

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 6, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

It has now been nearly 12 years since Austin Tice, a veteran Marine Corps Captain who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was detained at a checkpoint near Damascus, Syria while working as a freelance journalist. On August 11, 2022, you publicly indicated your administration knows that Austin has been held by the Syrian regime. On May 2, 2022, you met with Austin's parents Debra and Marc Tice and committed to continue to pursue all available avenues to secure Austin's long overdue return to his family. Over four years ago, many of us joined a letter signed by a bipartisan group of members of the House and Senate urging President Trump to use the full weight of his national security team to secure Austin's release. We now reiterate the request that you do everything possible to bring Austin home.

As a beloved son, brother, Eagle Scout, journalist, and veteran, Austin represents the best our nation has to offer, and we are committed to working with you to return him to his loving family. As an American and a veteran, Austin deserves the full and active support of our government to secure his release. We also encourage your administration to utilize all available means to further discourage the hostage taking of American citizens.

Eleven years is far too long for Austin to be held. We ask that you keep us informed of your progress so that the Congress and your Administration can continue to work hand in hand on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



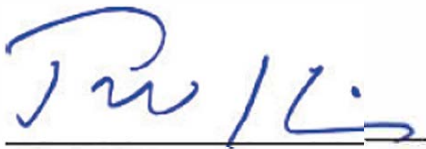
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator




Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator




Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

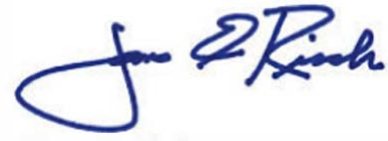



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator

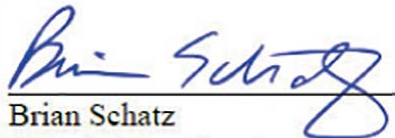

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Bernard Sanders
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Peter Welch
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Todd Young
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Tammy Baldwin
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