

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 31, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rubio:

I write to follow up on a recent letter dated January 27, 2025,¹ which expresses opposition to “stopping critical foreign assistance.” Since the administration’s initial pause on nearly all U.S. foreign assistance last week, international projects supporting health programs, educating children, providing critical food assistance, and all other humanitarian programs have been in jeopardy. The limited nature of your Emergency Humanitarian Waiver to Foreign Assistance Pause dated January 28, 2025,² has created more confusion around foreign assistance programs that support our diplomatic and national security priorities.

Aid organizations have reported that they have not received updated guidance from the State Department, forcing them to pause their essential work and consider laying off their staff. For example, organizations that produce and distribute Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, one of the most effective nutrition treatments for severe malnutrition, are unsure if they qualify for this waiver. Additionally, organizations responsible for implementing the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, are unsure how to interpret the waiver and many have been forced to stop their lifesaving work.³

To help provide clarity on this waiver and to avoid continued chaos and confusion for foreign assistance programs, I request by February 7, 2025, an actual plan that includes details for how aid organizations should interpret the waiver.

While I urge you to fully rescind the underlying pause, I hope you can provide clarity for those left out in the dark.

Sincerely,



Gabe Amo
Member

¹ https://democrats-foreignaffairs.house.gov/_cache/files/8/2/82c830a0-f5db-4a5d-8294-3e3244a86bba/61679C855B5FB215DC03F7240C6E2ABA.1-27-2025.-hfac-dem-letter-to-secretary-rubio.pdf

² <https://www.state.gov/emergency-humanitarian-waiver-to-foreign-assistance-pause/>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/01/29/pepfar-trump-hiv-aids-aid-pause/>