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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Mashington, DC 20515–4313

June 24, 2024

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Kevin O'Connor, D.O. Physician to the President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden, in advance of the first scheduled 2024 presidential debate in Atlanta on June 27, 2024, and on behalf of millions of concerned Americans, I demand that you submit to a clinically validated drug test in order to reassure the American people that you are mentally fit to serve as President and not relying on performance enhancing drugs to help you with your debate performance or on a day-to-day basis to assist you in performing your duties as President of the United States. This drug test should be administered both immediately before and after the debate and should include, but not be limited to, performance enhancing drugs. The results of these drug tests should be immediately released to the public, along with a complete list of all medications you are taking on a daily basis or have taken on an "as needed" basis, as well as any performance enhancing medications you are taking or plan to take prior to the debate.

Historically, presidential debates have given the American public the opportunity to gain critical insight into specific policy positions held by individual candidates, to demonstrate each candidate's leadership qualities and style, and to observe the candidates' ability to perform in an unscripted and high-pressure environment. American citizens must have absolute confidence in their President's ability to perform his or her duties as Head of State and Commander in Chief, and the debate performance absolutely should be indicative of an individual's ability to perform these critical duties free of any performance enhancing drugs or mood-altering medications. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the United States for you to complete such tests and demonstrate complete transparency regarding your physical and mental capabilities prior to this year's presidential debates and subsequent election.

Dr. O'Connor, over the past four years, President Biden's mental decline has continued to accelerate, and instances of him slurring his words, shuffling his feet, stumbling while walking, losing his train of thought, and appearing confused and lost during public appearances have become even more frequent. Earlier this month, a Wall Street Journal article described the drastic

decline of President Biden's mental acuity. Specifically, the article states that during negotiations with congressional leaders, President Biden spoke so softly that participants couldn't hear him, he had to read from notes to make obvious points, and he closed his eyes for so long that many thought he had fallen asleep.¹ Concerns about the president's mental fitness also arose during an event at the White House, where the president was visibly frozen for nearly a full minute while those around him were dancing and actively participating in the event.² Further, at a recent event in Los Angeles, former President Obama had to help President Biden off stage during another apparent freeze.³

Unfortunately, President Biden's mental decline has also been on full display during recent meetings with world leaders. These mental lapses portray weakness and only serve to embolden our adversaries and worry our allies. Furthermore, they do not exemplify the leadership the world has come to expect and desperately needs from the President of the United States. While commemorating the brave actions taken by Allied soldiers on D-Day, President Biden awkwardly fumbled for his seat while French President Emmanuel Macron remained standing.⁴ A week later, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had to escort President Biden back to the group of other G7 world leaders when the president wandered away from the dignitaries during a skydiving demonstration.⁵

This is of course, all in addition to the recent report from Special Counsel Robert Hur, which stated that President Biden was not fit to stand trial for verified mishandling of classified documents, because he would be perceived by a jury as "a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."⁶

While the American people have unfortunately become accustomed to these incessant "gaffes" and mental shortcomings throughout President Biden's presidency, his State of the Union address in March was in stark contrast to his typical performance. During his remarks, President Biden was seen profusely sweating, aggressively yelling at the camera, not blinking, and frequently moving and gesturing with his hands at a rapid rate. This drastic and notable change in his public appearance has raised significant questions and concerns about medications the president might have been given prior to his speech. After witnessing this marked shift in demeanor from President Biden, various medical professionals have said his actions exhibited signs of the use of Adderall or other amphetamine-like medications or performance enhancing drugs to mask his cognitive shortfalls.⁷

The President of the United States has one of the most demanding jobs in the world. Every day, the president must multi-task and make critical decisions. He must navigate complex international diplomatic landscapes, manage international and domestic crises, and address high-pressure situations that require quick, yet thoughtful, responses. It is imperative that we have a

¹ Behind Closed Doors, Biden Shows Signs of Slipping

² Video of Joe Biden Appearing to Freeze at Juneteenth Event Raises Questions

³ Joe Biden appears to freeze again at fundraiser as Barack Obama helps him off stage

⁴ Awkward moment Jill Biden appears to tell Joe not to sit at D-Day ceremony, but he does anyway

⁵ Biden wanders away at G7 summit before being pulled back by Italian PM

⁶ https://www.justice.gov/storage/report-from-special-counsel-robert-k-hur-february-2024.pdf

⁷ Psychiatrist sees signs Biden was medicated for State of the Union performance

leader that can fulfill these duties in an effective manner and without the aid of performance enhancing medications.

Dr. O'Connor, you are included in this letter to the President, and the entire Cabinet is copied, because you all have an obligation, not only to President Biden, but to the Office of the President and to the American people. The American people deserve transparency regarding the President's mental as well as physical well-being and capabilities. To date, you and the entirety of the President's Cabinet have failed in that responsibility.

President Biden, throughout your presidency, over one hundred Members of Congress have called on you on five separate occasions to submit to a cognitive exam, however each of those requests have been ignored by you and your physician Dr. O'Connor. President Donald J. Trump set a precedent during his presidency to document and demonstrate the sound mental abilities necessary to fulfill the duties of the Office of the President. Unfortunately, President Biden, your refusal to submit to a cognitive exam, and Dr. O'Connor, your unwillingness to address the American people regarding the President's true mental and physical fitness for duty, has created a condition of great concern for our country as Americans watch the continued decline in our president's cognitive performance.

President Biden, as President and as a candidate for another four-year term, the American public must be confident in your ability to successfully execute the duties of the Office of the President of the United States, including as Chief Executive, Head of State, and Commander in Chief. Therefore, in order to provide this reassurance and the necessary transparency, I demand that you submit to an appropriate and clinically validated drug test prior to and after the upcoming debate, allow Dr. O'Connor to publicly release the results of such test, and disclose all medications you are currently taking or planning to take prior to the upcoming presidential debate.

Sincerely,

Ronny L. Jackson, M.D. Member of Congress

CC:

Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States Antony Blinken, Secretary of State Janet Yellen, Ph.D., Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense Merrick Garland, Attorney General Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce Julie Su, Acting Secretary of Labor Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services Adrianne Todman, Acting Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation

Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy

Miguel Cardona, Ph.D., Secretary of Education

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security

Michael Regan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations

Jared Bernstein, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers

Isabel Guzman, Administrator of the Small Business Administration

Shalanda Young, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Arati Prabhakar, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy Jeff Zients, Chief of Staff