

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

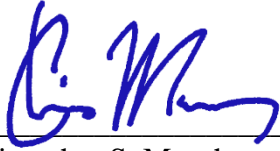
While all countries are struggling to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19, areas with existing humanitarian crises are particularly vulnerable and ill-equipped to tackle this global pandemic. Internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, and asylum seekers often come from war-torn, fragile, and poor countries with little to no health care systems in place: a toxic combination that will make the scourge of COVID-19 particularly deadly. To counter this threat, the United Nations has released an emergency humanitarian appeal for \$2 billion to address the immediate needs of displaced populations. We urge you to join the rest of the international community by contributing at least \$500 million from funding for international humanitarian assistance toward this UN appeal, to help protect more than 70 million displaced people around the world and save countless lives, including in the United States.

The world's humanitarian crises have already disadvantaged the health of millions of people living in displacement. Some of the most effective defenses against COVID-19 - frequent hand washing, social distancing, and widespread testing - are virtually unavailable to people living in overcrowded informal settlements and refugee camps. In countries like Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, South Sudan, and Afghanistan, years of conflict have decimated health systems. Widespread malnutrition in countries like Venezuela, Burundi, and Chad contributes to immunodeficiency and, consequently, greater susceptibility to infectious agents. And nearly 90 percent of people in displacement worldwide live in poor or lower middle-income countries like Jordan, Bangladesh, Kenya or Pakistan. Those countries' weak health systems will face enormous strains in coping with COVID-19 just for their own citizens, let alone for the displaced people they host. In the absence of international humanitarian assistance to address these widespread weaknesses, millions of peoples' lives will be at serious risk and new outbreaks will threaten the entire global community.

Displaced people around the world depend on lifesaving humanitarian assistance from the UN and its partners to feed their families, receive medical treatment, and provide shelter. The COVID-19 epidemic has devastated some of the world's best healthcare systems, and will surely wreak havoc on displaced people who are already living at a disadvantage. We urge you to join the international community in answering the call from the United Nations by contributing at

least \$500 million toward this lifesaving \$2 billion appeal.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy



Christopher A. Coons



Elizabeth Warren



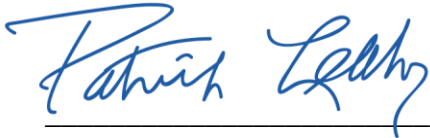
Benjamin L. Cardin



Margaret Wood Hassan



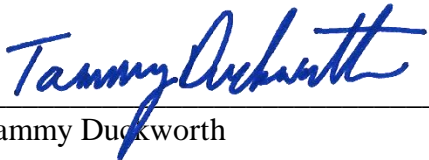
Richard J. Durbin



Patrick Leahy



Edward J. Markey



Tammy Duckworth



Bernard Sanders

/s/

Chris Van Hollen



Sherrod Brown

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden

Tom Udall

Tom Udall

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar

Tina Smith

Tina Smith