

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write to express our ongoing concern for the country and people of Lebanon, which is concurrently facing a severe economic crisis and continued national political uncertainty. To date, the Lebanese Parliament has failed to elect a new president, the economy has contracted by 60 percent – the country's pound is now worth one-tenth of its value – and 80 percent of the population is living in poverty.

The stakes for the region are high. Long-term stability of the broader Middle East depends on Lebanon remaining a stable, sovereign, and independent nation while also regaining international trust and economic stability. But another presidential vacancy will only exacerbate Lebanon's condition, and we therefore ask the Administration to encourage the leaders of the Lebanese Parliament to convene and collaborate to elect a new president. Under the rules of the Lebanese constitution, current President Michel Aoun's term expires only weeks from now on October 31, so timely action is critical.

Every diplomatic effort must be made to finalize the swift formation of a corruption-free, democratic government, and Lebanon's government institutions must act in the clear interest of the Lebanese people and fulfill the core constitutional duty of electing a president.

We cannot allow Lebanon to become a failed state and appreciate the ongoing U.S. attention to this issue and support for the people of Lebanon. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress



DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress