

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write regarding the Department of State's commitment of \$25 million to support the identification, return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Ukrainian children forcibly transferred to Russia and Russian-occupied territories. We welcome the Department's efforts and urge you to move expeditiously to award these funds.

The Department announced available funding opportunities in March 2026. Since then, we have heard directly from organizations working to locate and return Ukrainian children about the continued delay in awarding these funds and the impact it is having on their critical work.

While we understand the need for rigorous review, thousands of kidnapped Ukrainian children remain separated from their families, and every delay extends the pain and suffering they and their families have already endured.

We therefore respectfully urge the Department to promptly complete its review and award the full \$25 million already committed to this important work. Please also provide an update on the anticipated timeline for announcing these awards. Know that Congress stands ready to assist your efforts should you require additional authorities to complete this task.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to helping bring Ukraine's stolen children home.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress