

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

October 21, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to thank you for your strong and continuous support of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and ask that you continue to ensure that investments are made in these vital programs. Together, these two programs are improving the lives of individuals living with diabetes and helping the families across our country that are impacted by this disease.

Nearly 30 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 86 million have prediabetes. It is critical that we continue to invest in the research necessary to develop a cure for diabetes and support the programs that help prevent and manage the symptoms of this disease.

Diabetes is one of our country's most costly diseases in both human and economic terms. This disease does not pick and choose who it impacts; rather, it affects people of all ages, races, and regions of our country. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney disease, blindness in working-age adults, and non-traumatic amputations. In addition, it is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke. More than one-in-five health care dollars and one-in-three Medicare dollars are spent on treating people with diabetes. In total, it is estimated that \$322 billion is spent every year on treating diabetes and prediabetes in the United States.

These costs are expected to increase as the number of people with diabetes continues to grow. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the incidence of type 1 diabetes increased by 21 percent among Americans under the age of 20 between 2001 and 2009. Additionally, over the next 25 years, the number of Americans living with diabetes is expected to double and related health costs are predicted to triple.

While the increase in these statistics is very concerning, the Special Diabetes Program is making meaningful progress. The SDP funds research that is leading directly to the development of new insights and therapies that are improving the lives of those with diabetes, and accelerating progress towards curing and preventing the disease. Likewise, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) is having a significant and positive impact on the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), which are disproportionately affected by type 2 diabetes. For example, the SDPI is making it possible to develop and sustain quality diabetes treatment and prevention programs in AI/AN communities.

Some notable developments from the SDP/SDPI include:

- Artificial Pancreas (AP) Systems: SDP-funded research has accelerated the development of AP systems, which will reduce costly and burdensome type 1 diabetes complications and improve quality of life for those with the disease. Today, SDP funds are being used to test multiple versions of AP systems in outpatient clinical trials; the use of AP systems in adults could save Medicare roughly \$1 billion over 25 years.
- Kidney Disease: Researchers have discovered that 6.5 years of intensive blood glucose control can cut in half the onset of impaired kidney function in people with type 1 diabetes. This type of reduction in end-stage renal disease (ESRD) could save Medicare roughly \$126 billion over 25 years. Also, between 2000 and 2013, incidence rates of ESRD in AI/AN individuals with diabetes declined by 48 percent. The decline in ESRD incidence has resulted in a 29% decline in prevalence of ESRD since 2000, representing the only instance of a decline in adjusted prevalence for a major racial group.
- Eye Therapies: SDP-funded research discovered that combining a drug with laser therapy can reverse vision loss in people living with diabetes. The SDP also filled a critical research gap by funding a head-to-head comparison of three drugs for the treatment of diabetic eye disease. The results help patients, clinicians, and insurers to identify the right therapy and course of treatment for each individual person.
- Prevention: A 15-year study of 8,600 children is currently underway to determine what environmental factors influence the onset of type 1 diabetes. Researchers believe that, by identifying specific triggering factors, new strategies can be developed to prevent the initial onset of type 1 diabetes.
- Glucose Control: The average blood sugar level, as measured by the hemoglobin A1C test, decreased from 9.0 percent in 1996 to 8.1 percent in 2014 in the AI/AN population. Every percentage point drop in A1C results can reduce risk of eye, kidney, and nerve complications by up to 40 percent.

The SDP program is unquestionably improving the lives of the nearly 30 million Americans living with diabetes while also reducing the long-term health care expenditures related to its complications. However, further investment in the SDP is essential to conducting clinical trials, planning next steps for research programs, and effectively allocating research resources – all of which play an important role in helping to better treat, prevent, and ultimately cure diabetes.

Thanks to your leadership, the Special Diabetes Program has received strong bipartisan support in recent years. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure this program remains a beacon of hope for all Americans living with diabetes.



Tom Reed
Member of Congress

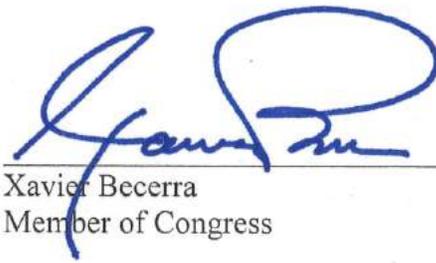
Sincerely,



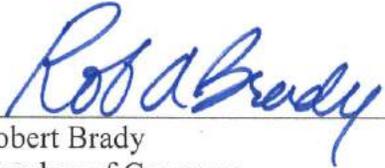
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



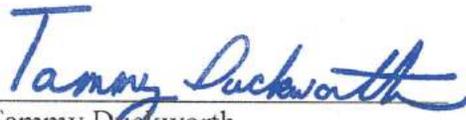
Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



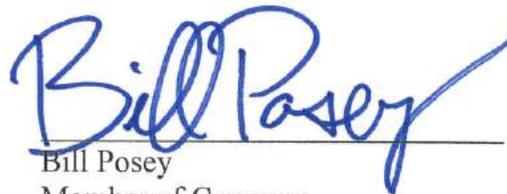
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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Brad Ashford
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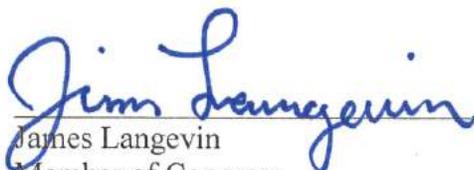
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



James Langevin
Member of Congress



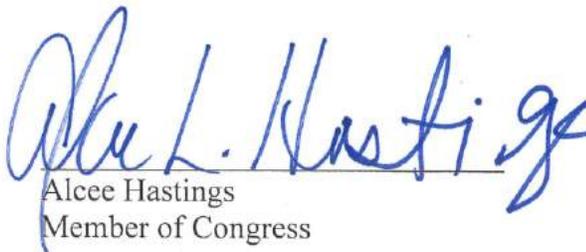
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Jeff Duncan
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Joyce Beatty
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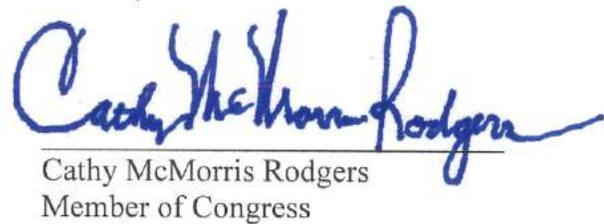

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

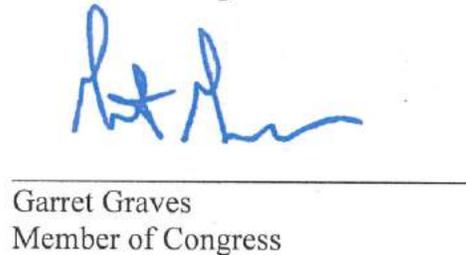

Alcee Hastings
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Eric Swalwell
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Garret Graves
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Michael McCaul
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Kathy Castor
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Joe Heck, D.O.
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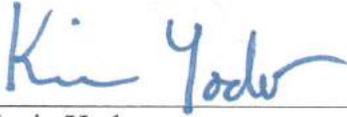

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



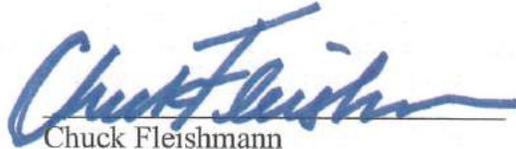
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
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Kevin Yoder
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Chuck Fleischmann
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Robert J. Dold
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Mike Thompson
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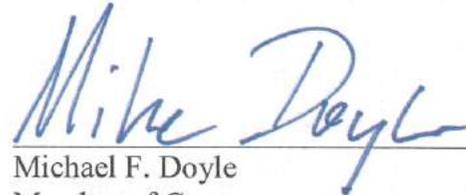
Alma Adams
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Robert Latta
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Robert Pittenger
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Michael F. Doyle
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David Scott
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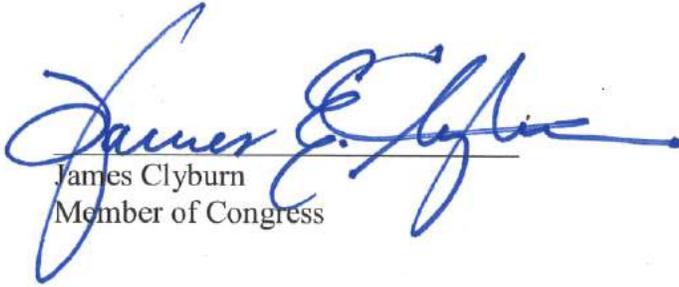
Cedric Richmond
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Will Hurd
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
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Gregg Harper
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Chris Stewart
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Mark Walker
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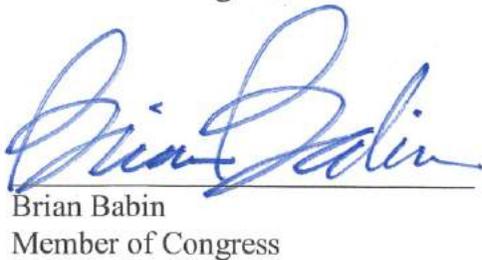
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



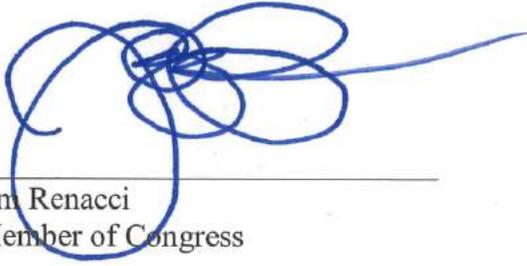
Frank Guinta
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
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Dina Titus
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Dave Brat
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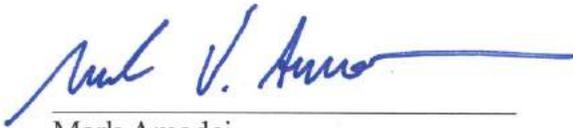
John Yarmuth
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Steven Palazzo
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Janice Hahn
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Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



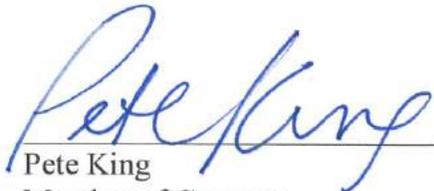
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



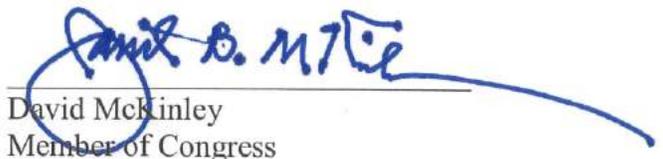
Pete King
Member of Congress



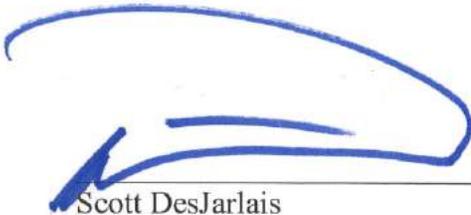
David Schweikert
Member of Congress



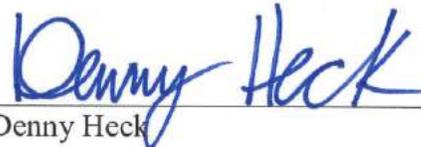
Richard E. Neal
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David McKinley
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Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
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Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



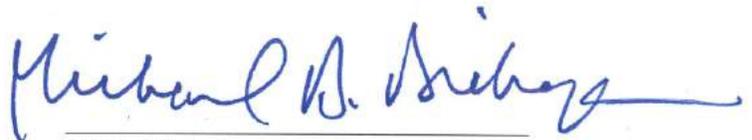
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Scott Rigell
Member of Congress



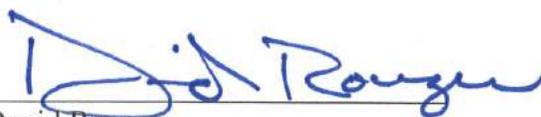
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



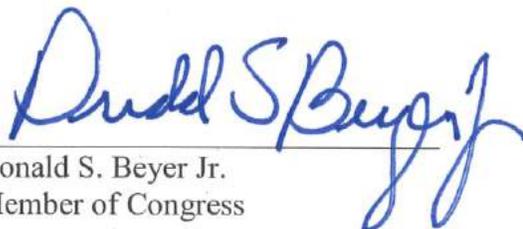
Jackie Walorski
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Cresent Hardy
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
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Glenn Grothman

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Evan Jenkins

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Ann Wagner

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Tom Emmer

Tom Emmer
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Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela
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Tom MacArthur

Tom MacArthur
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James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

George Holding

George Holding
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Luke Messer

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

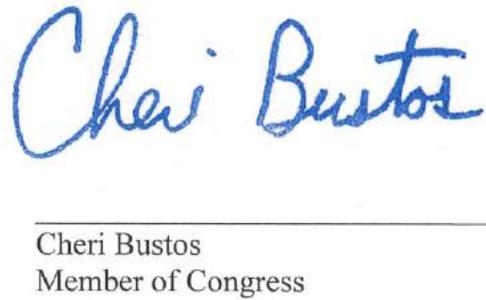
Martha Roby

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

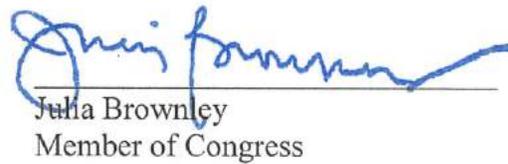
Randy Weber

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

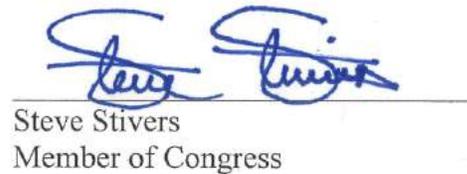

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

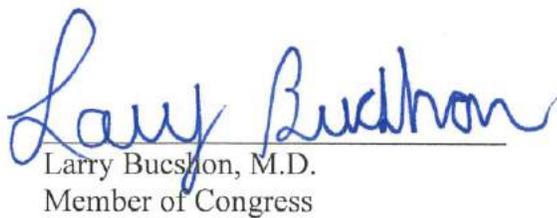

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress


David Young
Member of Congress


Steve Knight
Member of Congress


David Valadao
Member of Congress


Mark Meadows
Member of Congress


Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

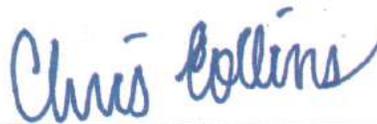

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress


Todd Young
Member of Congress


Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
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Jim McDermott
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Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress

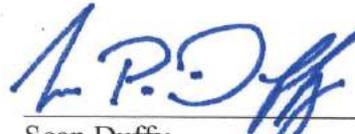


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Sean Duffy
Member of Congress


Diane Black
Member of Congress


Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

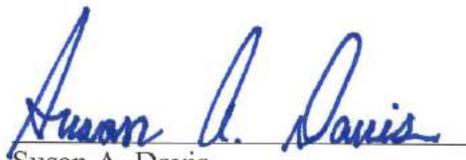

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

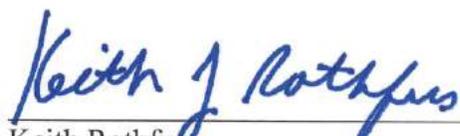

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

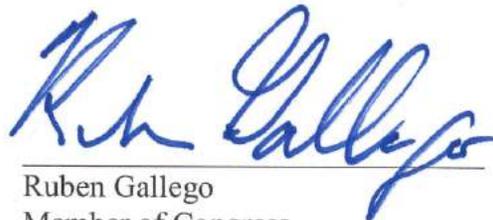

Robert C. (Bobby) Scott
Member of Congress

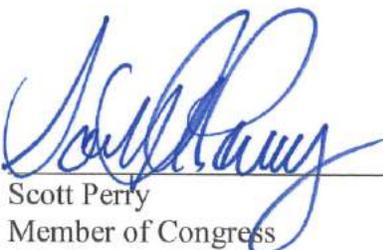

Gwen Graham
Member of Congress


Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress


Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress


Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress


Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


Scott Perry
Member of Congress

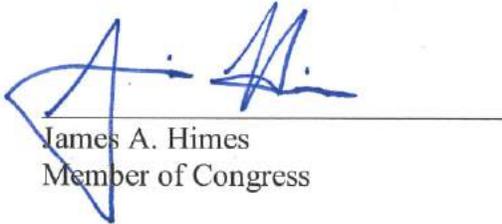

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



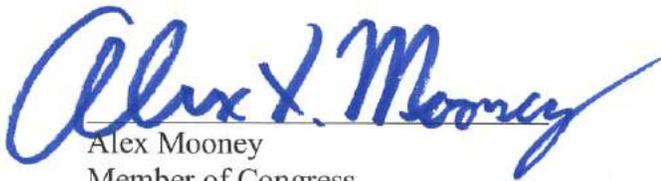
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



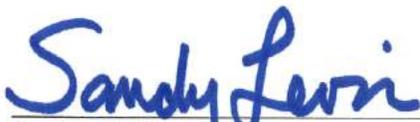
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Alex Mooney
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



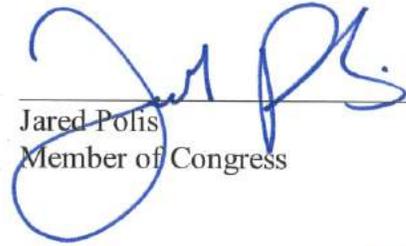
Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



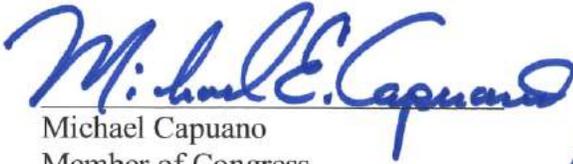
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



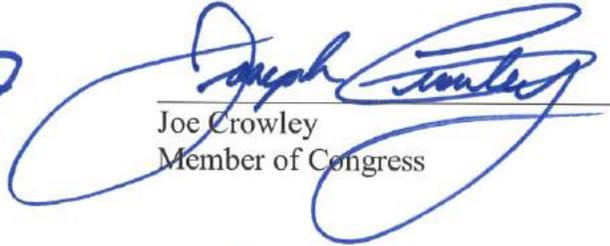
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



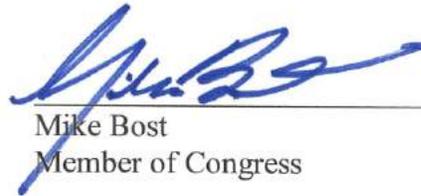
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



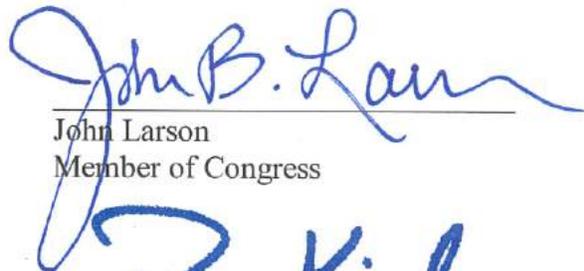
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



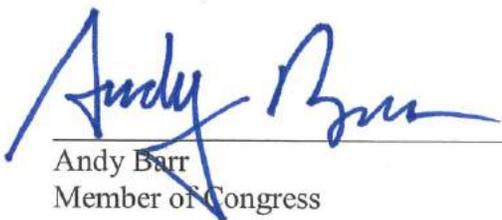
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

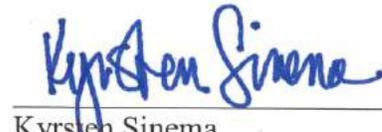


Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
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Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

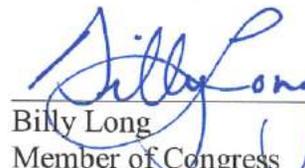

Reid Ribble
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Ami Bera
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Mike Kelly
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Jim Cooper
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Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Billy Long
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Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

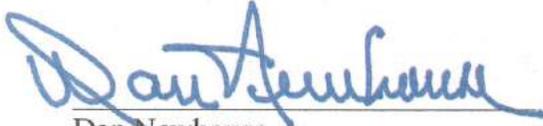

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



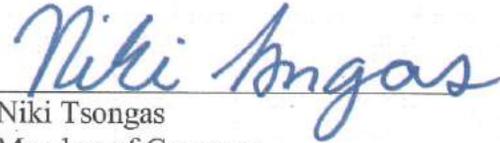
John Delaney
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Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



David Trott
Member of Congress



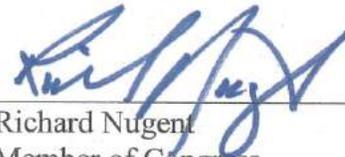
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Dan Donovan
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Richard Nugent
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



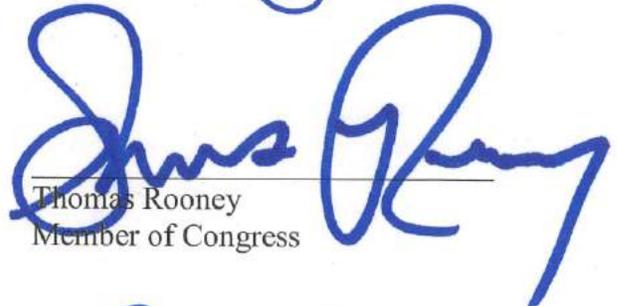
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



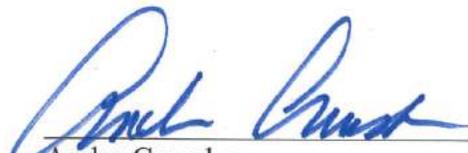
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



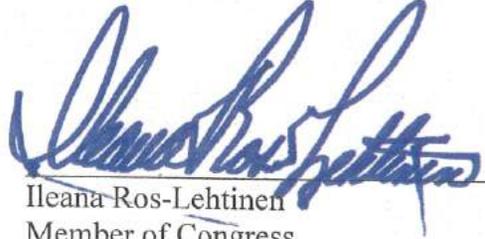
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



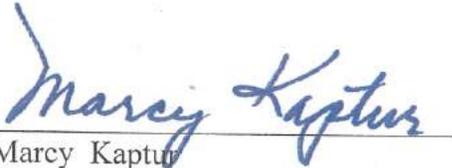
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



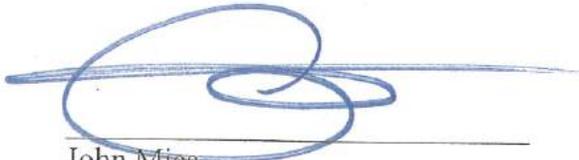
John Duncan Jr.
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Charlie Dent
Member of Congress



John Mica
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

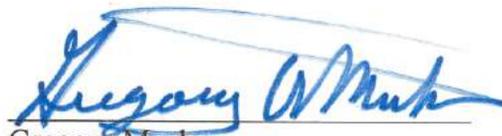

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

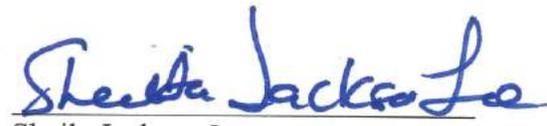

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

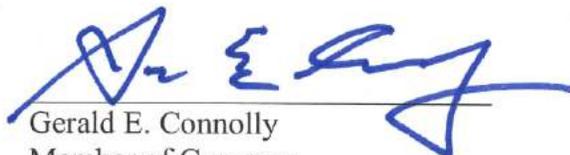

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

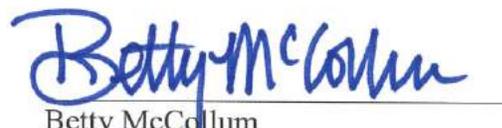

Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

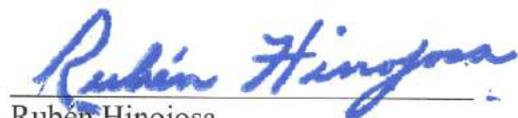

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

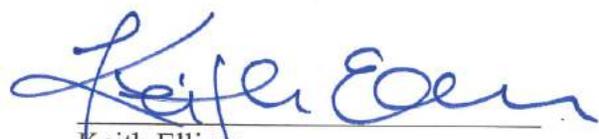

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Michael Turner
Member of Congress


Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



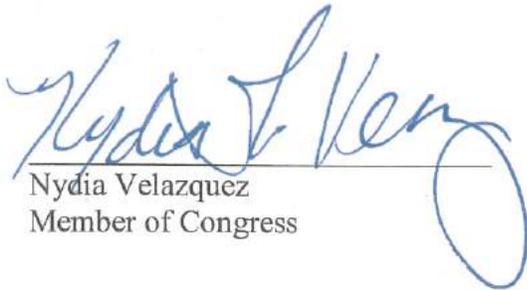
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Nydia Velazquez
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



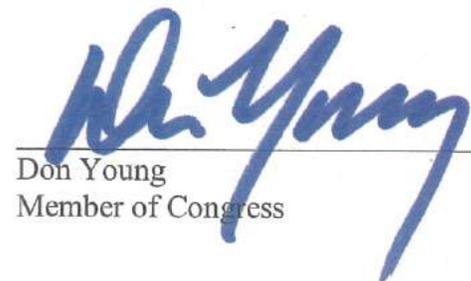
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



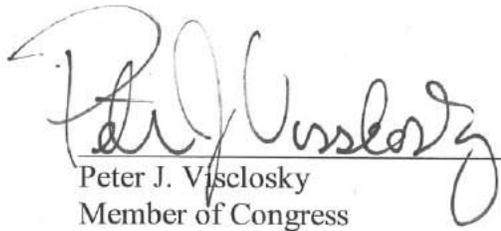
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



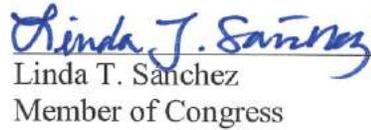
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress

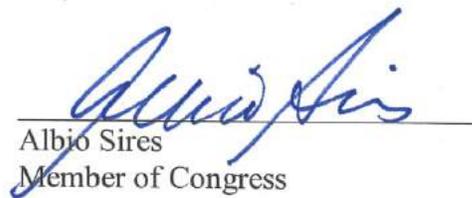

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Steve Scalise
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

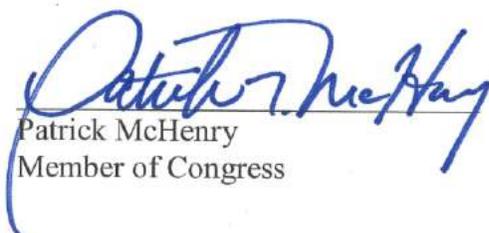

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Walter Jones
Member of Congress

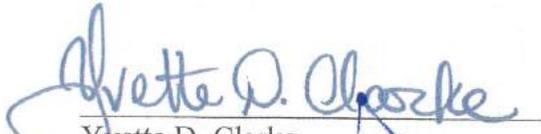

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

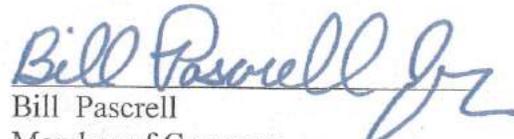

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

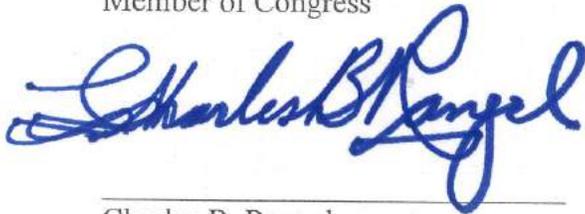

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

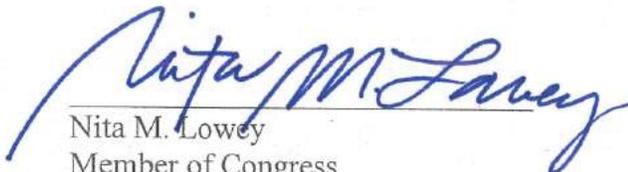

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress

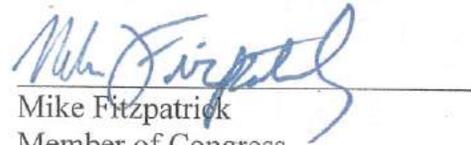

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

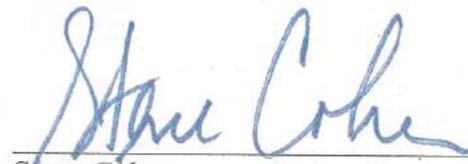

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

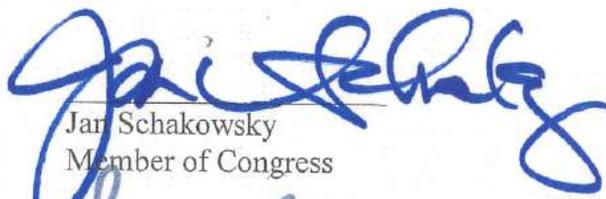

John Culberson
Member of Congress

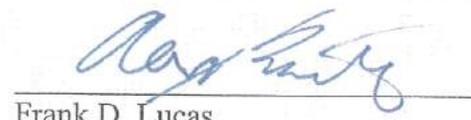

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

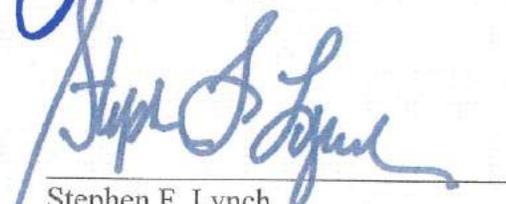

Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

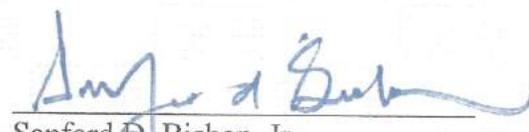

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

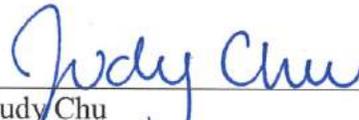

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



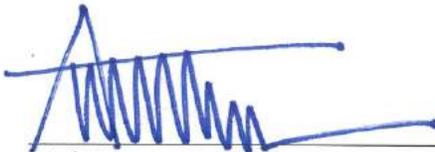
John Conyers
Member of Congress



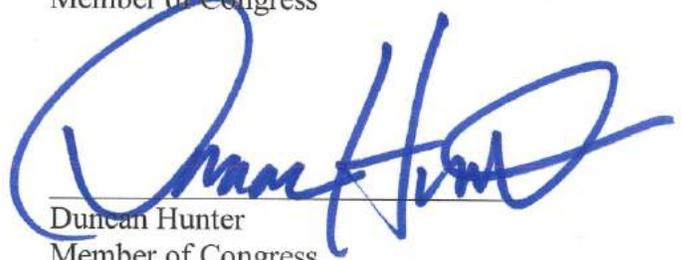
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



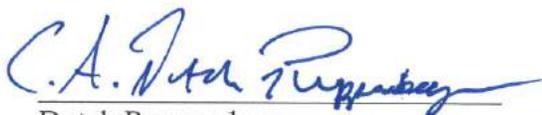
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



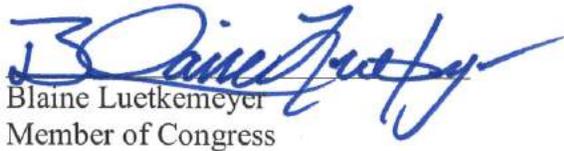
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



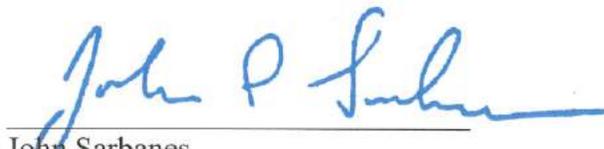
John Garamendi
Member of Congress

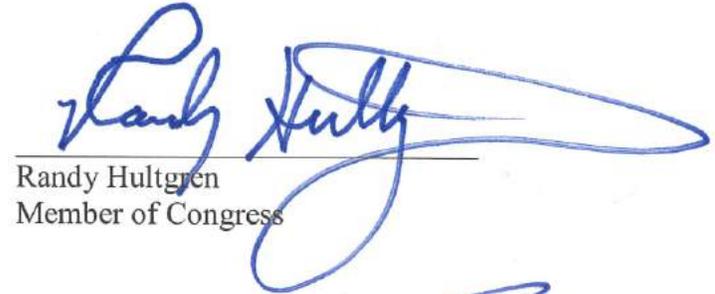

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

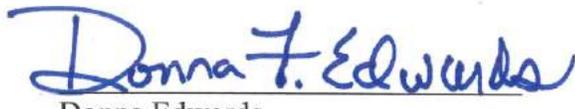

Andre' Carson
Member of Congress

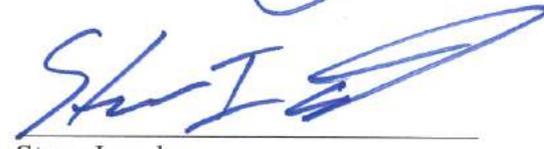

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

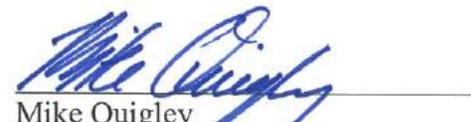

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

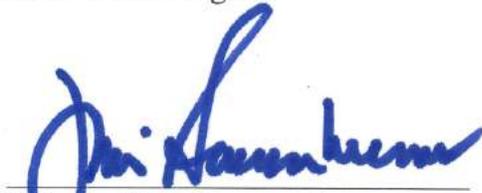

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress


Donna Edwards
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress

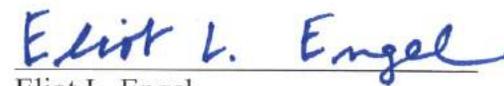

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



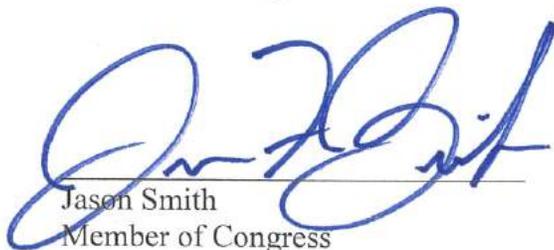
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



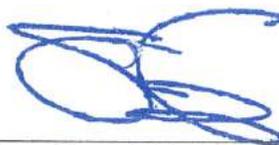
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



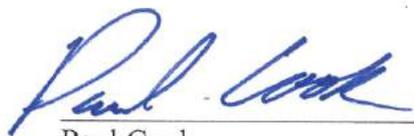
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



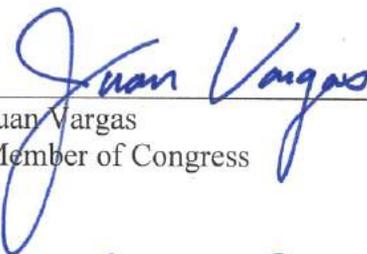
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



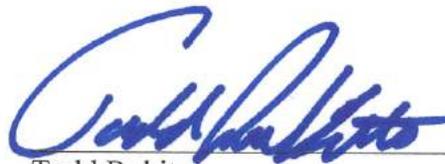
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



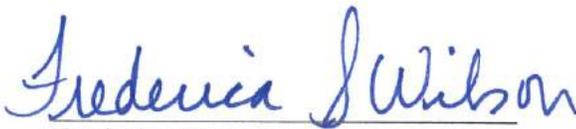
David W. Jolly
Member of Congress


Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress


Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress


Gary Palmer
Member of Congress


Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress


Mimi Walters
Member of Congress


Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

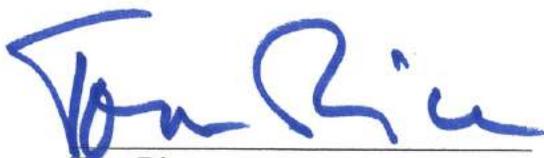

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Rod Blum
Member of Congress


Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress


Scott Tipton
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress


Tom Rice
Member of Congress


Tom Marino
Member of Congress



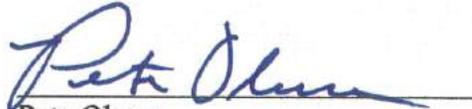
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



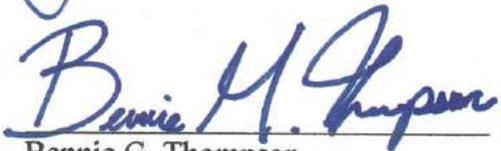
Gene Green
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



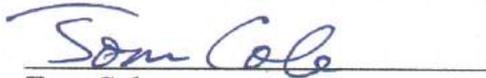
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



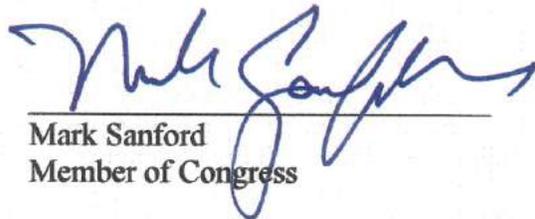
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



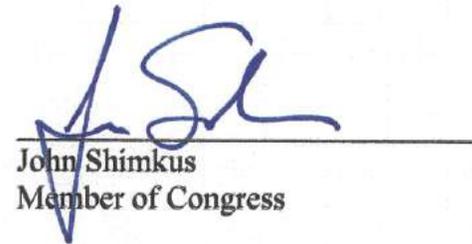
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



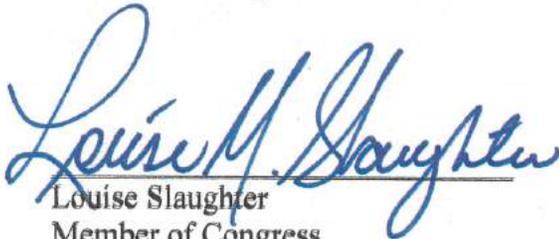
Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



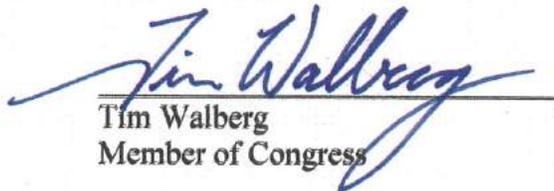
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



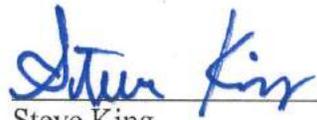
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



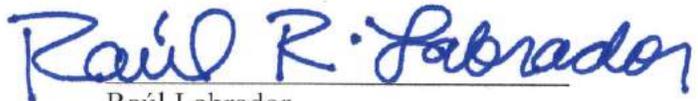
Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress