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# United States Senate

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November 21, 2018

Hon. Maithripala Sirisena  
President  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

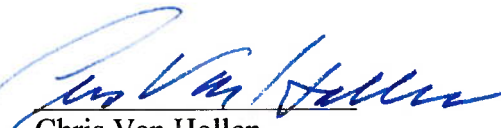
Dear President Sirisena,

I write as a longtime friend of Sri Lanka, who has worked hard to strengthen the bonds between our two democracies. It is in that spirit that I want to express my deep concern with the decision to remove Sri Lanka's prime minister and the subsequent rejection of two no-confidence motions in the Sri Lankan parliament on your choice of replacement. I urge you to accept the results of the no-confidence motions in parliament, in accordance with the Sri Lankan constitution and the rule of law.

The U.S. partnership with Sri Lanka has grown since your election in 2015, in which you promised reconciliation and democratic reform. In the years since, we have bolstered our relationship, including through a proposed Millennium Challenge Corporation compact and increases in economic and security assistance.

The actions taken during the last few weeks, however, put at risk the rule of law and democracy in Sri Lanka. The decision to oust the sitting prime minister, suspend the parliament, attempt to hold snap elections, and reject the votes of Sri Lanka's democratically-elected representatives could also threaten the progress made in strengthening our bilateral relationship. I respectfully urge you to seek an end to this impasse in a manner consistent with the Sri Lankan constitution, the democratic process, and the rule of law.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

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