



East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Items of Information
August 12, 2024 - 7:00 PM
Board Room
509 Burcham Drive
East Lansing, Michigan 48823



Agenda

- I. **Future Action**
 - A. German Exchange Program June 2025
- II. **Ceasefire Resolution Response**
 - A. Representative Elissa Slotkin 2
 - B. Senator Gary Peters 5
- III. **Committees**
 - A. **Policy Committee**
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Respectfully Submitted,

Dori Leyko
Superintendent

ELISSA SLOTKIN
7TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reaching out to my office about the ongoing crisis in Israel, Gaza, and beyond. The most important aspect of my job is understanding the concerns of the Michiganders I was elected to represent. This wouldn't be possible without hearing from folks like you, so I sincerely appreciate you getting in touch.

As you know, this issue is one of the most complex, longstanding, and painful of international conflicts. The violence in the Middle East reverberates profoundly in Michigan, where large Muslim, Arab, and Jewish populations make their home and maintain personal relationships and connections. As a Jewish woman, and as someone who has spent years living in the region, the scenes of violence are gut-wrenching, and I mourn the significant loss of life in this conflict.

So first, I will start with the facts. On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched an unprecedented attack on Israel – firing a barrage of rockets, breaking through the barrier that separates Israel and Gaza, and committing unspeakable acts, including the massacre of women, children, and elderly, and the kidnapping of more than 200 people (including Americans) with more than 100 still held hostage in Gaza today. The stories, photos, and videos that have come out since have shaken Israel, and many Michiganders, to their core. American fatalities stand at more than thirty.

In the months since, we have also seen an unprecedented Israeli air strike campaign and ground operation in Gaza, killing tens of thousands of civilians. The humanitarian crisis – particularly access to food, water, medical supplies, and electricity – has become dire. Gaza is one of the poorest and most crowded places on earth. As a former national security professional who worked for many years in the Middle East, I have seen up close and personal how civilians pay the price of war. To be clear, there is no equivalency between Israel and Hamas terrorists. But, Hamas' heinous acts do not eliminate Israel's responsibility to protect civilians. That is why I have repeatedly called for a negotiated ceasefire to facilitate the safe return of hostages, pause violence, and allow additional humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza. From December through this month, I have both publicly and privately urged the President to facilitate a durable, negotiated

ceasefire deal. In four public letters, private meetings with dozens of U.S. and Israeli officials, and five briefings and public hearings, I raised this issue.

On April 20, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan foreign aid package that provided aid for Israel, Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific region. While I voted in favor of these packages, I understand the concern that many Americans feel about military aid to Israel. To be clear, a third of the assistance was defensive in nature, like the Iron Dome missile defense system, and cannot be used in offensive operations. The bill also included \$9 billion in humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza. After this vote, I reiterated the need for a ceasefire – to allow for the return of hostages and to allow desperately needed aid into Gaza. I also made clear that if Israel does not address the humanitarian crisis, allow humanitarian aid to flow consistently, and make clear their plan to do a better job at limiting civilian harm in any future operations, I believe it would then be time to consider restrictions on our offensive military assistance.

Unfortunately, I remain deeply concerned about the expansion of conflict in the region, particularly from Iran and Iranian-backed groups, and the potential flare ups that can happen anytime. On April 13, Iran launched its first-ever, state-on-state attack against Israel using hundreds of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones in response to the killing of multiple senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leaders in Syria by Israel. The United States, United Kingdom, Jordan, and France contributed to the defense of Israel, stopping most of the incoming fire. We have also seen Iranian-backed Hizballah fire missiles and rockets from Lebanon into northern Israel, Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen launch missiles and drones toward U.S. and other countries' warships and commercial ships in the Red Sea, and Iranian-backed groups in Syria and Iraq launch attacks against U.S. and partner forces who are in the region to support the fight against ISIS. We continue to see growing escalation in the region, which I am concerned is nearing a tipping point that could involve U.S. forces. The best option before us is negotiated peace and for Israel and Hamas to accept the ceasefire deal that President Biden has put forward.

I also heard directly from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu when he addressed Congress on July 24th, and that same day I was able to meet with families of American hostages still held captive by Hamas. I had hoped to hear concrete plans from PM Netanyahu to bring the hostages home, getting aid into Gaza, and securing a ceasefire. He spoke in broad generalities but provided little detail on his plans to transition to a new phase for the "day after." The people of Israel, the American people who have supported Israel for decades, and the Palestinian people in Gaza, deserve those answers. Now is the time for both sides to accept the deal so we can work toward the only real, long-term path toward peace: a two-state solution.

