

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0912

April 6, 2017

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TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-1299
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The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of Health Centers as a longstanding bipartisan solution to the primary care access problems facing this country. **During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee continue to recognize Health Centers as providers of high quality, cost-effective primary care and that you work to ensure the continuation of the innovative, high-value health center model of care within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2018.**

Since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago, health centers have provided primary care, dental, behavioral, pharmacy, vision and a variety of complementary services to America's most vulnerable patients and communities. Today, thanks to longstanding bipartisan support, well over 1,400 health center organizations serve nearly 10,000 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health Centers are the health care home for over 25 million patients, including 7.6 million children and nearly 300,000 veterans. Health Centers employ more than 180,000 Americans, and generate billions of dollars both in economic impact and overall cost-savings for the health care system.

Health Centers have continually proven to be a worthwhile investment by delivering high quality, affordable health care, and the demand for health center services has grown in recent years. Combined with the investments made on a bipartisan basis through the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization of 2015 (MACRA), annual appropriations for the Health Centers Program have been critical to the operations of health centers nationwide as they meet that demand. With MACRA's Health Centers Fund extension set to expire this fall, we urge you to work with your colleagues on other committees of jurisdiction to keep funding for Health Centers whole in FY18. Without access to primary care, many people, including the chronically ill, delay seeking health care until they are seriously ill, leading to higher costs and worse health

outcomes. The Health Center model is designed to address this and other health challenges by fostering innovation and high-value care at the community level.

As Congress works to improve access to care, reduce health care expenditures, and promote patient-centered solutions to our health care challenges, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to support Health Centers, which have a proven track record of success. Thank you for your continued support of the vital role Health Centers play in preserving and expanding access to care in the communities they serve. We ask that as you continue to face difficult choices on budget priorities, that you support this proven and cost-effective model of care.

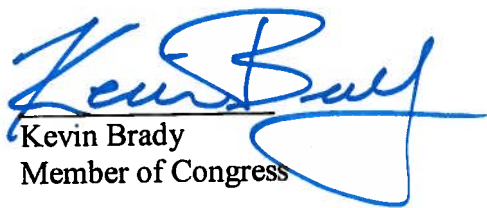
Sincerely,



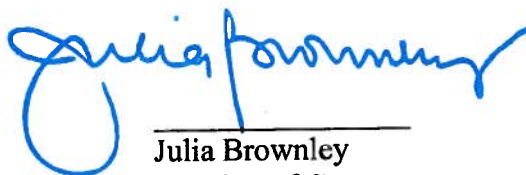
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Gene Green
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Kevin Brady
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Julia Brownley
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Steve Stivers
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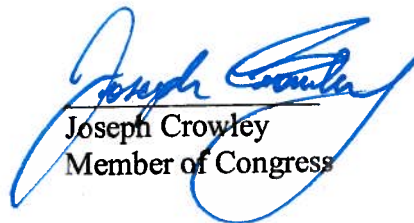
Stephen Knight
Member of Congress



Sean Maloney
Member of Congress



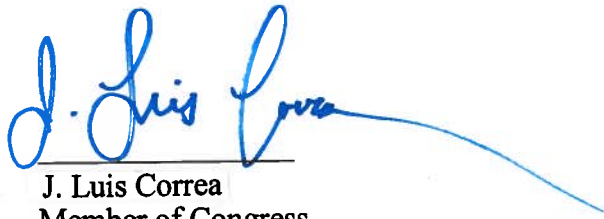
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress

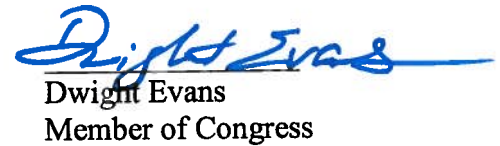



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress




Lois Frankel
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J. Luis Correa
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Dwight Evans
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Rod Blum
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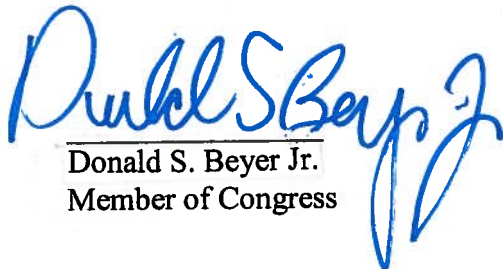

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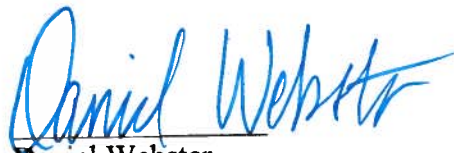

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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Keith Rothfus
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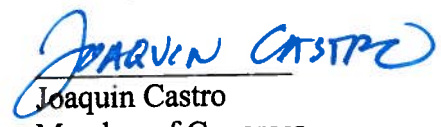

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

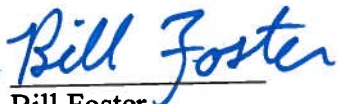

Brenda Lawrence
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Glenn Grothman
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Ruben Gallego
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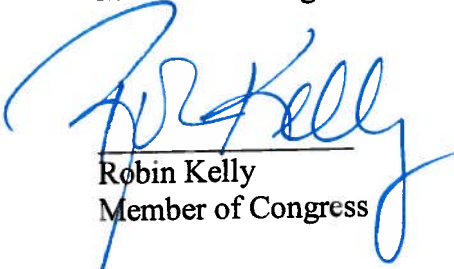
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



French Hill
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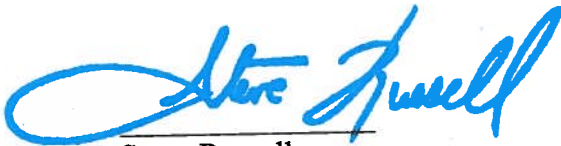
Sander Levin
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Jim Himes
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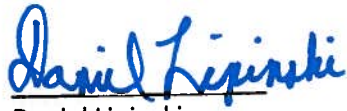
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André Carson
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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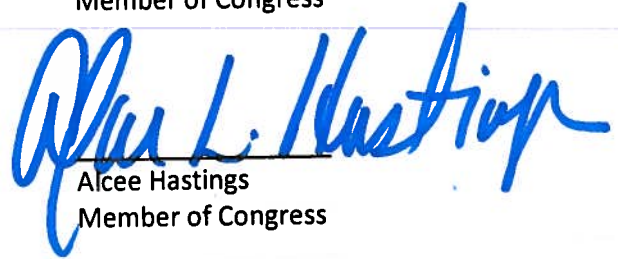
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Lloyd Smucker

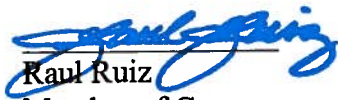
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Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Rick Nolan

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
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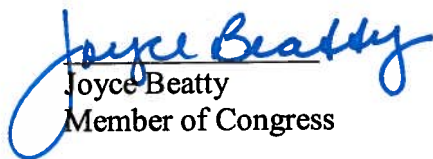
Nanette Barragan
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Roger Williams
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Joyce Beatty
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Beto O'Rourke
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Aumua Amata Radewagen
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Ann Kuster
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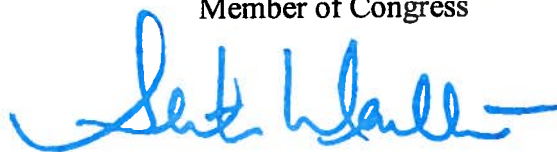
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Carlos Curbelo
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Jared Huffman
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



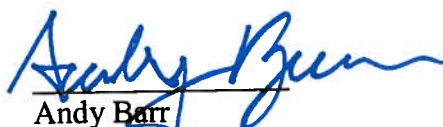
Michael Capuano
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Mark Pocan
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Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



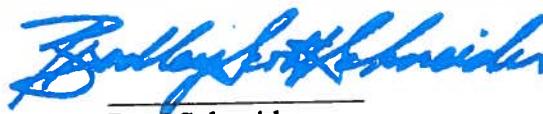
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Ami Bera
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Brad Schneider
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Joe Wilson
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Mike Bost
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John Larson
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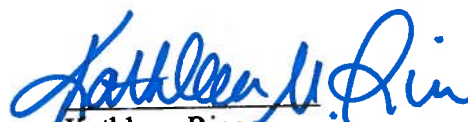
Ron Kind
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Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
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Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress




Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



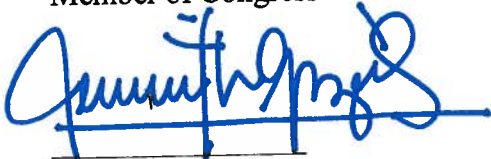
James Comer
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



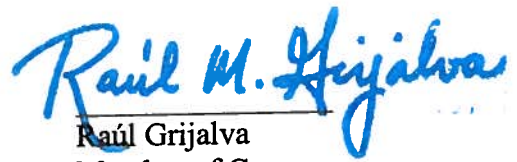
Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress



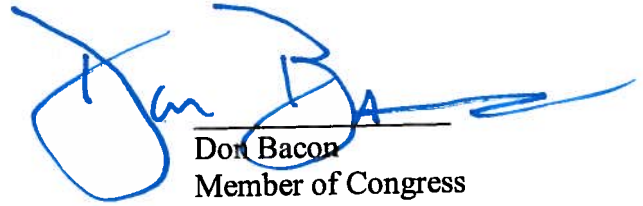
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



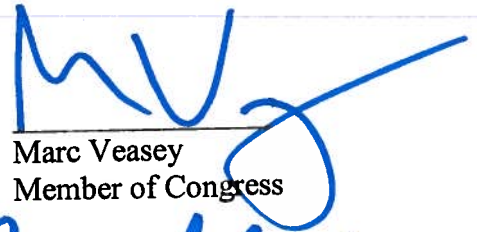
Daniel Donovan
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



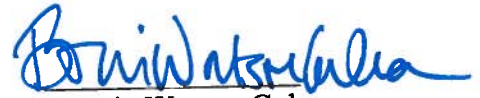
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
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Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



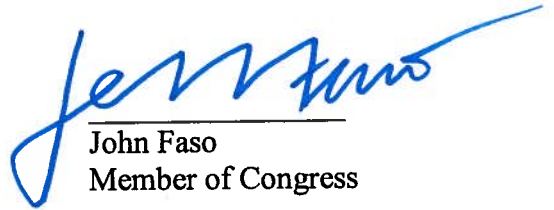
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



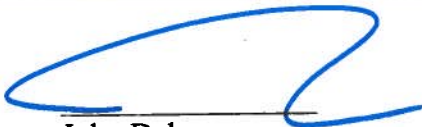
John Faso
Member of Congress



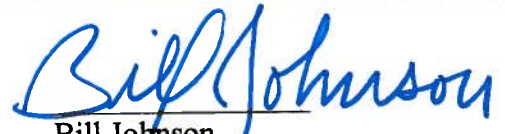
John Katko
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
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John Delaney
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Bill Johnson
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Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



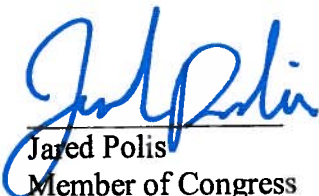
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



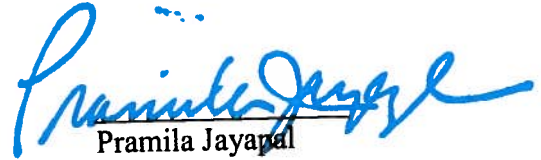
Brian Babin
Member of Congress



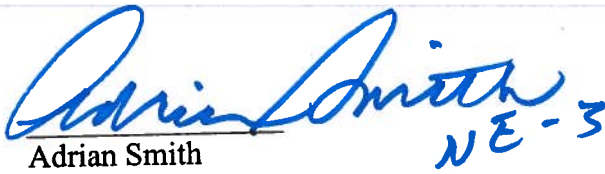
Will Hurd
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Elise Stefanik
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
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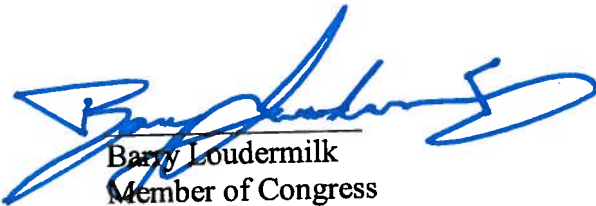
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
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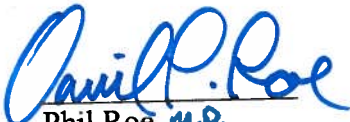
Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



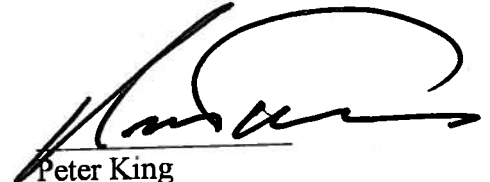
Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



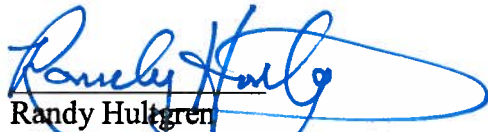
Peter King
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress




John Lewis
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
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Mike Quigley
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Brian Higgins
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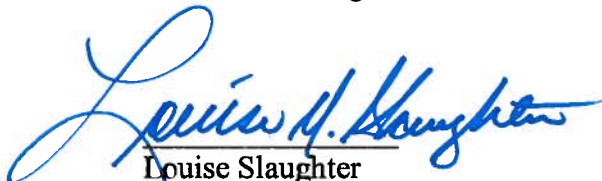

Eliot Engel
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Paul Tonko
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Jackie Speier
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Al Green
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Roger Marshall
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Ruben Kihuen
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Donald A. McEachin
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Tom Emmer
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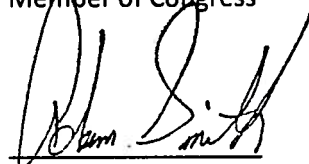
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Marsha Blackburn
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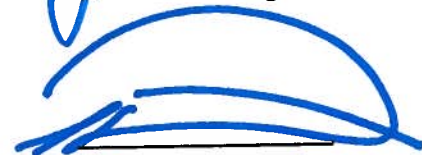
Daniel Kildee
Member of Congress



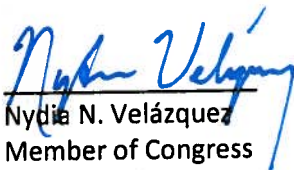
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Peter Welch
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Lou Barletta
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Kathy Castor

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Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
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James R. Langevin

James R. Langevin
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Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan

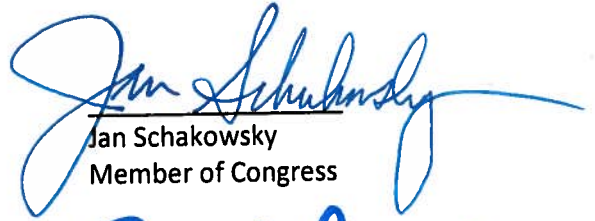
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David Price

David Price
Member of Congress



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Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Steve Chabot
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Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



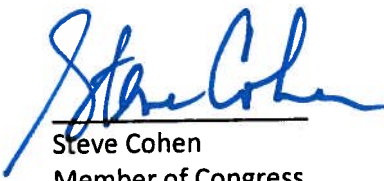
Val Demings
Member of Congress



Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



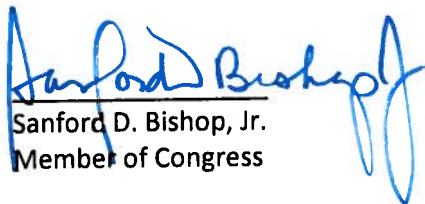
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Steve Cohen
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Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

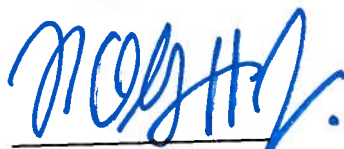


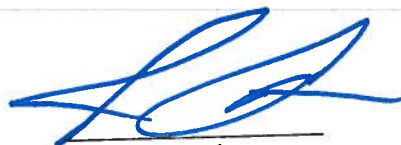
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

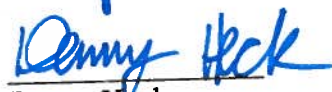

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Member of Congress


Thomas Garrett
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Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

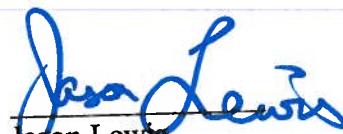

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Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress


Jack Bergman
Member of Congress


Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress


Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress

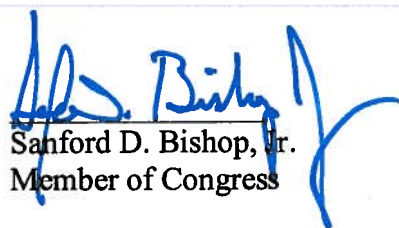

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Member of Congress


Michael Doyle
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Frank Lucas
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

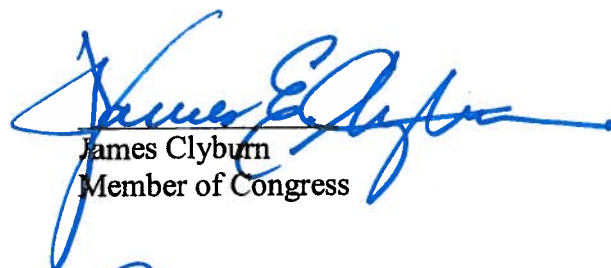

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Member of Congress



Gregorio Sablan
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Austin Scott
Member of Congress


Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress


James Clyburn
Member of Congress


Eric Crawford
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



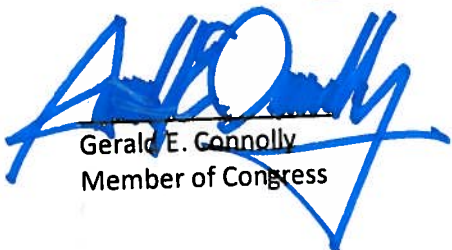
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Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



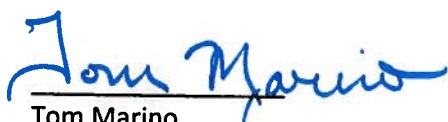
David McKinley
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



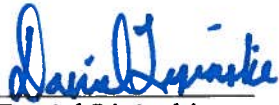
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Member of Congress



Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Bill Keating
Member of Congress



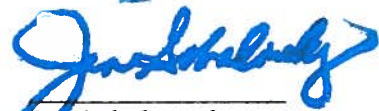
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



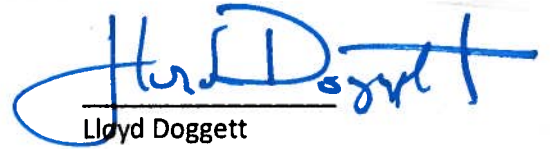
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



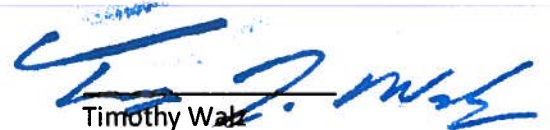
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Timothy Walle
Member of Congress



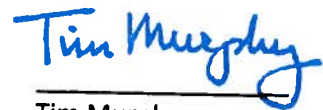
Don Young
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



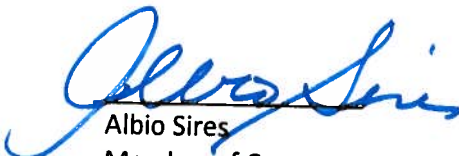
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress




Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



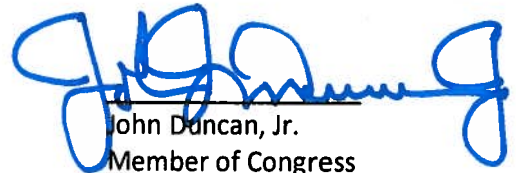
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



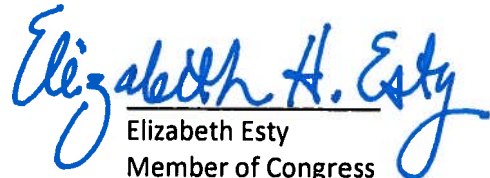
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



John Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



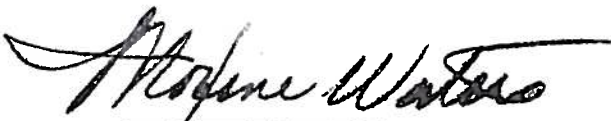
Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress




Alma Adams
Member of Congress




Maxine Waters
Member of Congress





Gregg Harper
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

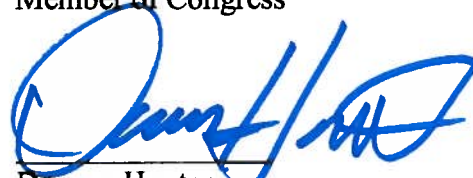

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

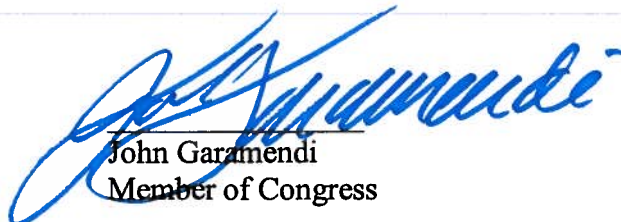

Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Bill Flores
Member of Congress


Susan DelBene
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Ted Deutch
Member of Congress