

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2018

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
President
The Republic of Turkey

Dear Mr. President,

It has now been over a year and a half since Turkish authorities detained Pastor Andrew Brunson, a law-abiding American citizen resident in Turkey since 1993, for alleged involvement in terrorism.

Pastor Brunson's detention and formal arrest followed the Turkish government's imposition of a State of Emergency after a violent coup attempt in July 2016 rightly opposed by Turks across the political spectrum. The United States has condemned the coup and respects the legitimate efforts of the Turkish government to ensure its perpetrators face justice and the Turkish nation is protected from any repetition of the coup attempt. The Congress supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen law enforcement cooperation between U.S. agencies and their Turkish counterparts, including with regard to investigating alleged participants in the coup plot.

However, we are deeply disturbed that the Turkish government has gone beyond legitimate action against the coup plotters to undermine Turkey's own rule of law and democratic traditions. Under the State of Emergency, tens of thousands of Turkey's own citizens as well as some citizens of the United States and other countries have been arrested, dismissed from employment or otherwise seen their lives destroyed on vague charges and dubious evidence. These actions by the government of Turkey are inconsistent with the commitment to law and justice that have historically been hallmarks of Turkish democracy.

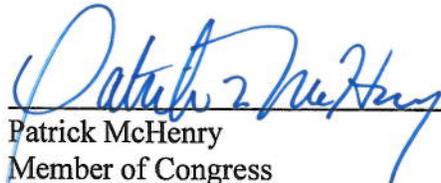
That the Turkish government has consistently ignored bipartisan expressions of concern from the Congress has also been cause for concern. Nonetheless, we chose to respect the working of the Turkish judicial system and await a just outcome.

On March 13, 2018, Turkish authorities issued an indictment alleging and purportedly detailing Pastor Brunson's offenses. It is an absurd collection of anonymous accusations, flights of fantasy, and random character assassination. It is an insult not only to an unjustly imprisoned individual, but to the traditions of Turkish jurisprudence. That a Turkish court could accept such a document as the basis for prosecution removes any shred of doubt that Andrew Brunson, as well as other American citizens and Turkish employees of the U.S. Government detained under the State of Emergency, is being used as a political pawn by elements of the Turkish government bent on destroying the longstanding partnership between two great nations. Moreover, the suggestion in the indictment that the actions of Pastor Brunson, to explain his religious

convictions to others, were somehow meant to undermine the Turkish state brings a new and deeply disturbing dimension to the case. It should trouble all Turks justly proud of Turkey's centuries-old tradition of welcoming believers of all faiths.

The United States Government, and millions of Americans deeply concerned by the Brunson case, have been patient, in the hope that justice would be done and Pastor Brunson would be reunited with his family. The signatories of this letter have concluded that other measures will be necessary to ensure that the Government of Turkey respects the right of law-abiding citizens and employees of the United States to travel to, reside in, and work in Turkey without fear of persecution.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



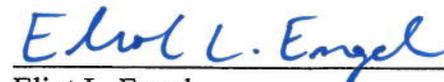
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress



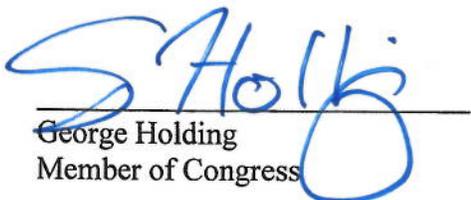
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



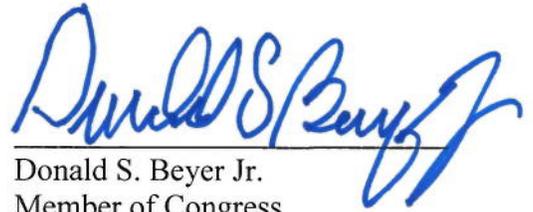
George Holding
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



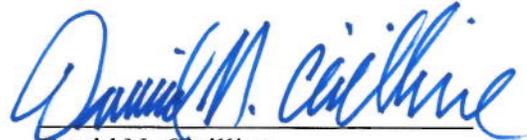
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



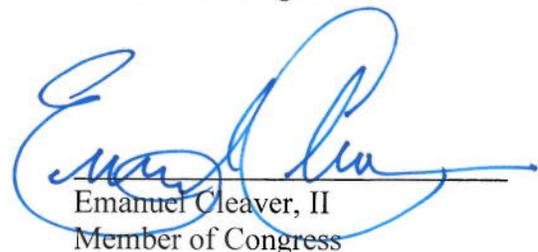
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



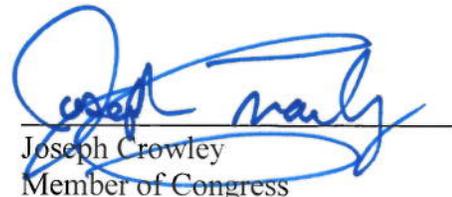
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



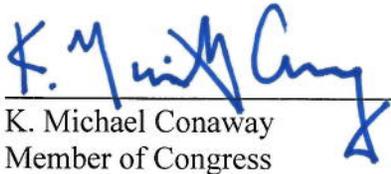
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



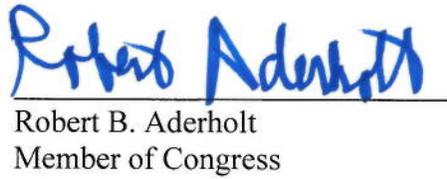
Steve Scalise, Majority Whip
Member of Congress

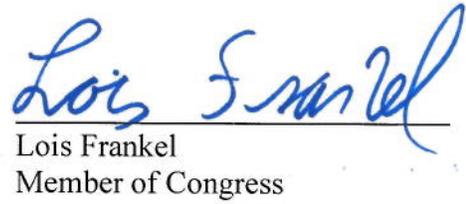


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress


Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress


Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

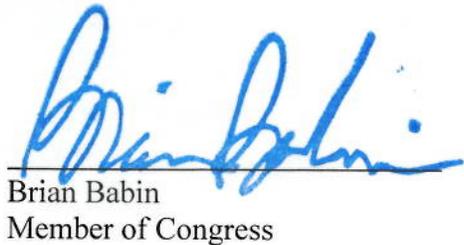

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress


Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


Brian Babin
Member of Congress

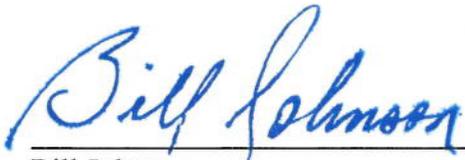

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Joe Barton
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Andy Biggs
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



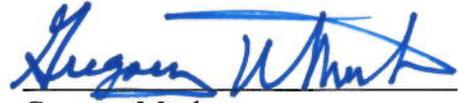
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
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Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

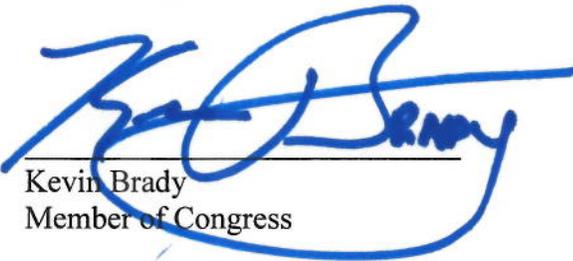


Mike Bost
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M.C.

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
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Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



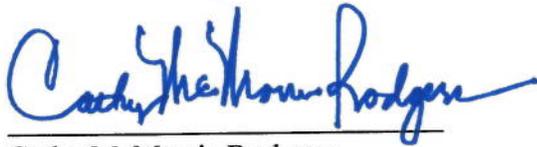
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



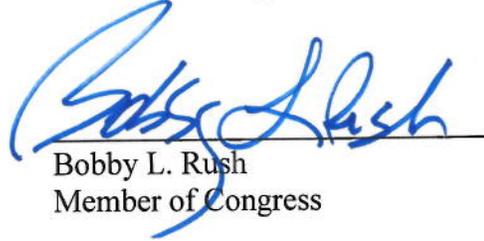
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



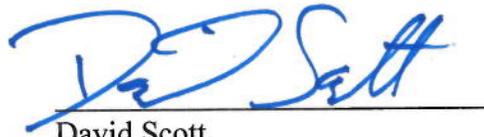
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



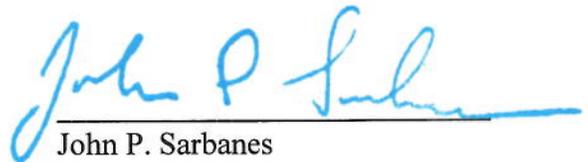
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



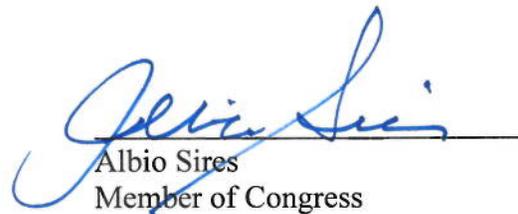
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



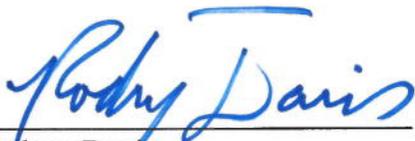
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



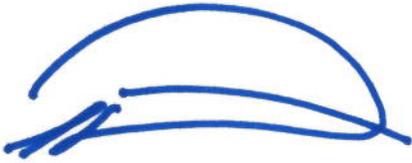
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



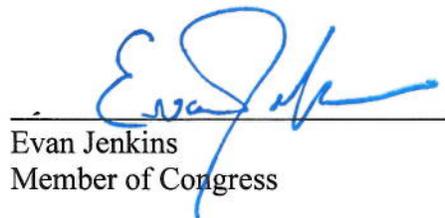
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Evan Jenkins
Member of Congress



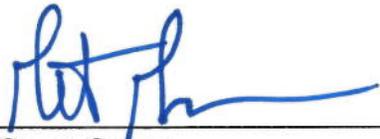
Chuck Fleischmann
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Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



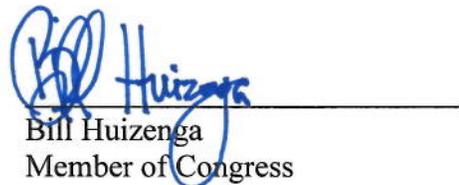
Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



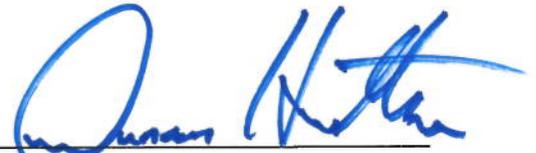
French Hill
Member of Congress



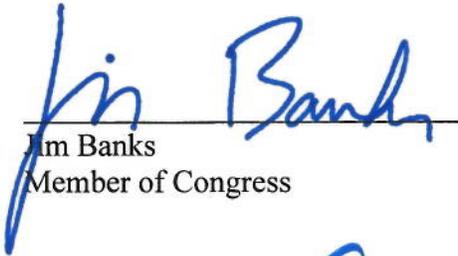
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



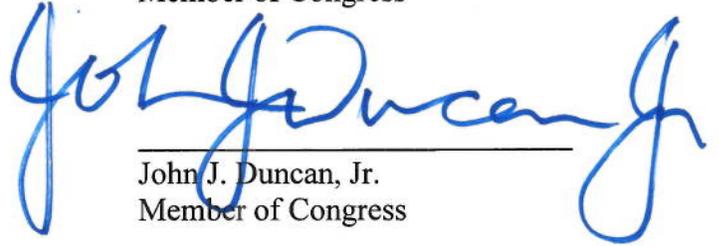
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



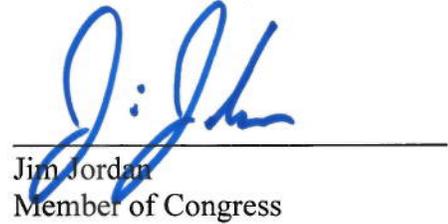
Jim Banks
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John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



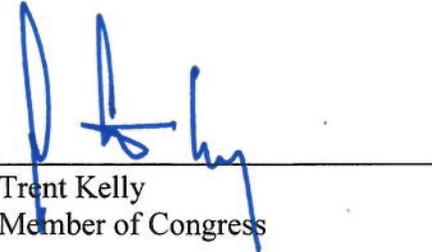
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



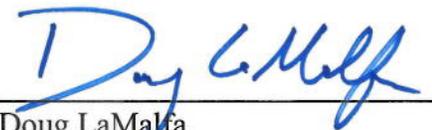
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



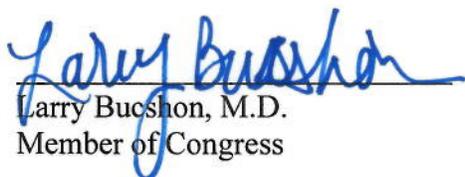
Doug LaMalfa
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Lamar Smith
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Doug Lamborn
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



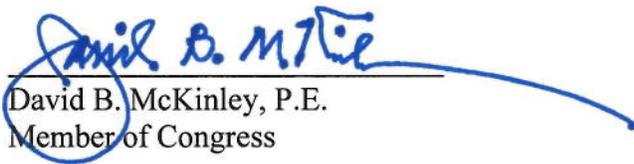
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Roger Marshall
Member of Congress


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Martha McSally
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
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John Moolenaar
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Alex Mooney
Member of Congress


Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress


Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

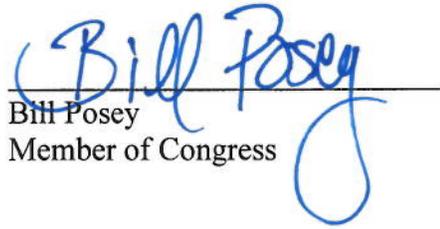

Pete Olson
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Gary Palmer
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Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



David P. Poe, MD
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress



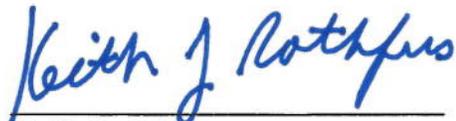
Dana Rohrabacher
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Todd Rokita
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Peter J. Roskam
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Keith Rothfus
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Steve Russell
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Austin Scott
Member of Congress

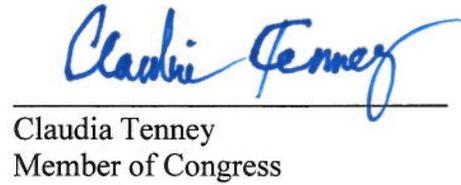


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



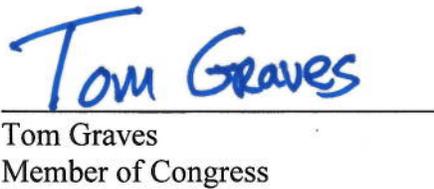
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress


Steve King
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Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress


Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

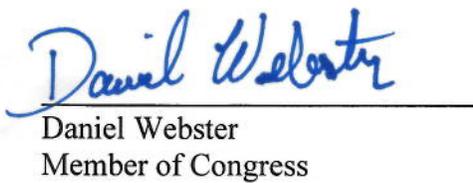

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress


Tom Graves
Member of Congress

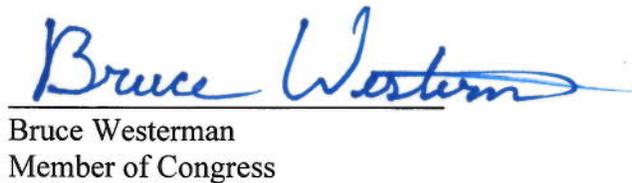

Dave Trott
Member of Congress


Tim Walberg
Member of Congress


Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

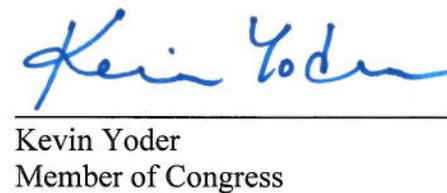

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress


Brad Wenstrup
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Bruce Westerman
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Roger Williams
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Rob Woodall
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Kevin Yoder
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Ted Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
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Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress



Dave Brat
Member of Congress