

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

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 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) 2016 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 their continued sustainability and viability in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2016.**

This year marks fifty years since the first health centers opened their doors. Since the inception of the program, health centers have worked to provide primary care, dental, behavioral, pharmacy and a variety of support services to America's most vulnerable patients and communities. Today, nearly 1,300 health center organizations serve more than 9,000 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health centers are the health care home for more than 23 million patients, including nearly 7 million children and more than 268,000 veterans. Health centers employ more than 156,000 Americans, and generate both economic impact and overall cost savings of over \$24 billion to 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. A reduction, interruption, or loss of funds may hurt these centers ability to fulfill their mission and cause site closures, staff layoffs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for millions of patients nationally. Without access to primary care, many people, including the chronically ill, delay seeking health care until they are seriously ill and require inpatient hospitalization or care at an emergency room at a much higher cost to the entire health care system.

As Congress works to improve access to primary care in a cost effective manner and reduce health care expenditures, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to support Health Centers so they can continue to providing cost-effective primary care in this country. It is our hope that you will take into account the impending health center funding cliff as you determine

programmatic funding levels in the Subcommittee bill, but we also urge you to work with your colleagues on the committees of jurisdiction to develop a bipartisan solution that averts the funding cliff and ensures stability of access to care as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continual 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.

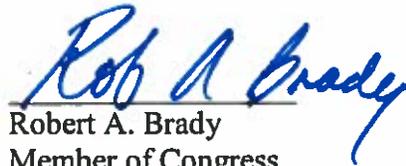
Sincerely,



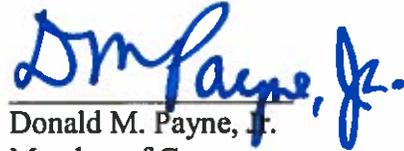
Gene Green
Member of Congress



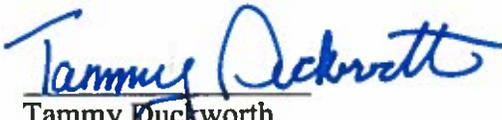
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Alan Lowenthal
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Ryan Zinke
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Lou Barletta
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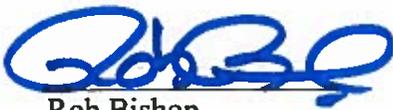
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



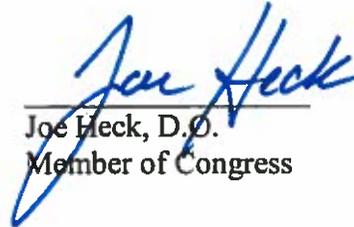
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



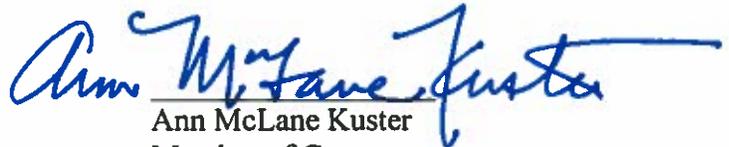
Michael T. McCaul
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Joe Heck, D.O.
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Tom Rice
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David Scott
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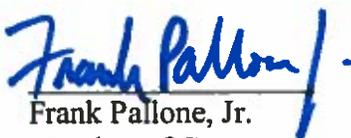
Dan Kildee
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Dennis A. Ross
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Mike Thompson
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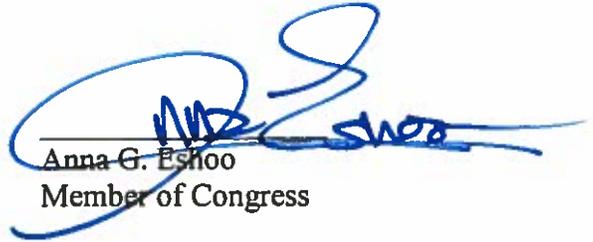
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Suzan DelBene
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Richard Hanna
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Doug LaMalfa
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Frank Guinta
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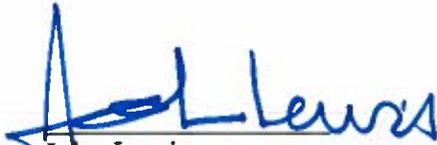
Mark DeSaulnier
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Peter King
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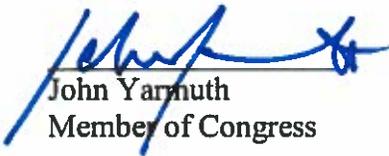
Richard E. Neal
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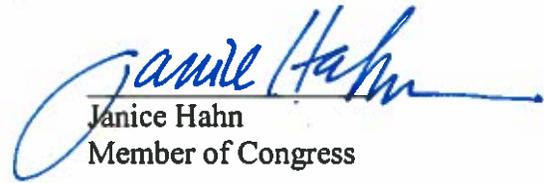
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Dina Titus
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Janice Hahn
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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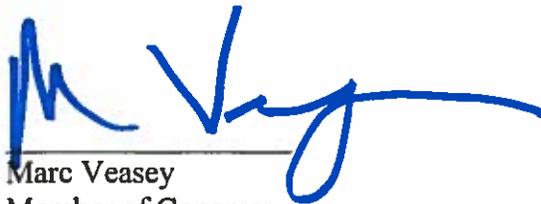
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Jerrold Nadler
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Corrine Brown
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Member of Congress

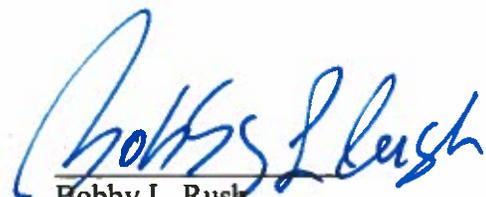

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Gwen S. Moore
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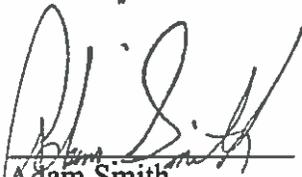
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith
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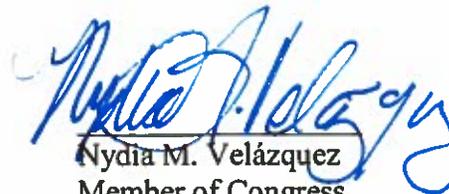
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
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Chaka Fattah
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Peter Welch
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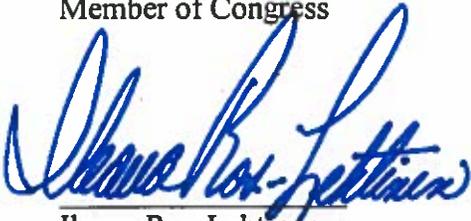
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



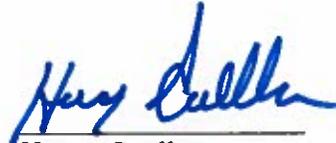
Lynn Westmoreland
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Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



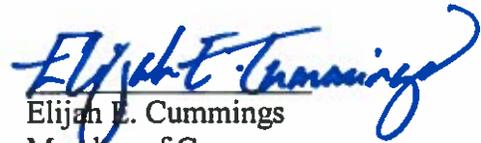
Steve King
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
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Joe Wilson
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Elijah E. Cummings
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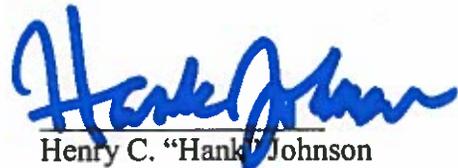
Lois Capps
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



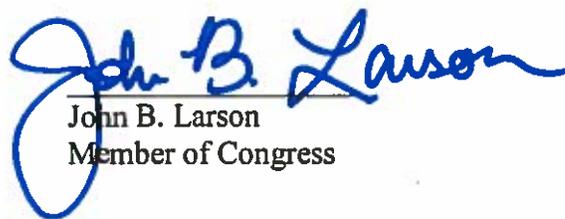
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



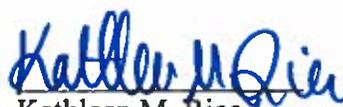
John B. Larson
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress



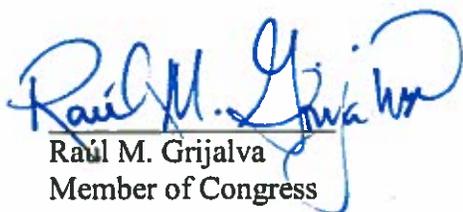
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
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Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



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Lee Zeldin
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Mike Kelly
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Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



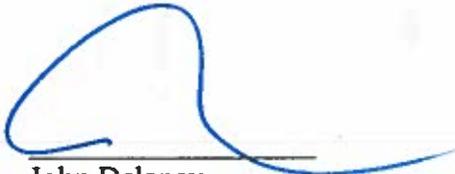
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

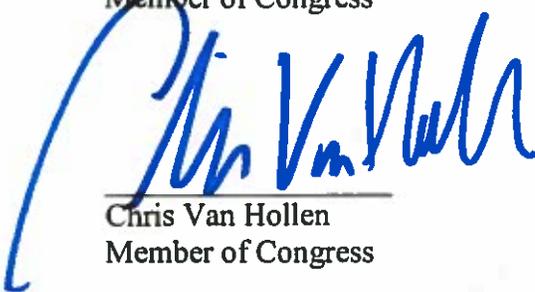

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


John Delaney
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

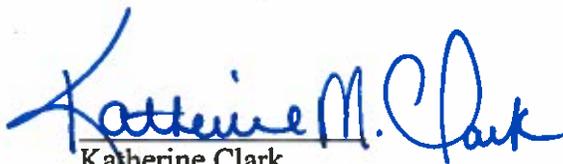

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Katherine Clark
Member of Congress


Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



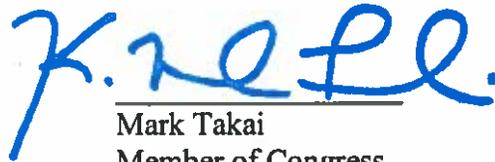
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



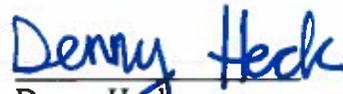
Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



Mark Takai
Member of Congress



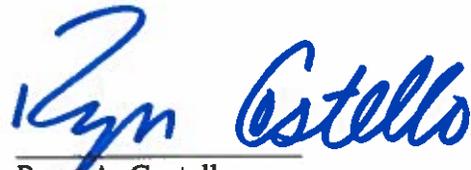
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

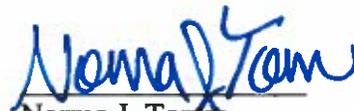

George Holding
Member of Congress

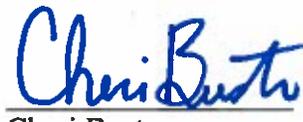

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

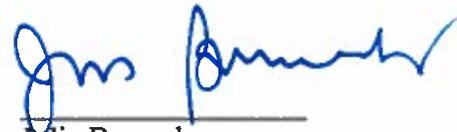

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress


Rick Allen
Member of Congress


Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress


Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

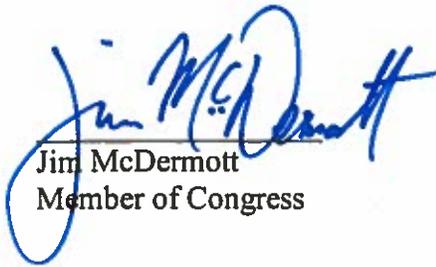

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress


Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

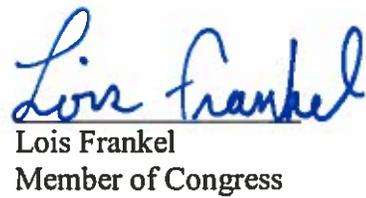

Martha McSally
Member of Congress


Bill Flores
Member of Congress


Tim Walz
Member of Congress



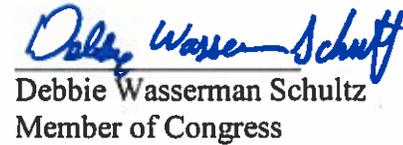
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



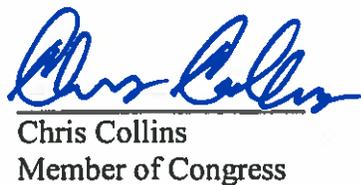
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



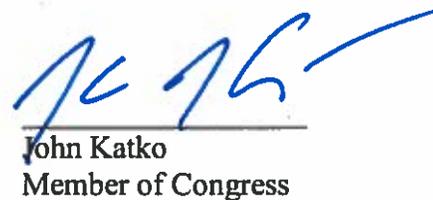
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



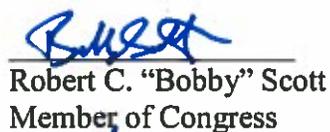
John Katko
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



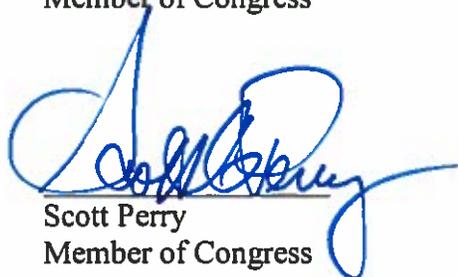
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



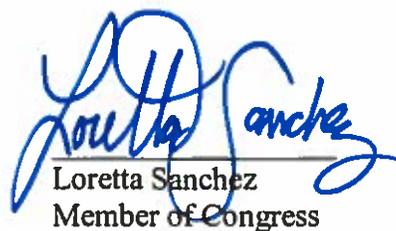
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



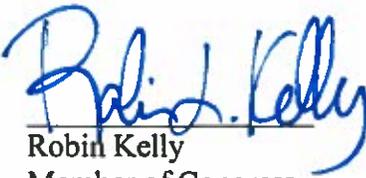
French Hill
Member of Congress



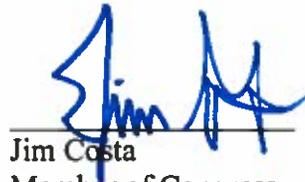
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
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Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



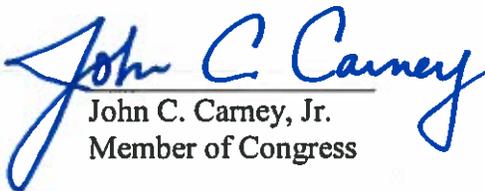
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Roger Williams
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Beto O'Rourke
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress


Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

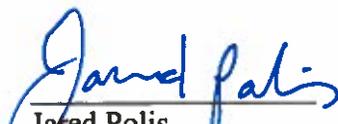

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

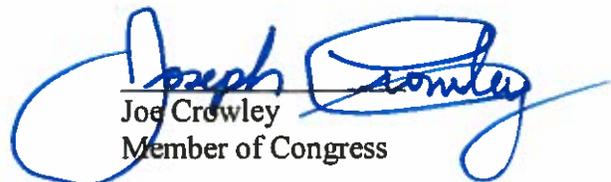

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Member of Congress


Matt Cartwright
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Charles Boustany, Jr. M.D.
Member of Congress


Andy Barr
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress

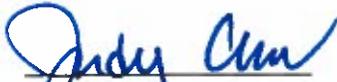

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



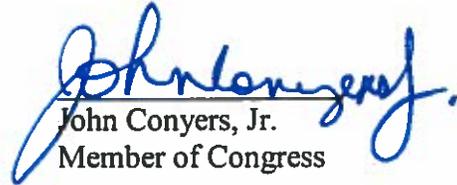
Pedro R. Pierluisi
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Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



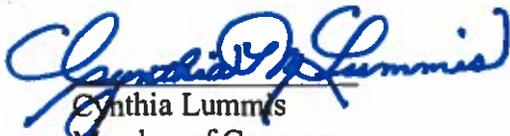
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



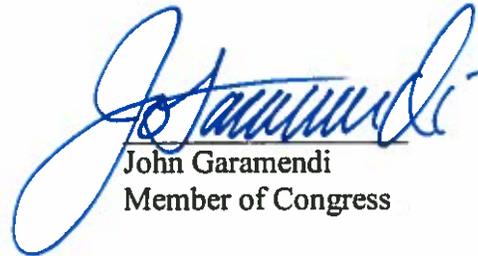
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Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lumms
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



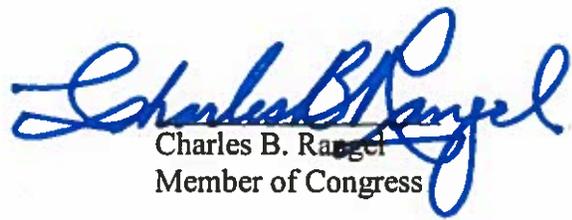
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



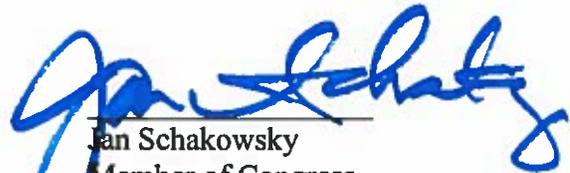
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



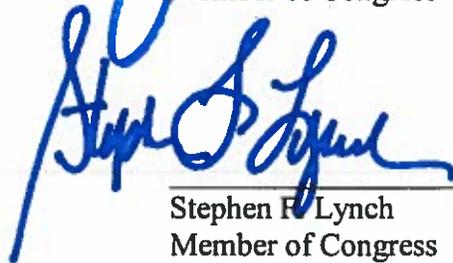
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



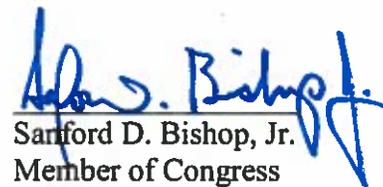
Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



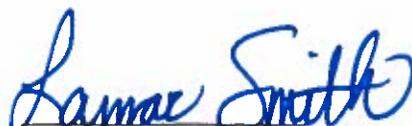
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



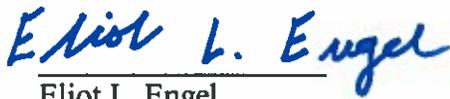
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



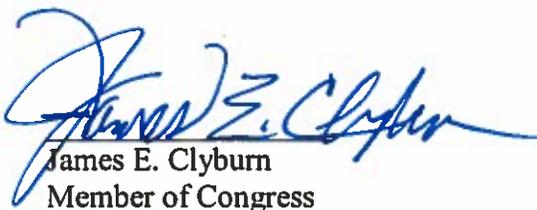
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

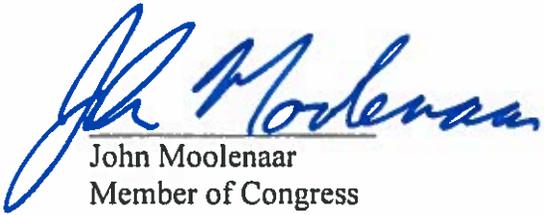

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



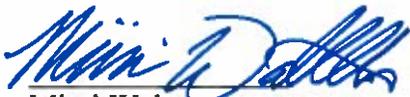
Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Mimi Walters
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress