

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2012

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1300 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Mr. Secretaries:

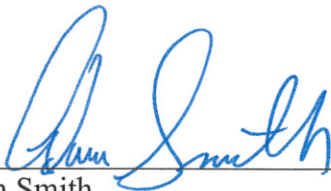
We are requesting your support to continue funding efforts to increase the diversity within the Services, and in particular the Service Academies. Last year, the Military Leadership Diversity Commission found that the demographic composition of the officer corps is not representative of America. Increasing diversity of the force, especially within the officer corps, is a goal that we can all share.

In order to ensure success, diversity leadership should be a core competency for the Services and the Department of Defense. It is important that recruitment and retention policies and programs ensure that a wide-range of communities across the United States are captured to provide Services a large pool of well-qualified, diverse candidates to consider. One step toward ensuring that young diverse leaders are available for consideration to higher military positions is to ensure that they are well represented in the initial development of officers. Another is to develop and hold leaders accountable for instilling diversity within the Armed Forces.

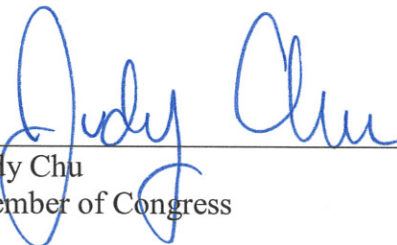
It is important that today's Armed Forces are a reflection of the diversity of America. Ensuring that the diversity of our men and women in uniform at all levels of our military forces sends a strong message to our communities here at home and to those around the world.

We deeply appreciate your support to provide the funds necessary to increase the diversity of our Armed Forces, and look forward to working with all of you to expand opportunities for all.


Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



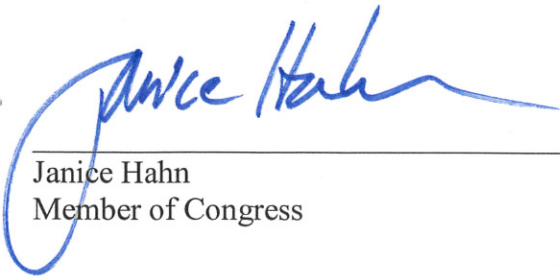
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



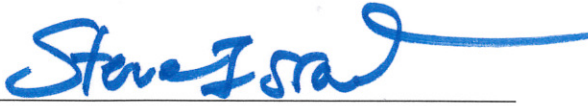
Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress



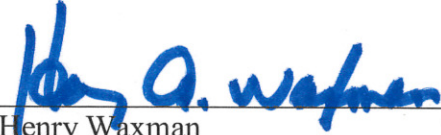
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



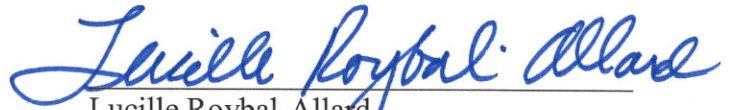
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



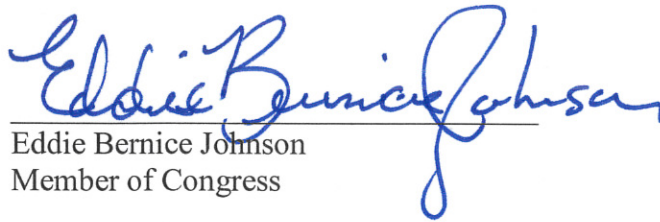
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



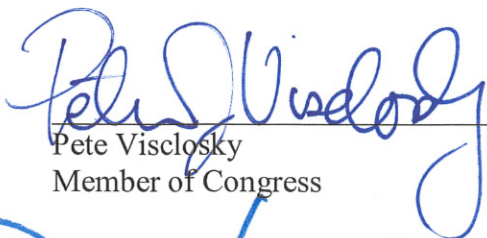
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr
Member of Congress



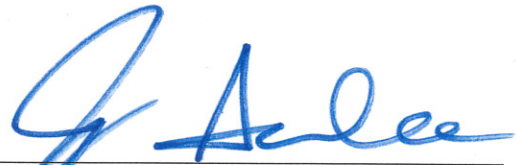
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



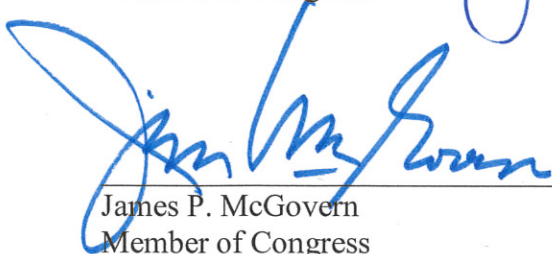
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



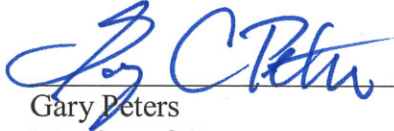
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



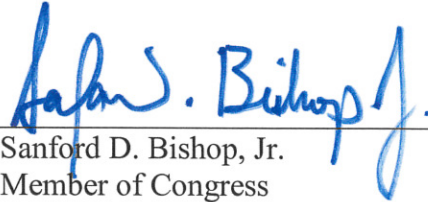
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



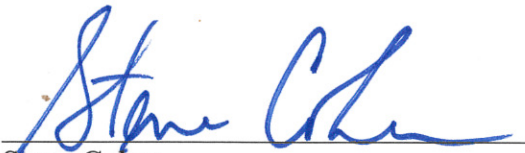
André Carson
Member of Congress



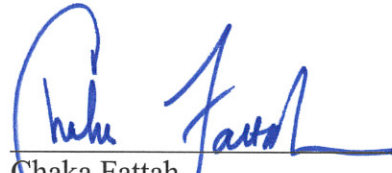
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



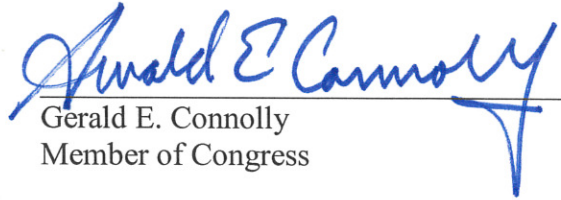
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



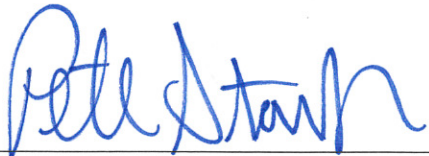
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



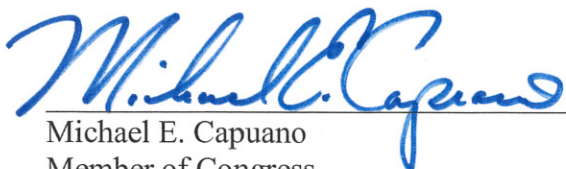
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



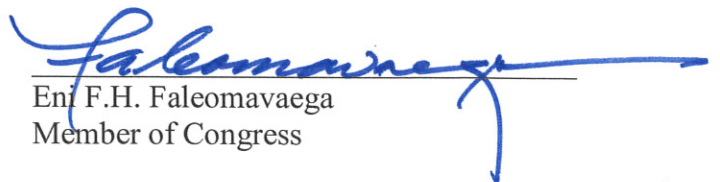
Fortney "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



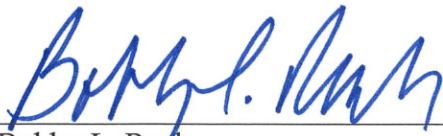
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



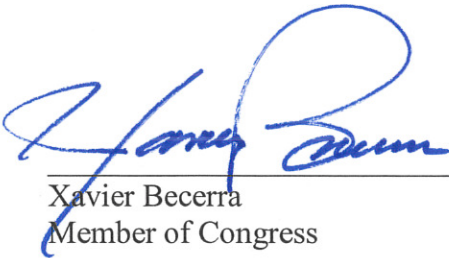
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



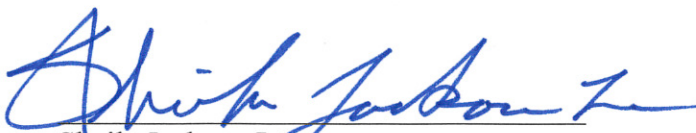
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



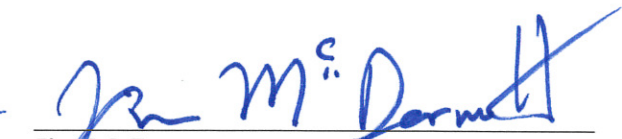
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



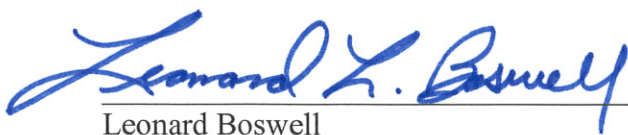
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



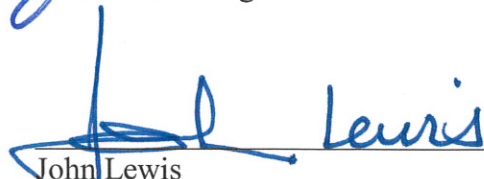
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



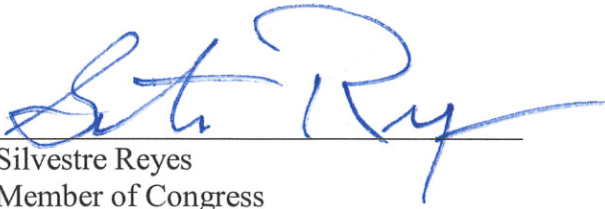
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



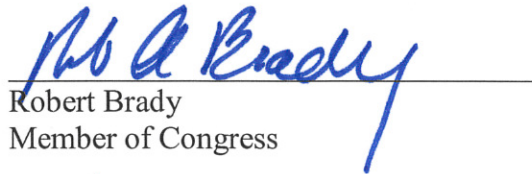
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



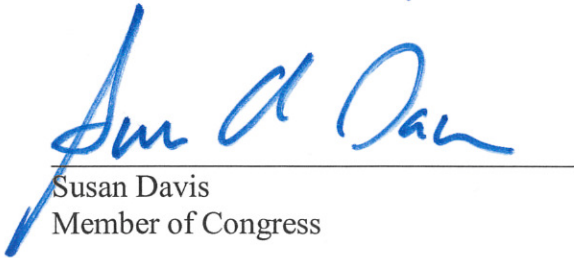
John Lewis
Member of Congress


Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

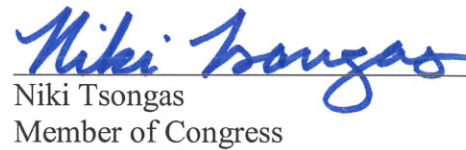

Robert Brady
Member of Congress


Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress


Susan Davis
Member of Congress


Jim Langevin
Member of Congress


Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

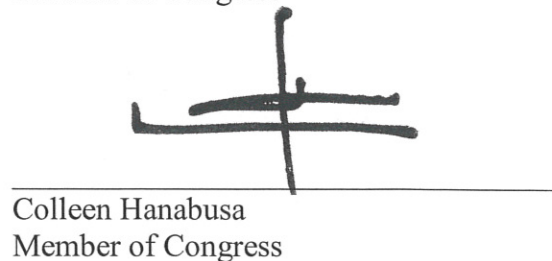

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress