

MAR 0 1 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROMPTLY REINSTATE FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST TO SUPPORT ITS LIFE-SAVING AND CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
2 Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing
3 critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its
4 establishment in 1949; and

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6 WHEREAS, innocent men, women, and children in Palestine
7 continue to face dire humanitarian conditions, including mass
8 displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to
9 necessities such as food, clean water, and health care services;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, Palestinian refugees are faced with escalating
13 conflicts and crises in the region, resulting in nearly thirty
14 thousand deaths and 1,900,000 people displaced from their homes;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, most of UNRWA's regular budget for Gaza pays for
18 the salaries of thirteen thousand employees in the region,
19 including teachers, health care specialists, engineers, and
20 sanitation workers; and

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22 WHEREAS, the total amount of funding that is typical for
23 salaries and operational expenses for UNRWA comes out to
24 \$30,000,000 monthly, according to Juliette Touma, UNRWA Director
25 of Communications; and

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27 WHEREAS, however since the start of the 2023 conflict in
28 Gaza, a supplemental budget for UNRWA increased to 47,000,000 a



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1 month from 12,000,000 a month, according to Tom White, Director
2 of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza; and

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4 WHEREAS, that extra money has paid for flour for three
5 hundred fifty thousand families, fourteen million food items,
6 mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets, and the distribution
7 of twenty million liters of water; and

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9 WHEREAS, some of UNRWA's budget in Gaza also goes to
10 distributing life-saving medications, including insulin and
11 vaccines; and

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13 WHEREAS, the United States usually gives between
14 \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to UNRWA on an annual basis,
15 according to Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the United States
16 Department of State, which amounts to roughly one-third of the
17 agency's annual budget; and

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19 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has expressed
20 his commitment to promoting human rights and addressing
21 humanitarian crises worldwide; and

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23 WHEREAS, in January 2023, the United States suspended
24 funding to UNRWA amid claims that twelve of its thirteen
25 thousand staff members in Gaza may have abetted extremist
26 activities; and

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28 WHEREAS, in response, the United Nations Secretary-General
29 immediately announced the creation of an independent panel to
30 investigate the allegations made against UNRWA employees; and

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32 WHEREAS, suspension of funding to UNRWA by the United
33 States government has severely impacted UNRWA's ability to
34 deliver life-saving assistance to Palestinian refugees; and

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36 WHEREAS, reinstating funding to UNRWA is essential to
37 ensure the delivery of critical services for Palestinian
38 refugees, such as food, health care, and emergency relief
39 assistance; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the



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1 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
2 United States is urged to promptly reinstate funding for the
3 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in
4 the Near East to support its life-saving and critical
5 humanitarian assistance programs for Palestinian refugees; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
9 United States, United States Secretary of State, Administrator
10 of the United States Agency for International Development, and
11 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or similar character, written over a horizontal line.