

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to fulfill the promise in your State of the Union address to make this a “year of action” and build upon the momentum of 2013 by signing an executive order banning federal contractors from engaging in employment discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans. As you have said before, “now is the time to end this kind of discrimination, not enable it.”

As we continue to work towards final passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) with strong bipartisan support, we urge you to take action now to protect millions of workers across the country from the threat of discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love. We are committed to doing all that we can in Congress to get ENDA to your desk this year; however, there is no reason you cannot immediately act by taking this important step. This executive order would provide LGBT people with another avenue in the federal government they could turn to if they were the victim of employment discrimination by a federal contractor. When combined with ENDA, these non-discrimination protections would parallel those that have been in place for decades on the basis of race, sex and religion.

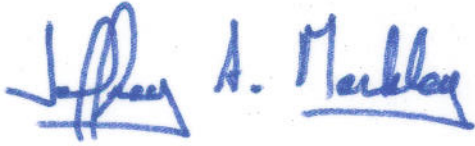
An executive order covering LGBT employees would be in line with a bipartisan, decades-long commitment to eradicating taxpayer-funded discrimination in the workplace. In 1941, President Roosevelt prohibited discrimination in defense contracts on the bases of race, creed, color, or national origin. In subsequent executive orders, Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson expanded these protections to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to discriminate.

In addition, most of the largest government contractors – companies like Boeing, Raytheon, and Lockheed Martin – have LGBT non-discrimination policies in place. They adopted them because business leaders recognize that discrimination is bad for the bottom line.

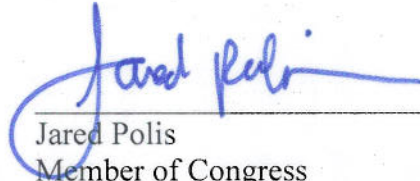
Finally, time is of the essence. Even with an executive order in place, full implementation of these protections will require regulations to be developed and finalized, a process that will take many months, if not longer, to fully put in place.

Issuing an executive order prohibiting discrimination against LGBT workers in federal contracts would build on the significant progress for LGBT rights made during your time as President and would further your legacy as a champion for LGBT equality. We urge you to act now to prevent irrational, taxpayer-funded workplace discrimination against LGBT Americans.

Sincerely,



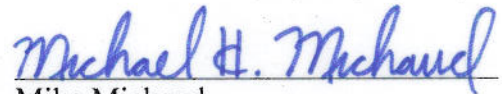
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



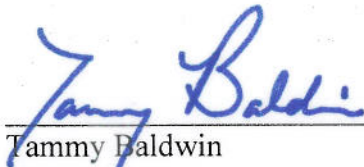
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



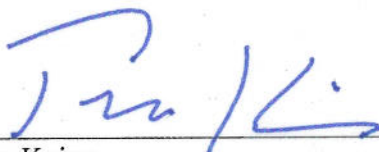
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress




Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



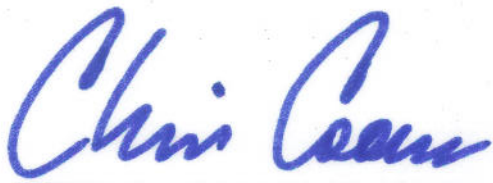
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



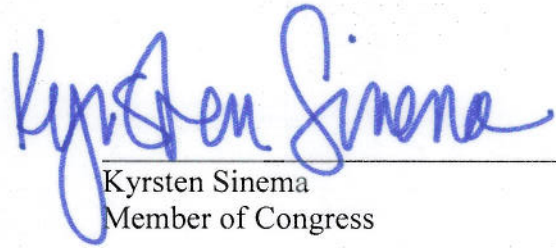
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Christopher Coons
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



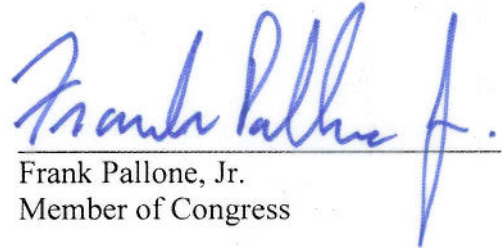
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



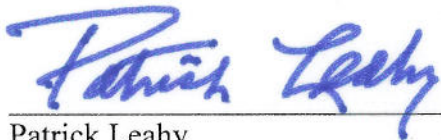
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



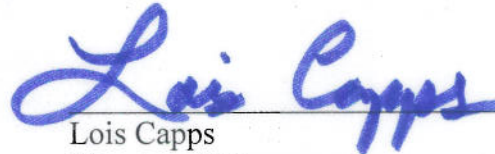
Richard Durbin
United States Senator



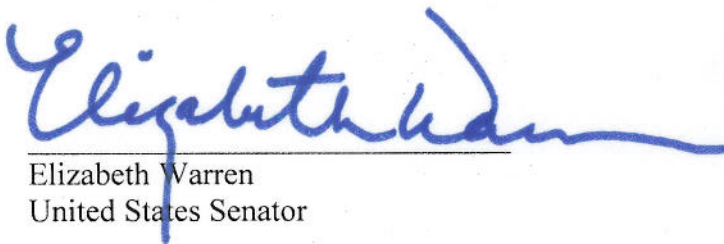
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



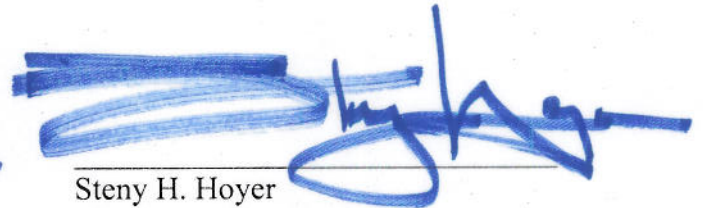
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



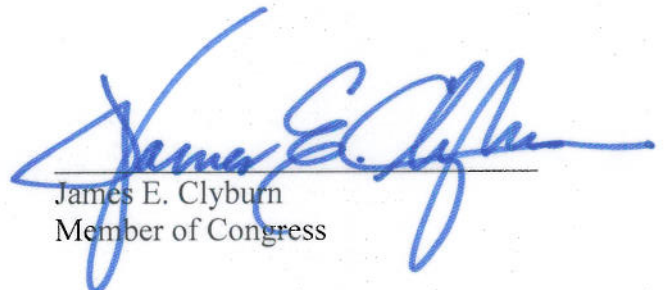
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



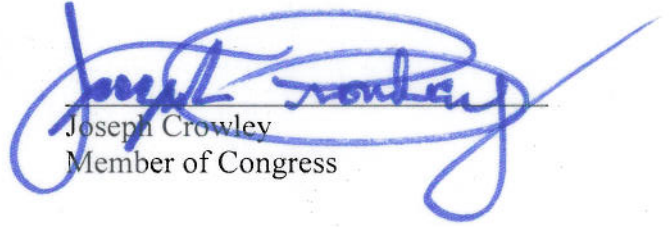
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Patty Murray
United States Senator



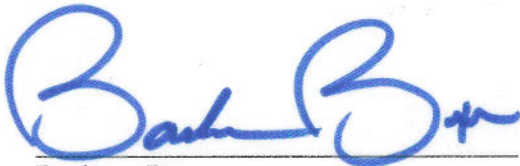
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



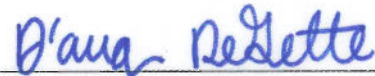
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



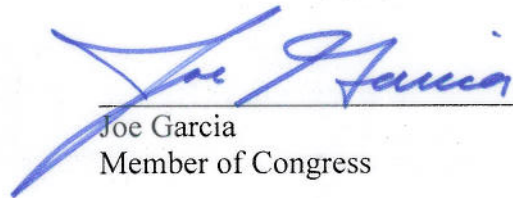
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



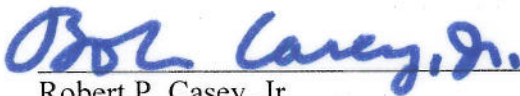
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



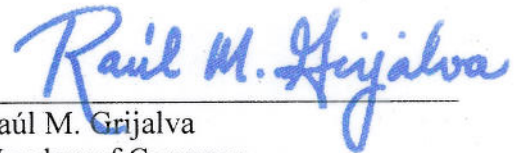
Carl Levin
United States Senator



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



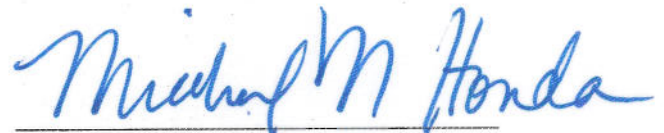
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



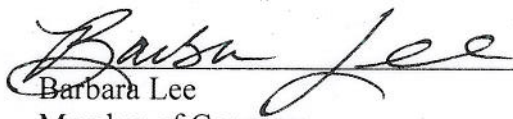
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



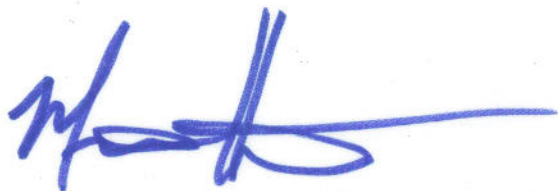
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Al Franken
United States Senator



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



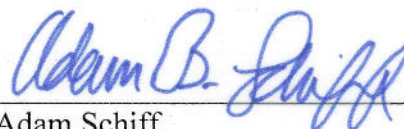
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



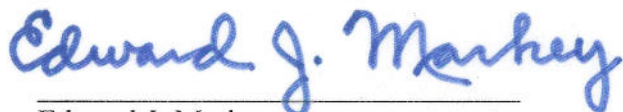
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



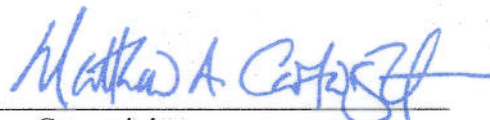
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



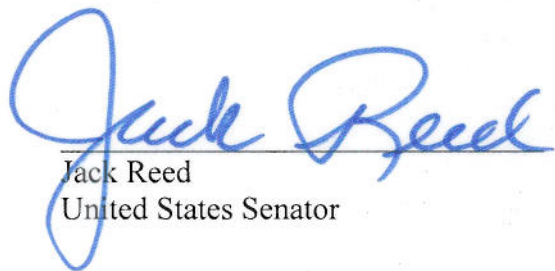
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



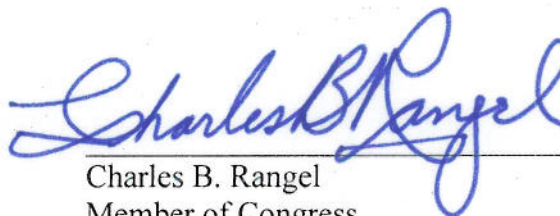
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



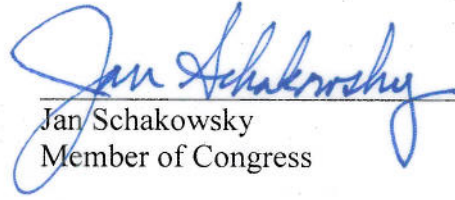
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



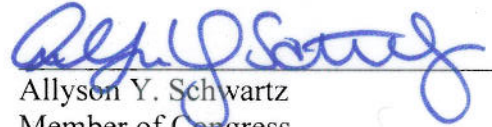
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



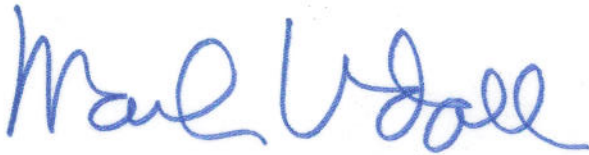
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



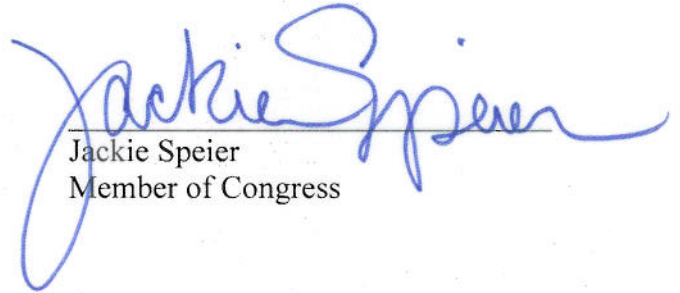
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



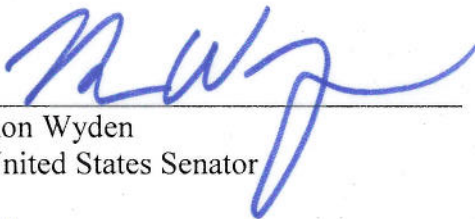
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
United States Senator



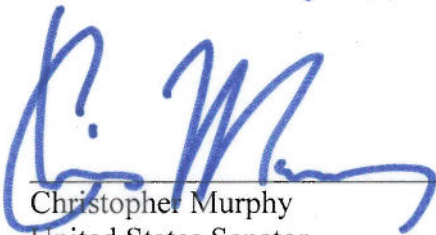
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



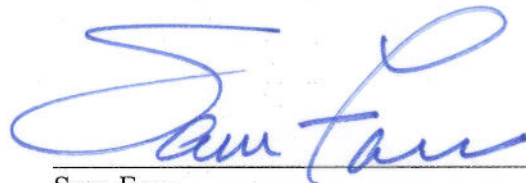
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



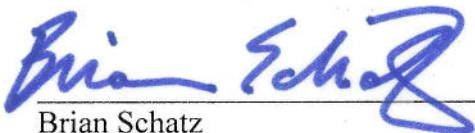
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



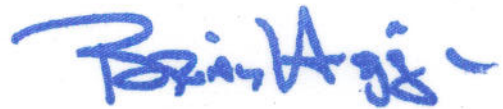
Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



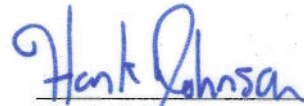
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



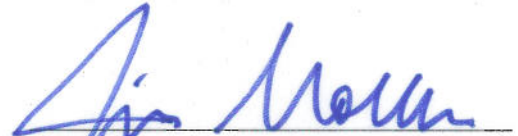
Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



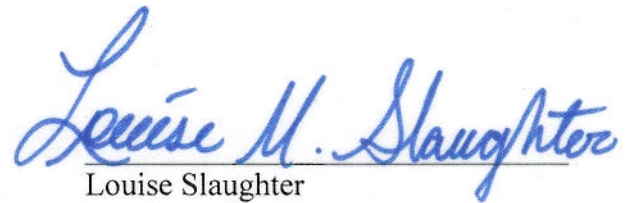
Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Jim Moran
Member of Congress



Charles Schumer
United States Senator



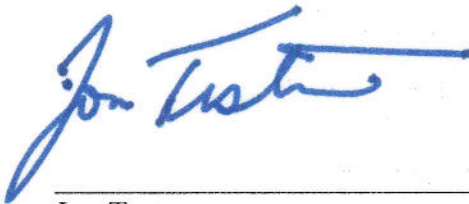
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



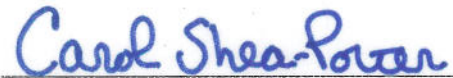
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



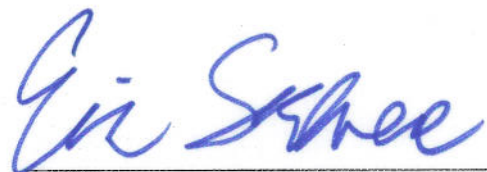
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Mark Begich
United States Senator



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Mary L. Landrieu

Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Susan A. Davis

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Cory Booker

Cory Booker
United States Senator

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Claire McCaskill

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Alice L. Hastings

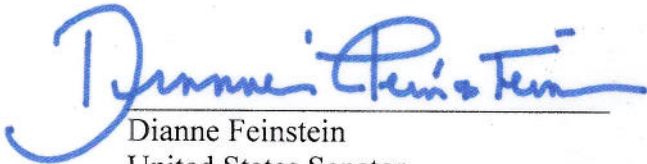
Alice L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Richard Blumenthal

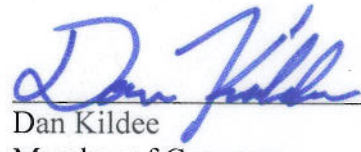
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Steven A. Horsford

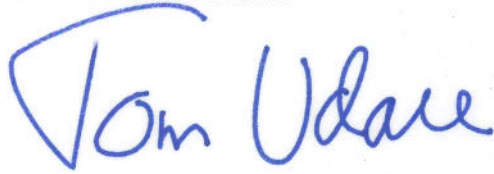
Steven A. Horsford
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



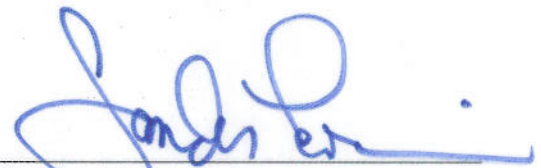
John D. Rockefeller, IV
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



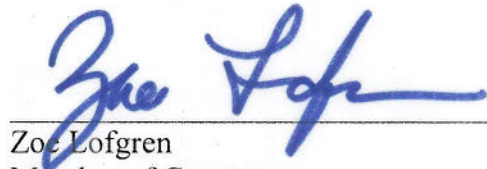
Mark Warner
United States Senator



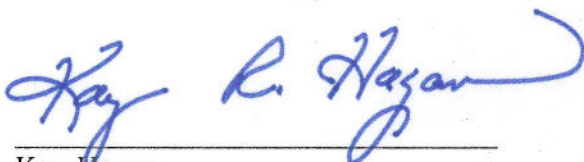
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



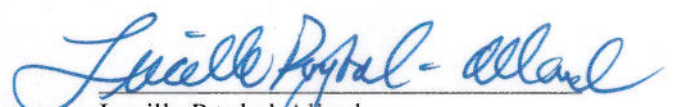
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



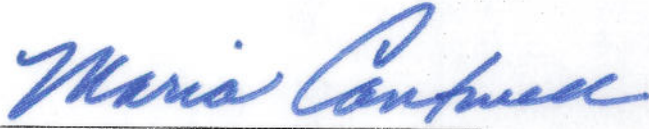
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



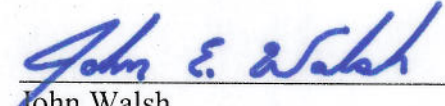
Kay Hagan
United States Senator



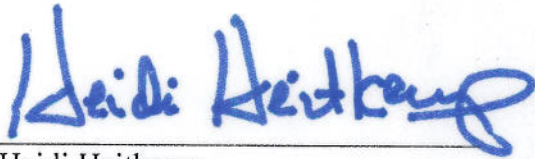
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



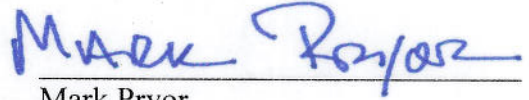
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



John Walsh
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Mark Pryor
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Linda T. Sánchez
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

George Miller
George Miller
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

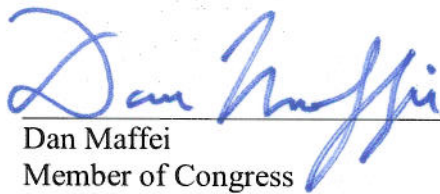
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

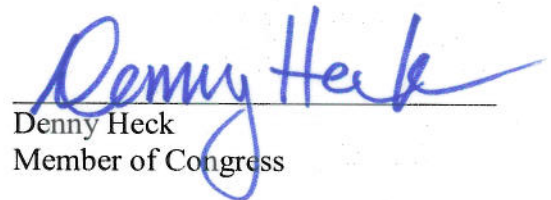
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

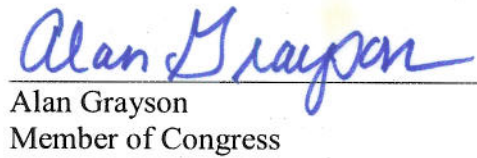
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

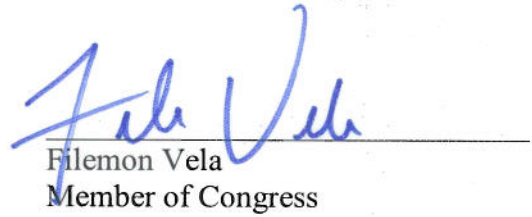
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

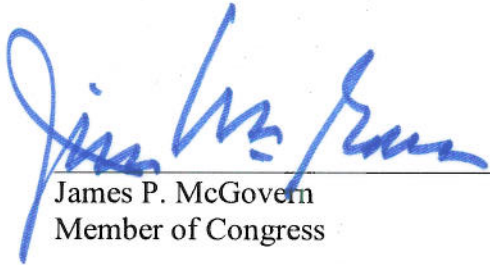
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

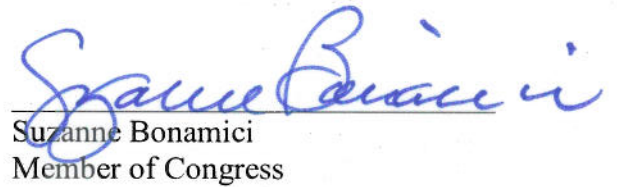

Dan Maffei
Member of Congress

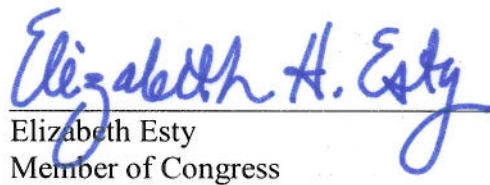

Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

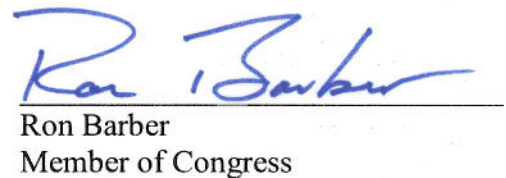

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

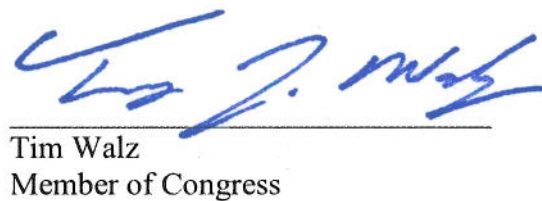

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

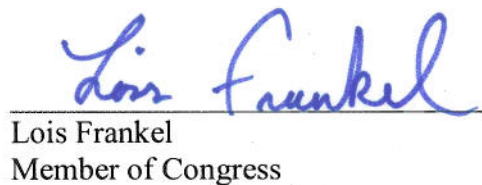

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

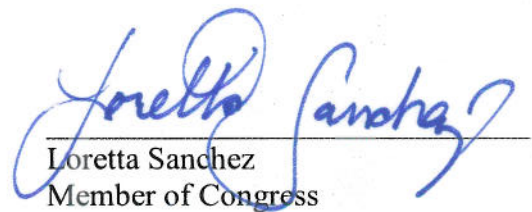

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress


Ron Barber
Member of Congress


Tim Walz
Member of Congress

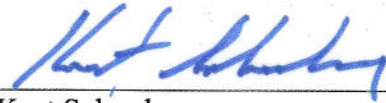

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

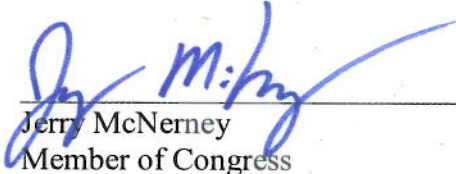

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



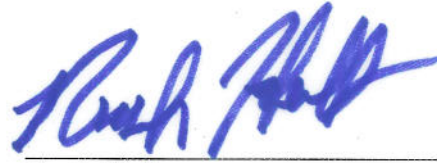
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



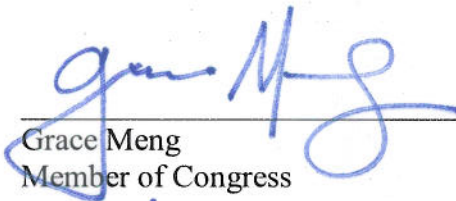
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



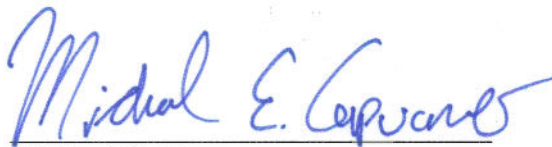
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



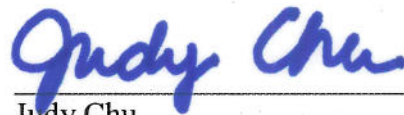
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



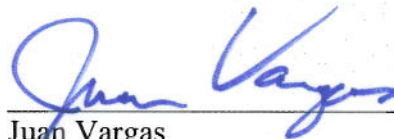
Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



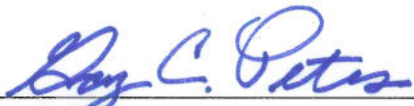
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



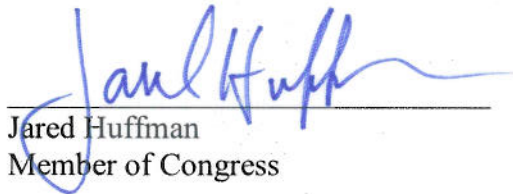
Dave Loebsock
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



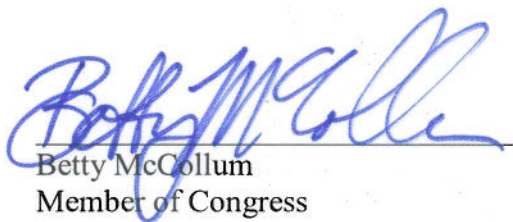
Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



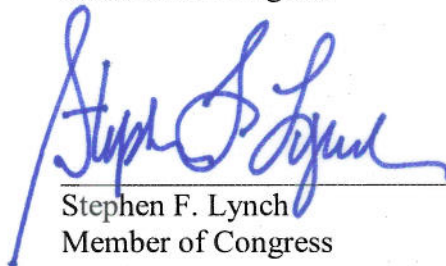
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



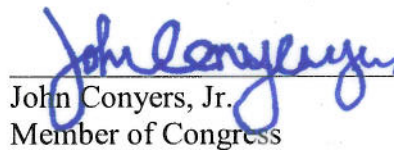
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



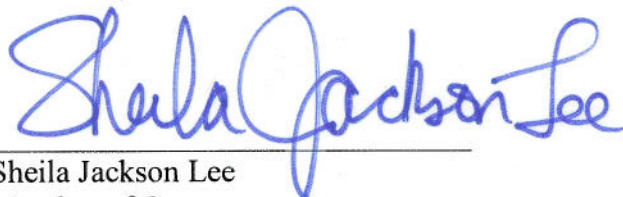
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



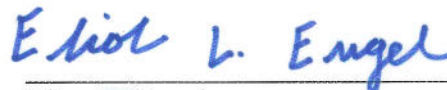
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



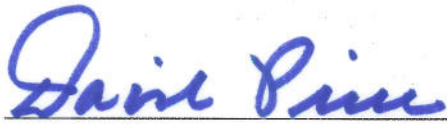
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



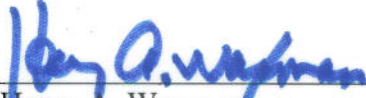
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



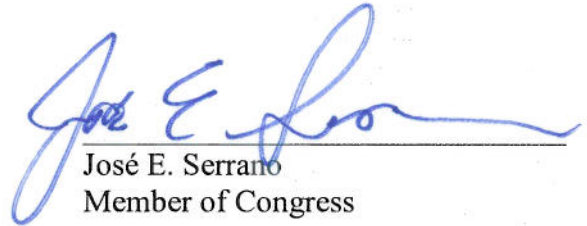
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



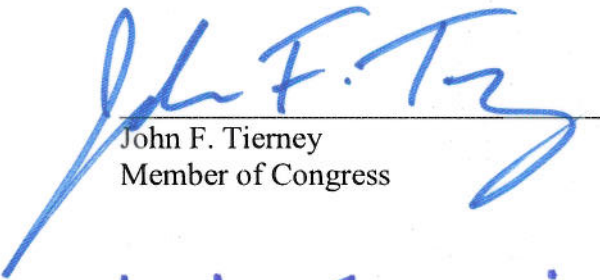
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



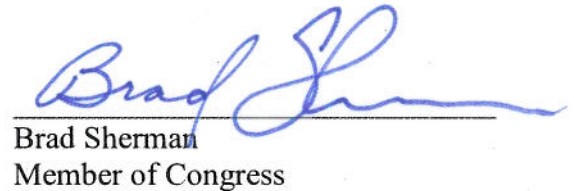
Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



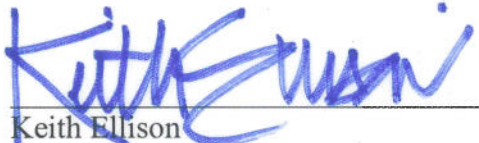
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



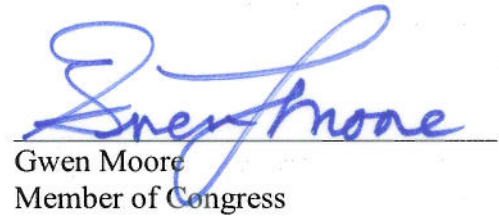
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



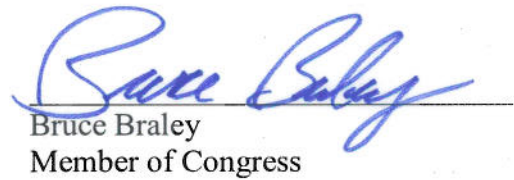
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



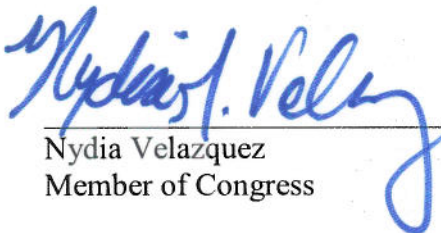
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



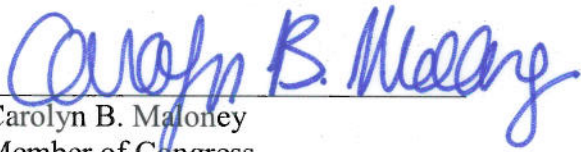
Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



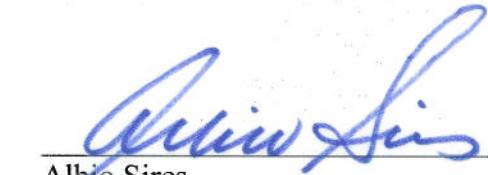
Nydia Velazquez
Member of Congress



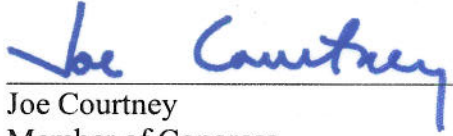
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



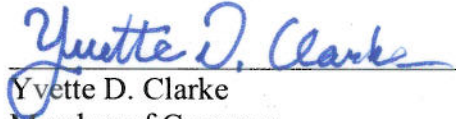
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



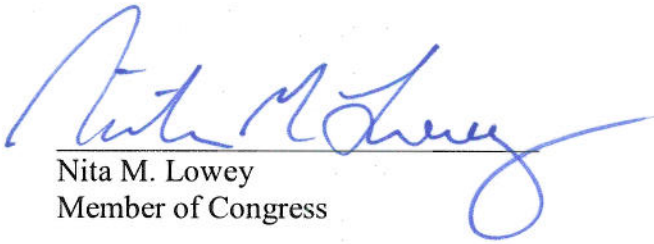
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



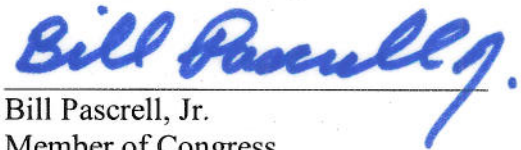
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



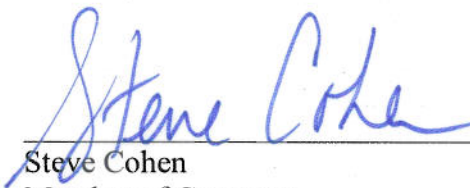
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



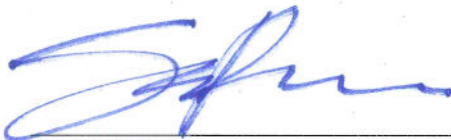
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



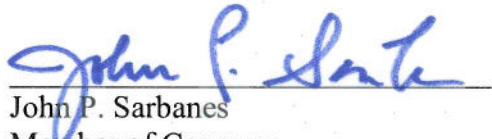
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



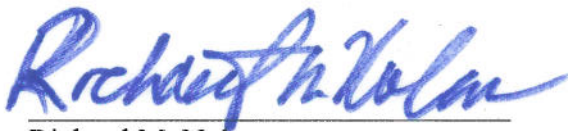
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



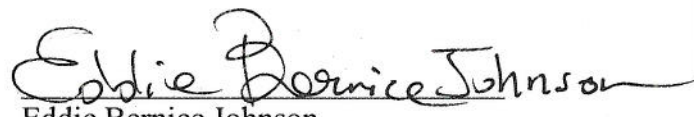
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



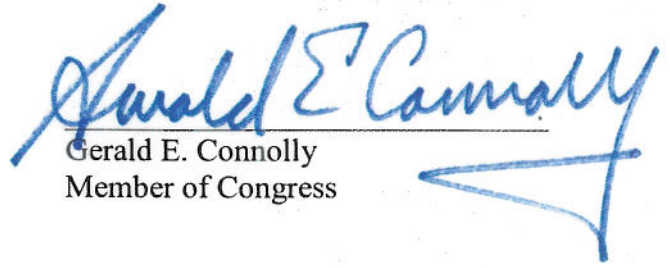
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



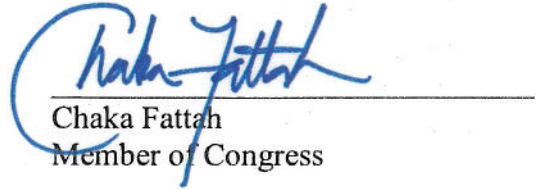
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



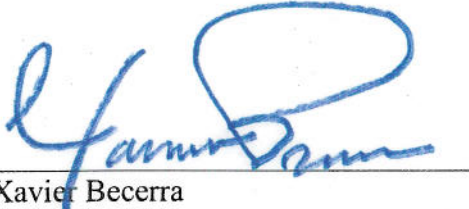
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



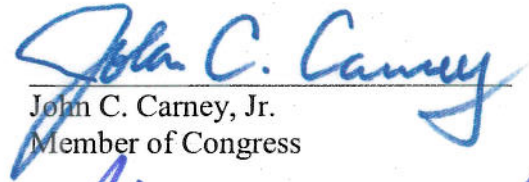
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



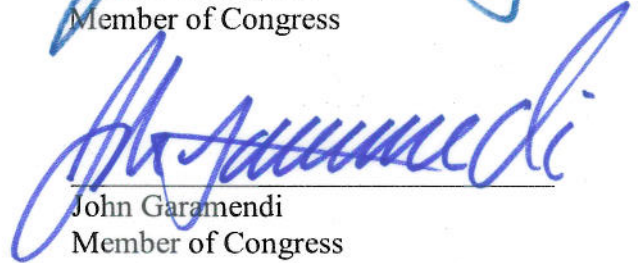
Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



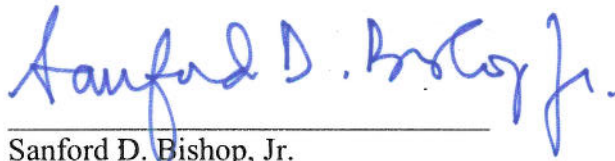
John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



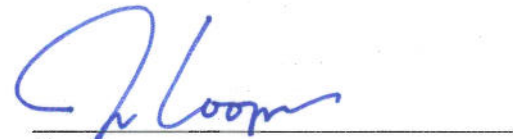
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



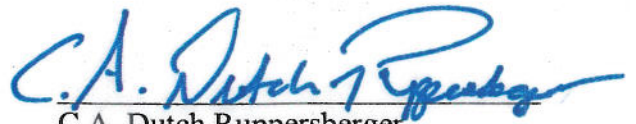
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



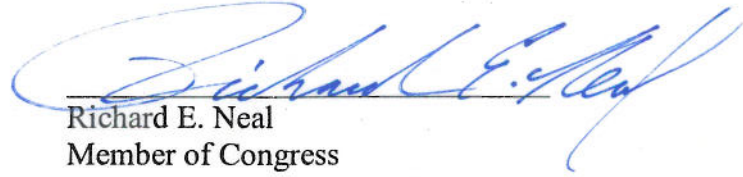
Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



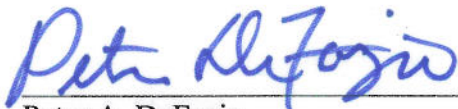
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



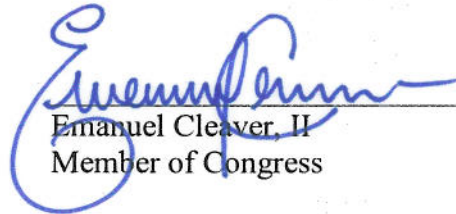
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



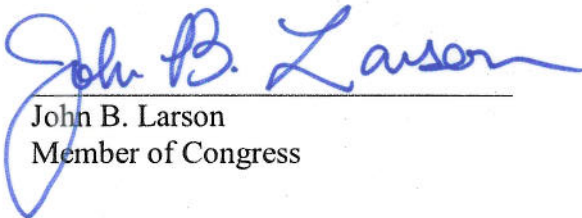
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress