United States Senate

March 22, 2024

Ambassador Masood Khan
Embassy of Pakistan
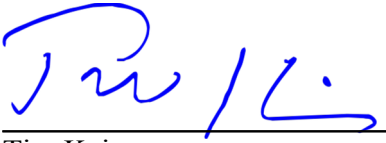3517 International Ct NW
Washington, DC 20008

We write to you to express our deep concern about the recent parliamentary elections in Pakistan, including widespread reports in the media that the elections were plagued by voter suppression, electoral violence, and the rigging of results. As the United States prepares to work with the new Pakistani government, we strongly urge you to prioritize maintaining the rule of law, uphold democratic values and institutions, and respect fundamental human rights such as free speech and peaceful assembly.

On February 8, more than 61 million Pakistanis voted at the polls, including unprecedented numbers of women and young people. We were dismayed to see the Pakistani military's crackdown on political candidates ahead of the elections and the national cellular network shutdown on election day. We have further noted the public admission from the Commissioner of Rawalpindi that ballot results were deliberately altered to show reduced support for independent candidates. The Pakistani people deserve to have their voices heard and to have their elected officials reflect their core beliefs and values.
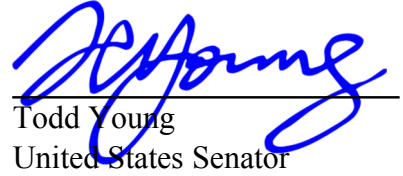
The United States and Pakistan share a highly important relationship and close people-to-people ties, dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947 following Pakistan's independence. The United States is also home to a vibrant and active Pakistani diaspora. In the interest of maintaining this critical bilateral partnership, we ask that your government renew its commitment to supporting democratic principles and advancing human rights in Pakistan.

The political stability, economic security, and safety of civilians in Pakistan is also a U.S. national security priority. We look forward to engaging with you to discuss your priorities and working with you and your team to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Todd Young
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator