

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2023

Mr. Jake Sullivan  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Sullivan,

We write in response to your remarks at a press briefing held in the White House's James S. Brady Press Briefing room on September 21, 2023. In response to questioning about how much has been spent on Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine from Philip Wegmann, the White House reporter at *Real Clear News*, you stated:

“What I will tell you is that we have supplied to the Congress every dollar that has been obligated. So if they are unaware, it’s because they are not looking at the reports that we are submitting to the Hill...And I find the claim in that letter somewhat bizarre.”

You went on to state the amounts were:

“roughly \$47 billion in military assistance between PDA and USAI, roughly \$1 to \$1.5 billion per month in direct budget support that is sent not directly to Ukraine but to the World Bank, so that the World Bank can ensure every amount, all of the amounts of that aid, those dollars are being appropriately spent.

“And then in the range of 10 or so billion dollars being spent for a range of humanitarian, energy and other purposes to ensure that the basic livelihoods of Ukrainians...”

This comes out to \$79.9 billion. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has provided a spreadsheet that estimates the appropriated amount of funding for the war in Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine at \$111 billion.<sup>1</sup> The differential between these two figures is \$31.1 billion, a gap larger than the administration's latest Ukraine supplemental budget request.<sup>2</sup> As a previous letter sent to the administration stated, “It is difficult to envision a benign explanation for this lack of clarity.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Fox News, White House confirms more than \$100 billion spent on Ukraine war, available at: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-confirms-more-than-100b-in-taxpayer-resources-spent-on-ukraine>

<sup>2</sup> Letter regarding critical funding needs for FY 2024, August 10, 2023, available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-Supplemental-Funding-Request-Letter-and-Technical-Materials.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Senator Vance and Rep. Roy letter to OMB, September 21, 2023, available at: <https://www.vance.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Vance-Ukraine-Letter.pdf>

The OMB spreadsheet does not include base appropriations amounts for Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative funding, which are \$300 million at the current base appropriation, and \$300 million at the previous year's base appropriation.<sup>45</sup> The Department of Defense (DOD) has transfer and reprogramming authorities in these bills. The same is true for the State Department in other spending accounts. Were there transfers or reprogrammings from base funds into these accounts that would increase the overall expenditure on Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine? It is possible the answer is “no” across all appropriations accounts, but that information was requested in January and it was not included in the OMB transmission on September 11.<sup>6</sup>

The DOD has stated that American involvement in the war in Ukraine, styled “Operation Atlantic Resolve,” will continue in the event of a lapse, a reversal of its public position as recently as Tuesday, September 19.<sup>7</sup> The administration stated on August 10 that “[p]revious supplemental appropriations for direct military aid, economic and humanitarian assistance, and other support have been committed or nearly committed,” yet somehow there are more funds available for the war in Ukraine.<sup>8</sup>

A news report states that, “In the event of a shutdown, funding for the shipments of weapons from DOD’s stockpiles would continue. The Pentagon can still use billions of dollars “recaptured” as part of a “reevaluation process” after an accounting error turned up \$6.2 billion of aid available to send weapons to Ukraine from DOD’s own coffers.”<sup>9</sup> The OMB spreadsheet does not disaggregate the \$6.2 billion in additional presidential drawdown authority that the administration discovered in June of 2023.<sup>10</sup> Some of this \$6.2 billion may be included in the “stock replenishment” figure of the spreadsheet that OMB provided, but it is a certainty given the Pentagon spokesman’s remarks to the press that a significant portion remains outside of the \$111 billion figure provided by OMB on September 11. That equipment has to be backfilled by future appropriations, further increasing the burden the U.S. taxpayer has undertaken. This fact pattern produces even greater uncertainty in the overall figure of assistance provided.

We write to provide you the opportunity to clarify your remarks and communicate clearly the total budgetary resources across all government departments provided for the war in Ukraine and “in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine,” as well as any other expenditures made by the U.S. taxpayer in connection to the conflict. Senators as well as members of Congress have

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<sup>4</sup> PL 117-103, available at: <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ103/PLAW-117publ103.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> PL 117-328, available at: <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ328/PLAW-117publ328.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Fox News, White House confirms more than \$100 billion spent on Ukraine war, available at:

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-confirms-more-than-100b-in-taxpayer-resources-spent-on-ukraine>

<sup>7</sup> Politico, Pentagon exempts Ukraine operations from potential government shutdown, September 21, 2023, available at: <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/09/21/pentagon-exempts-ukraine-operations-from-shutdown-00117482>

<sup>8</sup> Letter regarding critical funding needs for FY 2024, August 10, 2023, available at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-Supplemental-Funding-Request-Letter-and-Technical-Materials.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Politico, Shutdown threatens Ukraine training, weapons deliveries, September 19, 2023, available here:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/09/19/us-shutdown-ukraine-weapons-training-00116727>

<sup>10</sup> Reuters, Pentagon Ukraine accounting error revised up to \$6.2 billion, June 20, 2023, available at:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/pentagons-ukraine-accounting-error-revised-up-62-billion-2023-06-20/>

raised consistent concerns about the forthrightness of this administration regarding the total figures for Ukraine aid and aid to countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine. Referring to constitutional oversight responsibilities as “bizarre” does nothing to assuage these legitimate reservations.

Sincerely,



JD Vance  
United States Senator



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress