

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

As Members of Congress, we applaud your work in diabetes prevention. We write to you today regarding an important part of prevention – screening guidelines. As you know, diabetes is a serious public health problem that continues to grow in scope and urgency.

Today, 29 million Americans have diabetes and another 86 million are at high risk for the disease.¹ In fact, nearly half of the adult population in the United States is now expected to develop diabetes during their lifetime.^{1,2} Diabetes wreaks an economic toll as well. In 2012, diabetes cost the nation \$245 billion, a 41 percent increase from 2007.³

We believe we can change this trajectory. To do so, we must and can, do a better job of screening for diabetes. Screening is the entry point to prevention – both prevention of diabetes itself through lifestyle intervention for those with risk factors, as well as prevention of complications through appropriate treatment for the undiagnosed.

The science shows that we can do a better job of screening for diabetes by targeting high risk populations that have multiple risk factors for the disease. Unfortunately, the existing federal diabetes screening guidelines, which are currently under review by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), recommends screening based only on the single risk factor of hypertension.

Diabetes screening guidelines like those from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and Medicare follow a growing body of evidence which indicates that screening based on multiple risk factors identifies more people with undiagnosed diabetes and prediabetes who can then benefit from earlier intervention and treatment.^{4,5} In fact, a recent study showed that ADA screening guidelines detect 78 percent more cases of diabetes among adults 54 and younger, 100 percent more cases of diabetes in Latinos, and 40 percent more cases of diabetes in African Americans.⁵

We understand the important role you play as Secretary in both supporting the work of the USPSTF, as well as overseeing a number of federal health care programs which are involved in diabetes screening. If we as a nation fail to adopt appropriate screening policies and programs, type 2 diabetes will continue to exact a significant human and financial toll. Therefore, we urge you to support robust screening guidelines for type 2 diabetes to ensure people at risk are diagnosed and ultimately receive the treatment they need to prevent or manage this dreaded disease. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



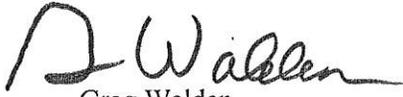
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress
Co-Chair Diabetes Caucus



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress
Co-Chair Diabetes Caucus


Andy Barr
Member of Congress


John Culberson
Member of Congress


Greg Walden
Member of Congress

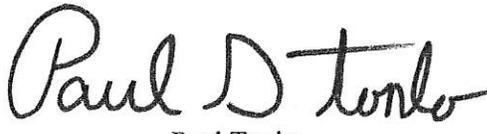

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress


Charles Boustany
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress

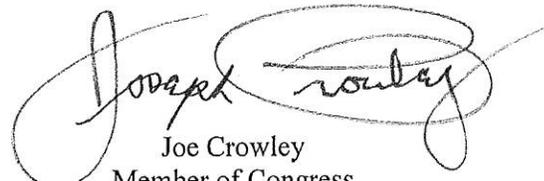

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

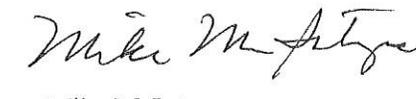

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

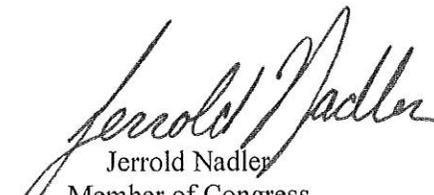

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Joe Crowley
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



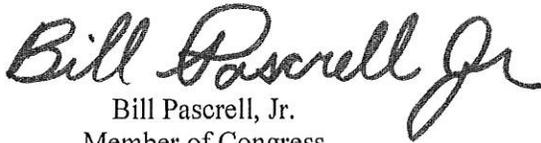
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Black Farenthold
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



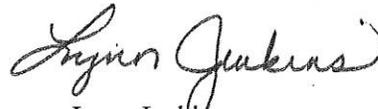
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



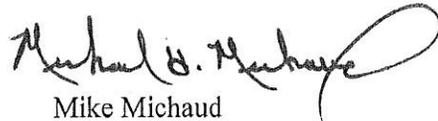
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



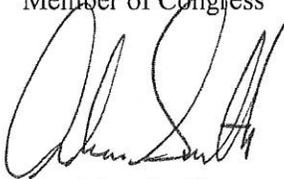
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



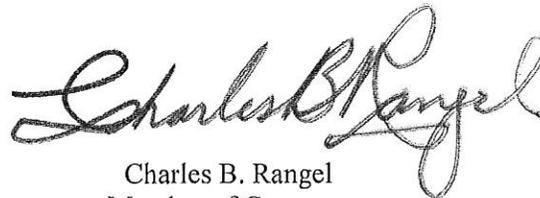
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



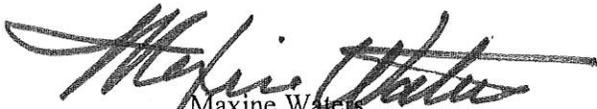
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



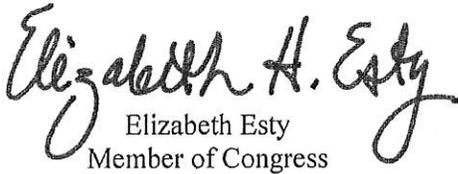
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

