

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

We are writing to share our support for community health centers and to bring to your attention an issue that could threaten the access to the cost-effective primary and preventive care they provide. We respectfully request your continued support of the Health Centers program to ensure our local health centers can continue delivering access to primary and preventive health care services beyond Fiscal Year (FY) 2015.

Health Centers have a long history of bipartisan support. Since the first community health centers were founded nearly fifty years ago, health centers have become the nation's largest primary care network, collectively serving more than 22 million patients in more than 9,000 communities in every state and territory. Health centers are locally-governed small businesses providing a comprehensive range of primary care services while remaining responsive to community needs. Health centers employ more than 150,000 people, and generate an economic impact in the billions in some of the nation's most economically deprived communities¹. Studies have shown health centers generate savings to the health care system on the order of \$24 billion annually, primarily through reductions in unnecessary Emergency Department (ED) visits and hospitalizations².

Health Centers represent one of the most prudent investments we can make within our health care system. As a result, we are concerned about the funding deficit created by the expiration of the Health Center fund. After FY 2015, Health Centers are facing reductions of between sixty and seventy percent to their operational funding. The reductions could result in the closure of health center sites, layoffs of providers and staff, and most importantly, a loss of access to primary and preventive care for millions of patients who often have no other place to turn. The effect of this reduction would be felt beyond health centers themselves, with a more expensive and less efficient health care system along with a loss of access to care and economic vitality in thousands of communities across the country.

¹ Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS. 2012 Uniform Data System

² Ku L, et al. Strengthening Primary Care to Bend the Cost Curve: The Expansion of Community Health Centers Through Health Reform. Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Collaborative at the George Washington University. June 30 2010. Policy Research Brief No. 19.

We know the current budgetary constraints and the difficult choices we must make in this fiscal climate. However, we earnestly hope that we will work together in a bipartisan way to responsibly address this situation in a way that ensures continued sustainability and viability of health centers across America.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our thoughts and for your steadfast support to ensure Health Centers continue to play vital roles in our communities in the future.

Sincerely,



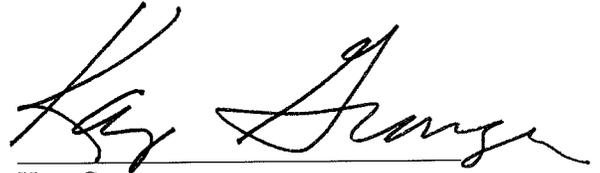
Gene Green
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
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David Price
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



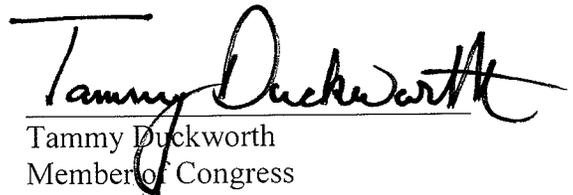
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



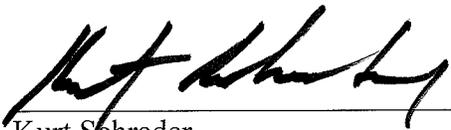
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Joe Heck, D.O.
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Kathy Castor
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Jackie Speier

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Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro
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Cory Gardner

Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

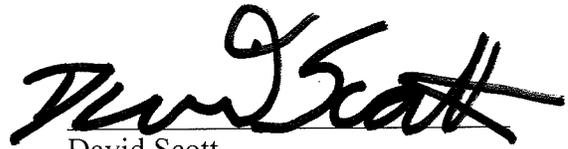
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Marsha Blackburn

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Scott Tipton
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David Scott
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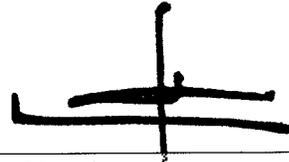
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Cedric Richmond
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Tim Bishop
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Gregg Harper
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Pete Olson
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Mark Pocan
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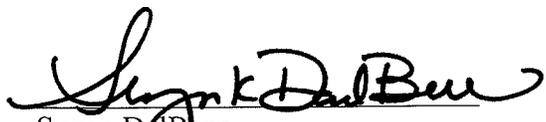
William R. Keating
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Brad Schneider
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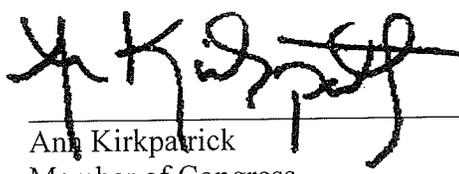

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

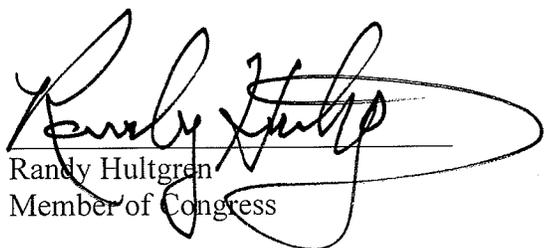

Richard Hanna
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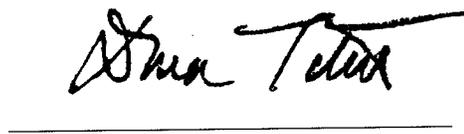

Aaron Schock
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Randy Hultgren
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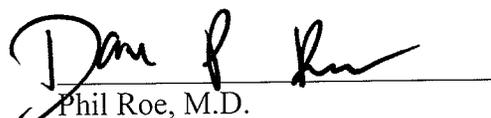

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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Gerald E. Connolly
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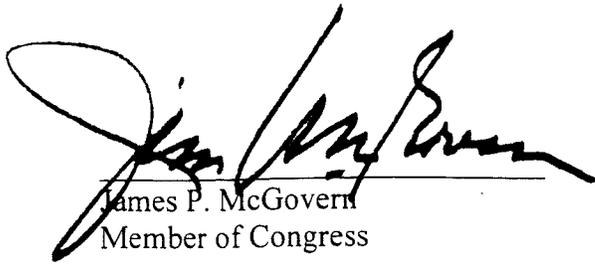
Denny Heck
Denny Heck
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Alan Grayson
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Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Mario Diaz-Balart
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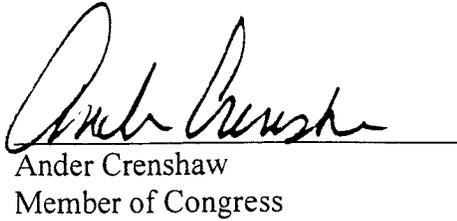
Filemon Vela
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



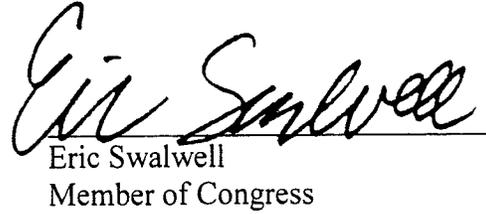
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



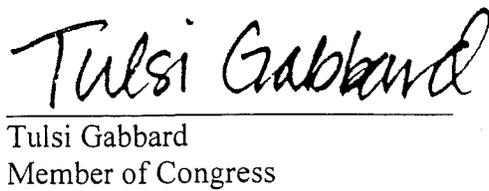
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



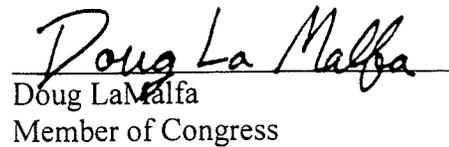
Ander Crenshaw
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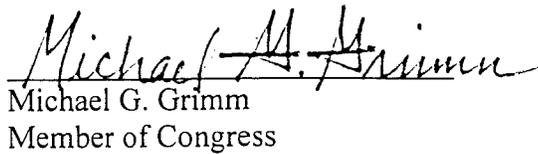
Eric Swalwell
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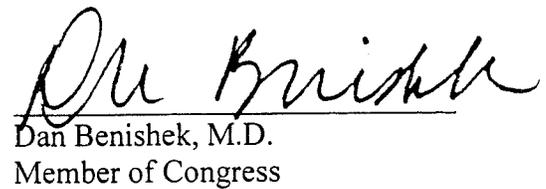
Tulsi Gabbard
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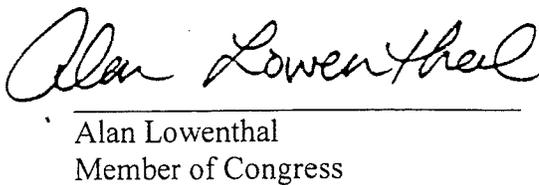
Doug LaMalfa
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Michael G. Grimm
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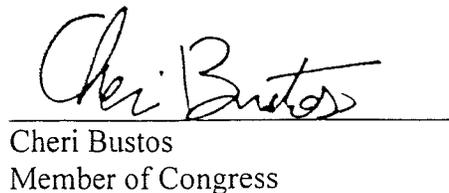
Dan Benishek, M.D.
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Alan Lowenthal
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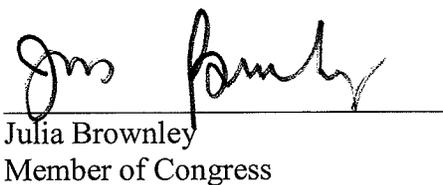
David Valadao
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Cheri Bustos
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Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



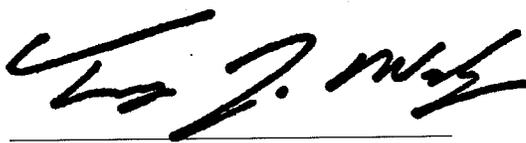
Julia Brownley
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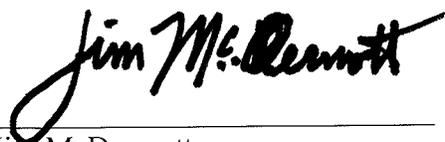
Steve Stivers
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Ted Deutch
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Tim Walz
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Jim McDermott
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Lois Frankel
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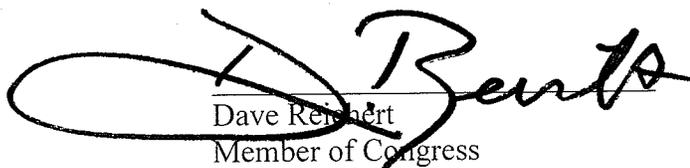
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Mike Quigley
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Dave Reichert
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Terri Sewell
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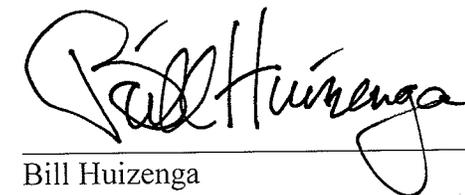
Jerry McNerney
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Pedro R. Pierluisi
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Rush Holt
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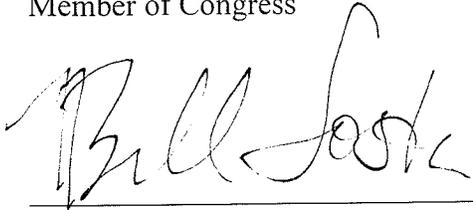
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Jim Costa
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Grace Meng
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Chellie Pingree
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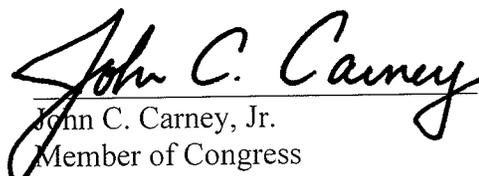
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



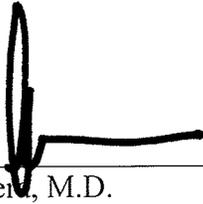
Steven A. Horsford
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Zoe Lofgren
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John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



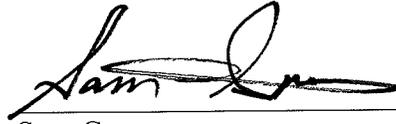
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



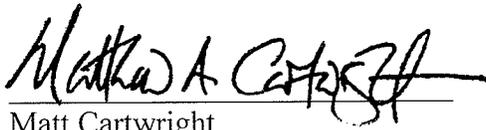
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



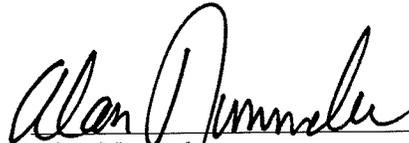
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



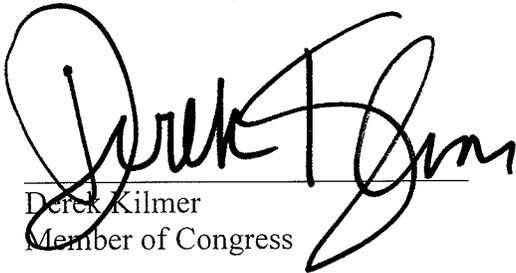
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



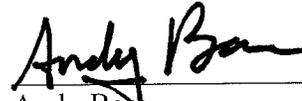
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



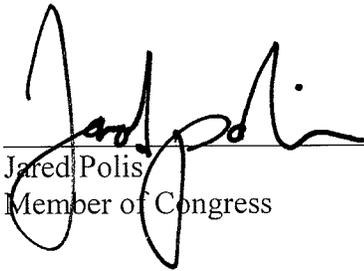
Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



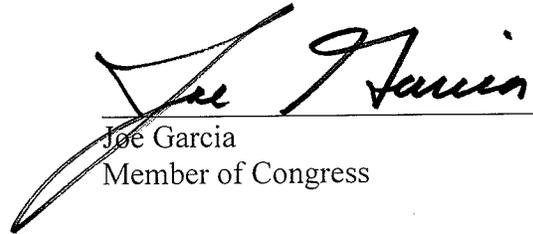
Derek Kilmer
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Andy Barr
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Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



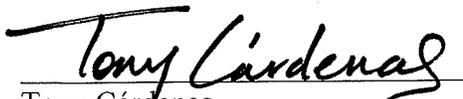
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

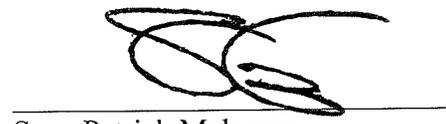

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

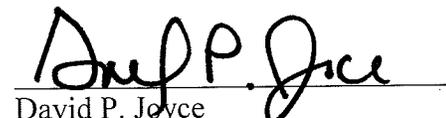

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

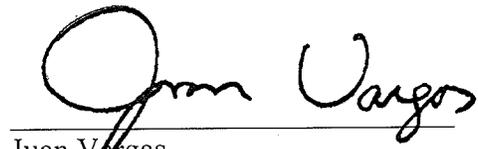

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

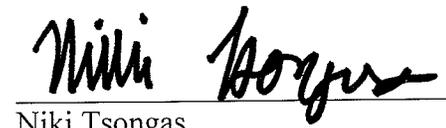

Dave Loebsack
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Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

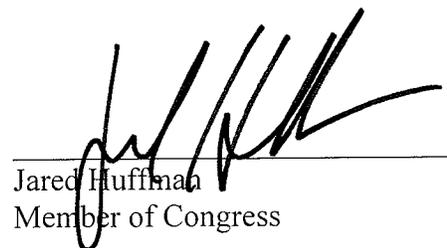

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

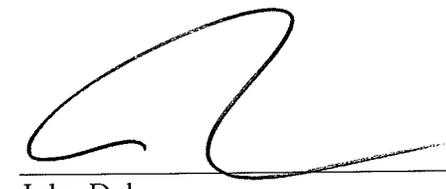

Juan Vargas
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Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


John Delaney
Member of Congress


Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Chris Gibson
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

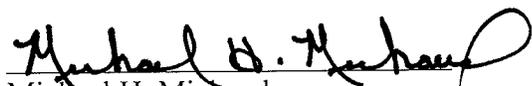

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

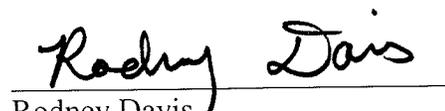

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

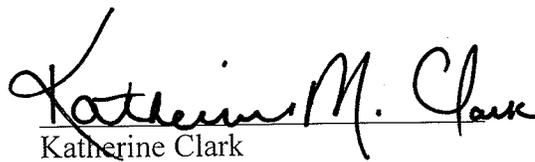

Beto O'Rourke
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Member of Congress


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

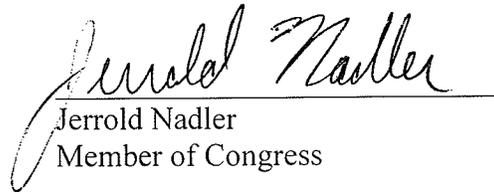

Rodney Davis
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Joe Barton
Member of Congress

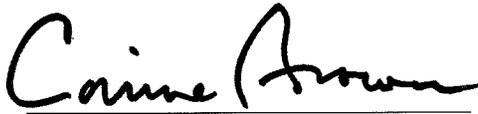

Katherine Clark
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Corinne Brown
Member of Congress



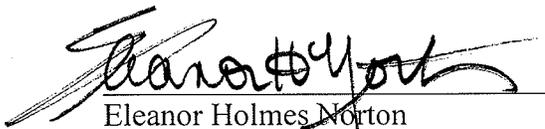
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Peter DeFazio
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



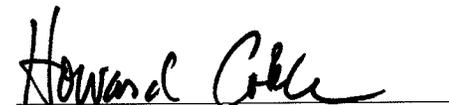
Sheila Jackson Lee
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Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



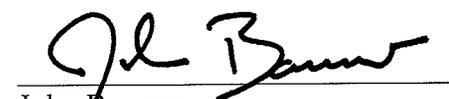
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



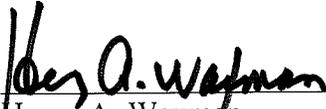
Howard Coble
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



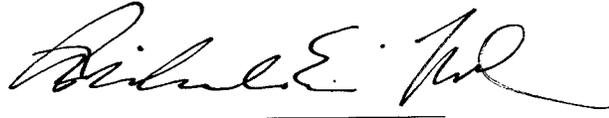
John Barrow
Member of Congress



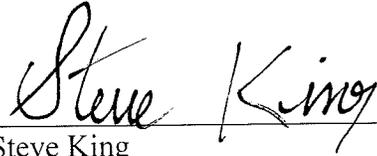
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



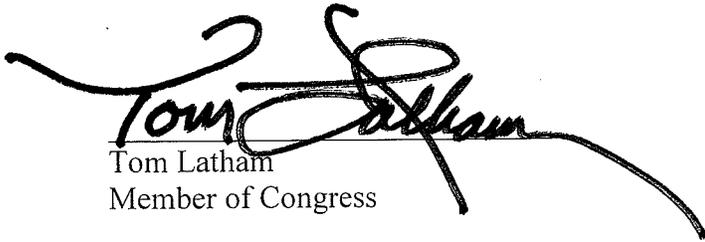
George Miller
Member of Congress



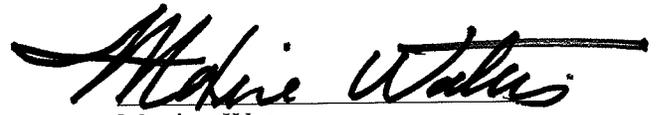
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



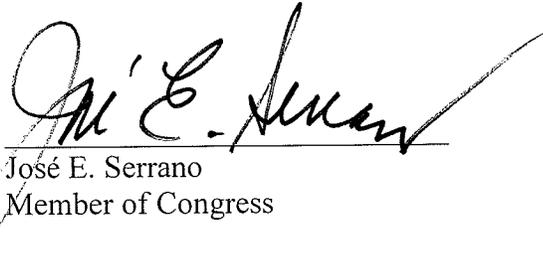
Steve King
Member of Congress



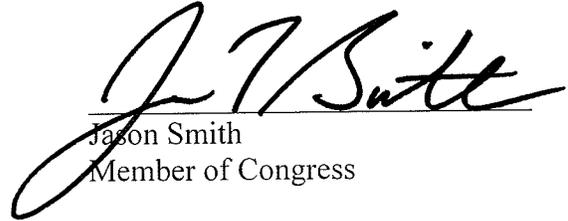
Tom Latham
Member of Congress



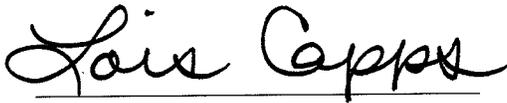
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



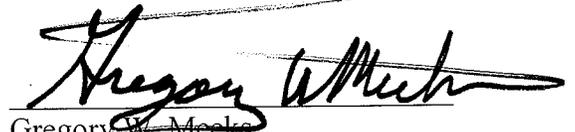
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



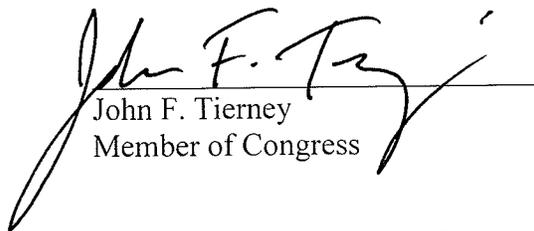
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



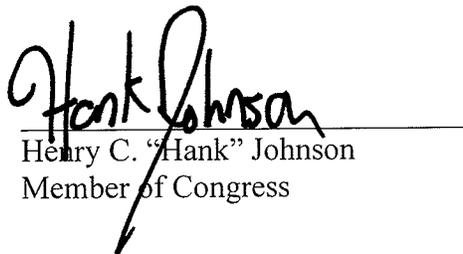
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



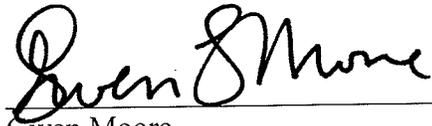
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



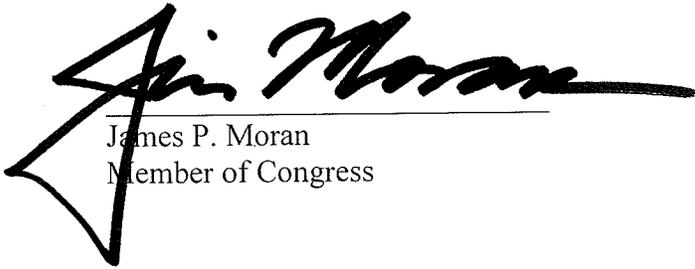
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



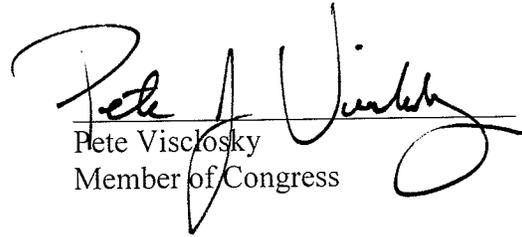
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress



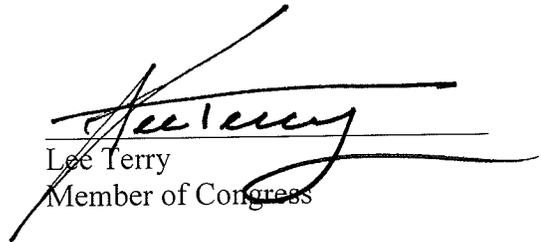
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



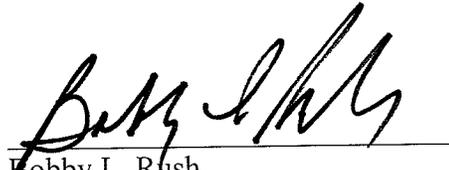
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



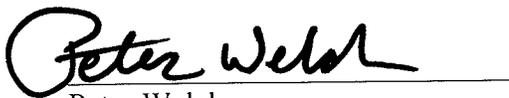
Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



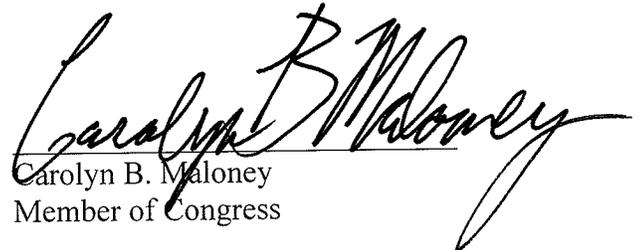
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas

Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

Mike Simpson

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Don Young

Don Young
Member of Congress

John D. Dingell

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

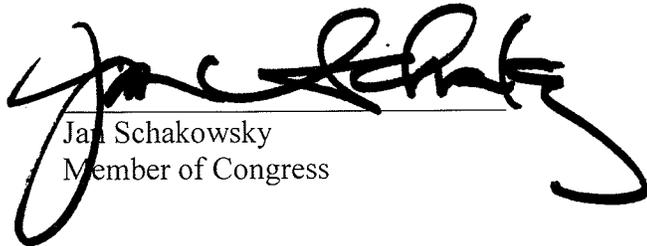
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



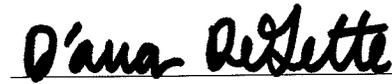
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



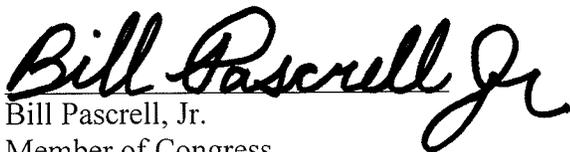
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



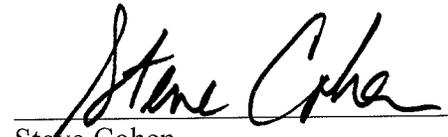
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



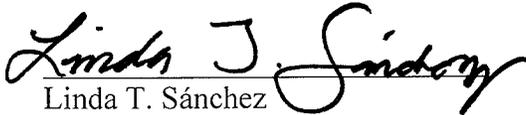
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



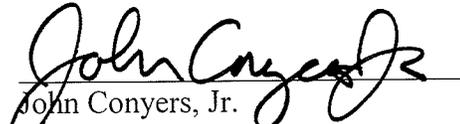
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



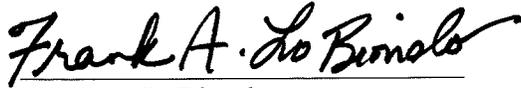
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



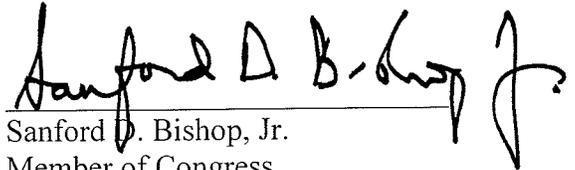
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



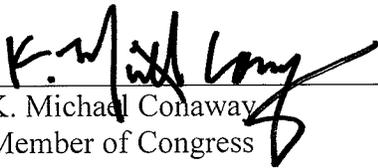
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



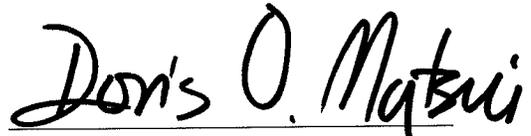
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



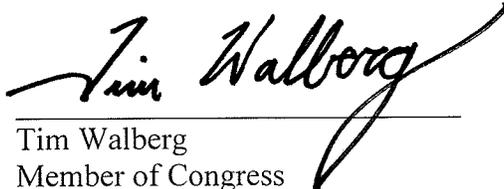
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



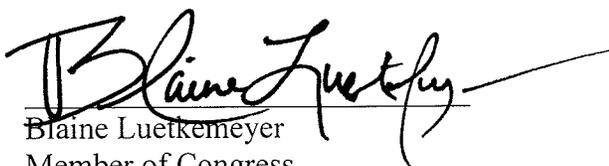
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



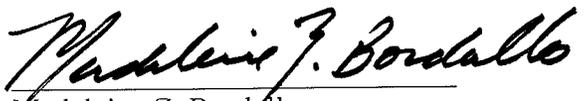
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Tom Garamendi
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



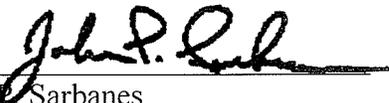
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



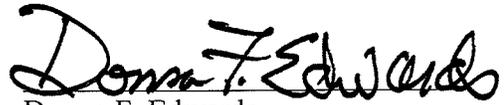
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



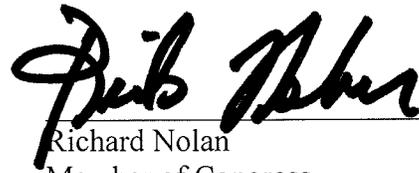
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



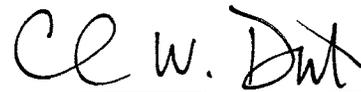
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Richard Nolan
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



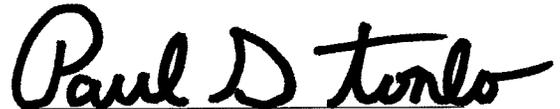
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



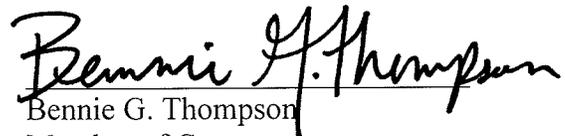
Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



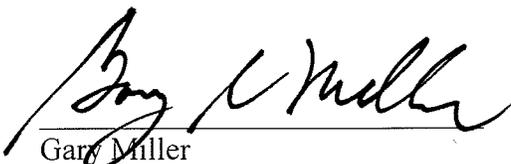
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



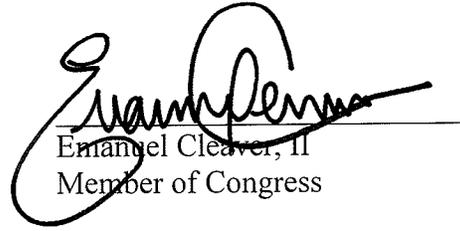
Gary Miller
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress