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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I write to urge you to postpone votes this evening given that President Biden and Dr. Biden are hosting a Hanukkah Reception at the White House at 6:00pm.

On Monday, December 4, the White House hosted a Holiday Ball for Members of Congress at 6:00pm. I know several Members appreciated that December 4 votes were postponed as early as Friday, December 1, to allow Members the opportunity to attend the ball without missing votes.

Given that the Hannukah Reception was planned within the same time parameters as the Holiday Ball and that there are votes planned today on December 11, I was hopeful that votes would also be postponed until December 12 to give Members an opportunity to celebrate Hannukah, especially given current events.

While my office, in addition to several other Member offices, reached out to request that votes be postponed, I understand that your office plans to continue with votes tonight as scheduled. I find this incredibly disappointing. I would expect that the Jewish Members of our body be given the same consideration and deference as our other colleagues. With that in mind, I respectfully urge that votes be postponed.

However, given the horrific October 7 massacre and our minds in the war continually in Gaza against Hamas is more important than any Hanukkah that we meet with our constituents and reassure them that we will stand with Israel as a priority, for its existence is in danger

I appreciate your prompt response to this urgent matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Cohen" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress