



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 Seventeenth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

It has now been over 20 months since Russia invaded Ukraine. Congress has provided \$114 billion in supplemental appropriations<sup>1</sup> — not including potentially billions in additional repurposed, transferred, and reprogrammed funds — and yet we are no closer to getting a clear picture of the Biden Administration’s strategy for providing U.S. assistance in Ukraine. What has become abundantly clear, however, is that this conflict is far from over — therefore, it is imperative that the Biden Administration be accountable, transparent, and most importantly, *honest*, with the American people about funding for Ukraine. Moreover, we are concerned about the lack of transparency and insufficient responses by the Biden Administration and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to Congress on this important issue.

As leaders of the House Committee on the Budget, we are writing you today requesting specific details regarding funding to respond to Russia’s war in Ukraine, including a full accounting of expenditures, transfers, and reprogrammed funds, as well as obligations, apportionments, and outlays for each appropriations account providing assistance to Ukraine. As you are aware, it is Congress that has the power of the purse, and there’s no excuse for Congress to be unaware of how congressionally appropriated funds are being spent.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time the Administration and OMB have received congressional correspondence requesting more details and information on Ukraine-related expenditures. On January 22, 2023, Senator JD Vance, Representative Dan Bishop, five members of the House Committee on the Budget, along with several other Members of Congress sent a letter requesting that the Administration provide:

...a full crosscutting report on U.S. government-wide expenditures for Ukraine and “countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine” since February 24, 2022. The report should include a full accounting of total budget authority in this area by appropriations account after transfers and reprogrammings, as well as obligations, apportionments, and outlays for each account. The report should also include a list of countries the administration considers “impacted by the situation in Ukraine” and an accounting of budgetary resources the administration intends

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<sup>1</sup> Representative Dan Bishop and Senator JD Vance letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), January 19, 2023, at <https://www.vance.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Vance-And-Bishop-Letter-To-OMB.pdf>

to provide to each of these countries in response to the situation in Ukraine including obligations, apportionments, and outlays.<sup>2</sup>

On September 11, 2023, 7 months and 23 days later, you responded to this request with a letter and a spreadsheet.<sup>3</sup> This transmission was nonresponsive. On September 28, 2023, Senator Vance and Representative Bishop followed up with a three-page letter detailing the deficiencies in responsiveness of OMB's September 11, 2023, transmission.<sup>4</sup> The Administration has not corrected these deficiencies.

The September 28 Vance-Roy letter stated:

Perhaps most notably, we remain without an accurate figure for how much the United States has spent to date in total on this conflict. If OMB's spreadsheet is to be relied on to produce such a figure—and we believe it cannot be—it is around \$111 billion. It would appear likely that the data you have yet to provide would raise this figure by an indeterminate magnitude.<sup>5</sup>

Administration officials have cited different figures for U.S. assistance to Ukraine in different contexts. For example, during a September 21, 2023, press briefing, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan cited figures that sum to approximately \$79.9 billion.<sup>6</sup>

For over eight months Senators and Members of Congress have sought greater transparency from the Biden Administration regarding the total budgetary resources across all government departments and programs provided to respond to Russia's war in Ukraine and "in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine," as well as any other resources, assistance, or aid provided by the U.S. taxpayer in connection to the conflict.<sup>7</sup>

Pursuant to Rule X, the Committee on the Budget has jurisdiction over "the budget process generally," including the executive budget process.<sup>8</sup> The Committee's longstanding responsibilities in this area, also include "ensuring spending and revenue decisions are transparent and effectively carried out by the Executive Branch."<sup>9</sup> This entails the ability to elicit accurate information about expenditures and related matters from the Executive Branch.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Brooke Singman, "White House confirms more than \$100B spent on Ukraine war," *Fox News*, at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-confirms-more-than-100b-in-taxpayer-resources-spent-on-ukraine>.

<sup>4</sup> Senator JD Vance and Representative Chip Roy letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget, September 28, 2023, at <https://www.vance.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Response-to-OMB-9.28.23-final1.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Senator JD Vance, Rep. Chip Roy, and Rep. Matt Gaetz letter to Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Jake Sullivan, September 25, 2023, at <https://www.vance.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/092523-Letter-Response-to-NSA-Sullivan-2.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Senator JD Vance and Representative Chip Roy letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget, September 28, 2023, at <https://www.vance.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Response-to-OMB-9.28.23-final1.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and the Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, page 468, at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/HMAN-118/pdf/HMAN-118.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Authorization and Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, House of Representatives, Committee Jurisdiction and Oversight, <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/BU/BU00/20230209/115342/HMTG-118-BU00-20230209-SD002.pdf>

Accordingly, please provide the following information no later than November 20, 2023:

1. A full crosscutting report on U.S. government-wide expenditures for Ukraine and “countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine” since February 24, 2022. The report should include a full accounting of total budget authority in this area by appropriations account, including any transferred and reprogrammed funds, as well as obligations, apportionments, and outlays for each account. The report should also include a list of countries the Biden Administration considers “impacted by the situation in Ukraine” and an accounting of resources the Administration intends to provide or has provided to each of these countries in connection with or in response to the situation in Ukraine including obligations, apportionments, and outlays. Due to OMB’s insufficient responses to date, this report must provide a clear and transparent accounting of all U.S. taxpayer funds spent on assistance for Ukraine and “countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine”. This report should also be responsive to the follow-up correspondence sent by Congress regarding this important subject.
2. A complete and detailed explanation of all relevant/applicable legal authorities utilized by the Biden Administration for all expenditures related to Russia’s war in Ukraine and security assistance related to the war in Ukraine, including the amounts of assistance provided under each authority, and the remaining assistance that may be provided under each authority.

This information is necessary to advance our oversight and to inform potential legislation. Upon receipt of this information, we respectfully request that you provide testimony before the Committee to discuss the submitted materials and have an open discussion about the path forward for funding Ukraine. Please contact Eric Davis of the Committee staff at 202-226-7270 to schedule your appearance before the Committee as soon as possible but not later than on November 27, 2023.

Please be aware that failure to provide forthcoming and transparent answers to the Committee’s questions and failure to respond to the request for testimony could necessitate additional action, including resorting to compulsory process, to obtain the required information. The Committee looks forward to hearing from you on this important matter, particularly as the Biden Administration continues to request supplemental funding from Congress.

Sincerely,



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Jodey Arrington  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee



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Jack Bergman  
Chair of the Oversight Task Force  
House Budget Committee