Lastly, here at home, I remain concerned about the increase in antisemitic, Islamophobic, and anti-Arab violence around the country. We must be prepared to protect the security of American citizens and the security of their religious institutions, and community centers. I have spoken with many Jewish-, Muslim-, and Arab-American leaders in our district and across the state to extend my support for their communities, to recognize the pain and dehumanization they feel, and advise them to take additional steps in ensuring their security. I've also spoken directly with

the White House, Department of Homeland Security, and FBI to get a better understanding of what they're seeing nationally and their preparation for an increase in threats at home. It is important, especially in Michigan where we have such big Middle Eastern and Jewish populations, that we continue to respond to hate in any form, no matter who says it or what the person's political persuasion is. The bottom line is when there is hatred and bias, or violent language, we must condemn it in all forms and from all players.

Once again, sincere thanks for reaching out. I believe that engaging your elected officials is critically important to our democracy and allows me to better represent you, so thank you for taking the time to get in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elissa Slotkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Thank you for your message

Senator Gary Peters <Senator@peters.senate.gov>

Wed 8/7/2024 1:56 PM

To: Kelly Hocquard <kelly.hocquard@elps.us>

You don't often get email from senator@peters.senate.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

August 7, 2024

Dear Kelly,

Thank you for contacting me about the war between Israel and Hamas. I appreciate you taking the time to express your views. Hearing directly from Michiganders like you helps inform me of the issues that matter to our state. I am so grateful for your input.

As your Senator and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am closely monitoring the situation in the Middle East. I was horrified by the vicious, coordinated terrorist attacks by Hamas on innocent Israeli citizens. I condemn this terrorism in the strongest terms. Furthermore, I am horrified by the deaths of civilians in Gaza resulting from the conflict and the lack of access to basic resources.

I support Israel's right to defend itself and its citizens from the indiscriminate violence perpetrated by Hamas. Israel also has the authority and responsibility to rescue hostages being held by Hamas. While engaged in rescue efforts, the Israeli government must make every effort to ensure innocent civilians in Gaza and the West Bank are not targeted by the Israeli military. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of a resolution reaffirming Congressional support of Israel as well as a resolution calling for the safe return of all hostages. Furthermore, I joined all my Senate colleagues in passing Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell's bipartisan resolution condemning the Hamas terrorist attack. I also voted in favor of advancing national security supplemental funding to provide critical aid to both Israel and Ukraine which was signed into law on April 20, 2024 with strong bipartisan support. In addition to security assistance, this package included emergency funding for humanitarian efforts in Gaza, the West Bank, Ukraine, and other conflict zones.

As this conflict continues, innocent civilians, including American citizens in Gaza, are desperately in need of lifesaving humanitarian aid. In order to support efforts to provide aid to the civilians of Gaza, I joined dozens of my fellow senators in sending a letter to Secretary Blinken calling on the administration to provide additional humanitarian support. I am deeply troubled by the allegations that twelve employees from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were involved in the October 7th terrorist attacks. The United States has paused funding in response to the allegations. The UN must hold those involved accountable and strengthen oversight of UNRWA operations in order to restore donor trust. It is imperative that the UNRWA is able to continue serving the millions of Palestinian civilians who depend on its services.

In addition to the needs of those in Gaza, Palestinian civilians abroad know returning home remains unsafe. That is why my colleagues and I sent a bicameral letter to President Biden calling on the administration to designate the Palestinian territories for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and/or authorize Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Palestinians present in the United States. Since sending this letter, the Biden Administration has authorized Deferred Enforced Departure for Palestinians. In addition to supporting Israeli efforts to root out Hamas, preventing civilian deaths must remain a top priority in order to build a lasting stable peace in the region.

As we look ahead to the future, I remain hopeful that a two-state solution can be achieved and that there is a more peaceful and prosperous future for both Israelis and Palestinians. I have joined 49 of my Democratic colleagues in cosponsoring an amendment led by Senator Schatz that was filed on the national security supplemental package reaffirming that a two-state solution is the policy of the United States. A two-state solution remains the best option for lasting stability in the region and U.S. diplomacy will continue to play a critical role in establishing a lasting peace. As the Senate considers policies related to Palestine and Israel, I will be sure to keep your views in mind.

Thank you again for contacting me. I always appreciate hearing from you and hope that you take the time to contact me again soon. For more information, please feel free to visit my website, <http://www.peters.senate.gov>, or find me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @SenGaryPeters.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Follow Senator Peters:





East Lansing Public Schools

ELPS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Committee Agenda
July 31, 2024
2:00 pm
ELPS Board Room

1. Roll call
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the minutes – April 15, 2024
4. Public Comment
5. Agenda Items
 - a. Review Thrun Policy updates
 - b. Other items
6. Adjourn