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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 28, 2023

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES AND THE  
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear President Biden:

For the following reasons, I ask that you recognize the contributions of Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., and his decades of service to the people of Ohio and our country with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

A renowned preacher, teacher and advocate, Rev. Dr. Moss has been an integral part of the civil rights movement, working to make sure all Americans enjoyed the rights and privileges guaranteed by our Constitution. A dedicated and pragmatic man of God, he was born and spent his early years Georgia where he also received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity from Morehouse College, one of our great Historically Black Colleges and Universities. His first pastorate was in his birthplace of LaGrange, Georgia, and during his long influential tenure as a religious leader he led two congregations simultaneously on more than one occasion. He served Mount Zion Baptist Church in Lockland, Ohio, while also co-pastoring Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. While still serving Cleveland, Ohio's Olivet Institutional Baptist Church before his retirement, Rev. Dr. Moss also worked with Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

Rev. Dr. Moss has been standing up for civil, voting, and human rights, and social justice issues here in the United States most of his adult life. As a passionate advocate he served as a staff member for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and national board member and trustee for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. His leadership was also at work in the international community where he served as a member of a clergy mission to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan in 1970, and to Israel in 1978. He also served as an advisor to President Carter, and in 1994, he led a special mission to South Africa and was a special guest of President Clinton at the peace treaty signing between Israel and Jordan.

Despite his national and international presence, Rev. Dr. Moss remained deeply embedded in the Cleveland community during his ministry at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church and since his retirement. He is a trailblazer who helped spur all of us to live up to the promise of our country's founding and evolving principles. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is a fitting tribute to Rev. Dr. Moss's life of faithful service and hopeful influence.

Sincerely;



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress