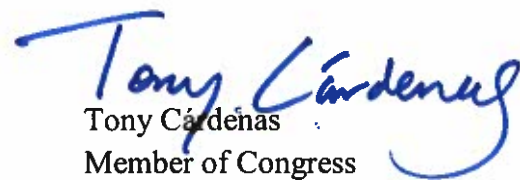
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress




Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress




Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress