

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we urge you to schedule a floor vote this week on S. 1632, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, the world's deadliest terrorist group. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Senator Susan Collins, unanimously passed the Senate on September 22, 2015. One year later, on September 22, 2016, the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations passed H.R. 3833, the companion legislation introduced by Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson, to help combat Boko Haram.

The world became aware of Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, when Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls from their dormitory rooms at the Government Secondary School in Chibok. Fifty-seven of the girls escaped that night, but for more than two years, more than 200 were held in captivity. Since 2009, Boko Haram has wreaked havoc on the people of northeastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region. According to the *International Business Times*, the terrorist group has killed more than 20,000 people. **As a result of its insurgency, 2.6 million people have become refugees, millions more are at risk of starving to death, and an untold number of others have been kidnapped and sexually abused, tortured, or killed in a myriad of heinous ways.** The humanitarian crises and despair the region has experienced will undoubtedly take generations to repair.

S. 1632 directs the U.S. secretaries of State and Defense to jointly develop a five-year strategy to aid the Nigerian government, members of the Multinational Joint Task Force created to combat Boko Haram, and international partners who've offered their support to counter the regional threat posed by Boko Haram. The strategy also would address the crushing humanitarian and education crises created by Boko Haram.

For more than two years, members of the CBC and Congress have stood united in raising awareness of the #BringBackOurGirls movement, demanding the safe return of the missing Chibok girls, and ending Boko Haram's carnage. Members from both parties have held policy forums and press conferences to discuss strategies to combat Boko Haram. Every week that Congress is in session, a bipartisan group of lawmakers participates in Wear Something Red Wednesday, during which we wear a red outfit or accessory and take a group photo to share on social media. This campaign, led by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson, is our way of reaffirming our commitment to finding the girls and fighting to defeat Boko Haram. It also is a reminder to the global community that we cannot give up until we bring back our girls.

Please schedule a vote on the Senate-passed S. 1632 before the 114th Congress adjourns this week. Time is of the essence.

Thank you for your leadership on this humanitarian crisis.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Judge

Bob Kelly

Eddie Bernie Johnson

Sheila Jackson Lee

John Lewis

Tim Swell

Samuel Bishop

Yvette D. Clarke

J. R. C.

LA-02

CB Hargreaves

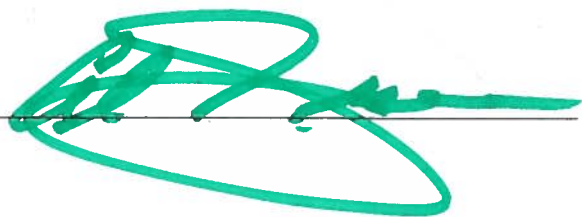
Wen Lee WI-04

Hank Johnson

Jeffrey Mc-1

Brenda Lawrence

Fredrickson



James E. Chyler

Gregory M. M. M.

Boonville C.

Danny L. Davis

Larry E. Harris

Grandma

Jay Beatty

Timothy

Ruth L. L.

Kit L.

Samuel Jackson 11
12

Alfred Waters

Wm Lacy Clay

MV TX 33

Hal J. NY-8

John Conyers MI 13

Keith Ellison

MISSING

Dwight

Shirley Adams