

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

AMY PORTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

THOMAS SHEEHY
STAFF DIRECTOR



ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

JASON STEINBAUM
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

November 1, 2018

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration engages in negotiations to address North Korea's nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs, it is essential that a number of pressing humanitarian and human rights issues be pursued in parallel. In particular, I urge you to prioritize the reunification of divided Korean American families.

An estimated 100,000 Korean Americans have been separated from their loved ones in North Korea for over 60 years. This number is dwindling every day as many of these individuals have passed away. South Korea and North Korea have held 21 rounds of family reunions since 2000. By contrast, the United States and North Korea have no formal mechanism for facilitating such reunions and time is running out to act. As you move forward in negotiations, I urge you to address this issue as a top humanitarian priority and create a formal reunification channel to ensure the safe reunion of Korean Americans with their families.

I remain concerned about the lack of substantive engagement between the Administration and the House Foreign Affairs Committee regarding the ongoing negotiations with North Korea. On an issue of such importance to our national security, as well as of keen interest to the American people, it is essential for Members of this committee to be regularly consulted as negotiations progress. I ask that you ensure that key members of your team, particularly Secretary Pompeo and Special Representative Biegun, regularly brief the Committee on the status of U.S.-North Korea negotiations and progress on humanitarian priorities such as family reunifications, including on sensitive classified matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eliot L. Engel".

Eliot L. Engel
Ranking Member