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COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
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Sarah Sewall  
Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 "C" Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Under Secretary Sewall,

I write to express my deep concern about the reported ill health of Tibetan religious leader and political prisoner **Tenzin Delek Rinpoche**. Recent news indicates that he is in very ill health, with a heart condition, high blood pressure and other worrying medical issues. I respectfully request that you and others at the State Department and U.S. Embassy in China make his release on **Medical Parole** a priority so that he might have the opportunity for medical treatment outside Tibet and China as soon as possible.

I know that the State Department has long followed the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. If his health condition is as serious as recent reports describe, then this case takes on greater urgency. As you well know, he is serving a life sentence under harsh conditions a life sentence for alleged "causing explosions" and "inciting separatism," charges against which he has steadfastly maintained his innocence. Having now served more than 13 years in prison, it is my understanding that he is eligible to be released under Chinese law under the terms of Medical Parole.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche devoted his life to helping his community, working tirelessly to preserve the Tibetan identity and culture, and safeguard Tibet's environment. He was persecuted, arrested and tried not for acts of sedition, but for his devotion to his spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, his religious belief and practice of Tibetan Buddhism, and his social and cultural development work in Tibet. It is critical for him to receive proper and compassionate medical care, and to press for his release by the Chinese government granting him Medical Parole.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this urgent request. Please let me know if I can be helpful in securing Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's release.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

JPM:cmb