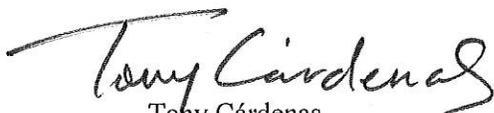

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Daniel Maffei
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

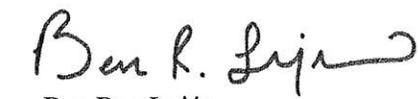

Michael C. Burgess
Member of Congress

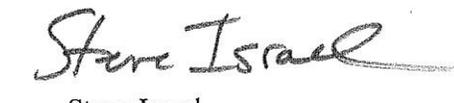

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

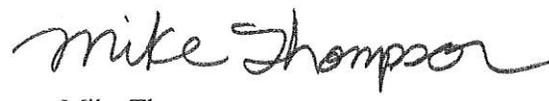

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Steve Chabot
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

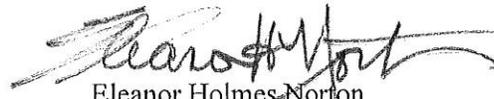

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress


William Enyart
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



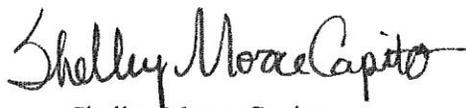
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



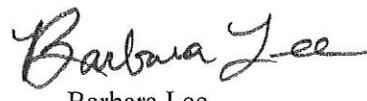
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Don Young

Don Young
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Susan G. Davis

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Pat Meehan

Pat Meehan
Member of Congress

Dutch Ruppersberger

Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

David W. Jolly
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

James Moran
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



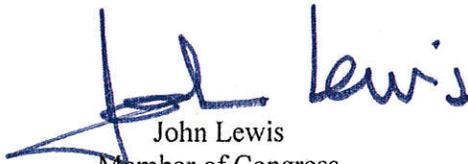
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



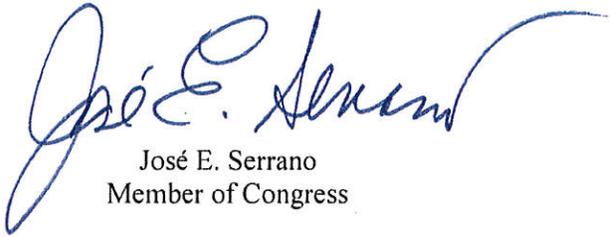
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress


José E. Serrano
Member of Congress


Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

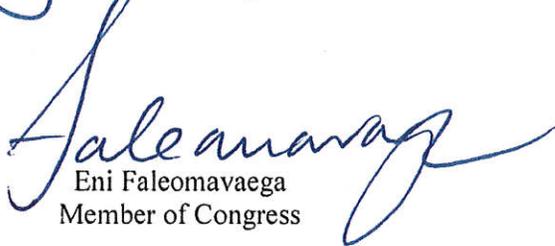

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

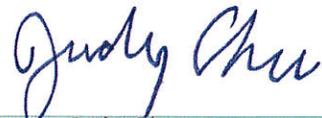

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

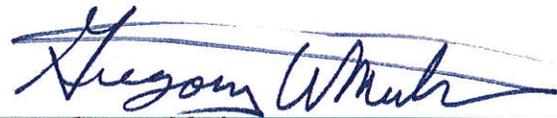

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress


John Larson
Member of Congress


Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress

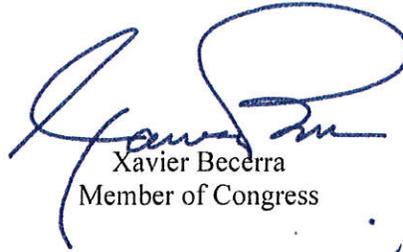

Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



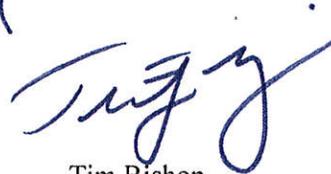
Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



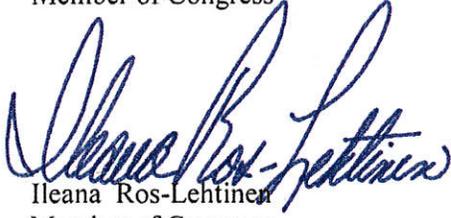
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



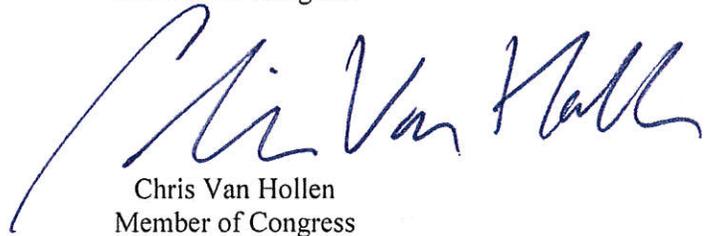
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Diane Black
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



Todd C. Young
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Renee L. Ellmers
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress