

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 15, 2013

Dear President Obama:

We want to thank you for standing strong in the American Taxpayer Relief Act to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from benefit cuts that would jeopardize the well-being of millions of Americans.

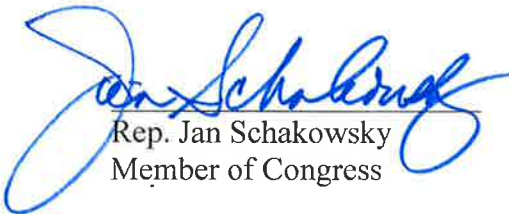
We write to affirm our vigorous opposition to cutting Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits in any final bill to replace sequestration. Earned Social Security and Medicare benefits provide the financial and health protections necessary to keep individuals and families out of poverty. Medicaid is not only a lifeline for low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and families, it is the primary source of long-term care services and supports for 3.6 million individuals. We cannot overstate their importance for our constituents and our country.

That is why we remain deeply opposed to proposals to reduce Social Security benefits through use of the chained CPI to calculate cost-of-living adjustments. We remain committed to making the changes that will extend solvency for 75 years, but Social Security has not contributed to our current fiscal problems and it should not be on the bargaining table.

Similarly, we oppose proposals to increase Medicare cost-sharing requirements or to raise the age of eligibility. Half of all Medicare recipients live on less than \$22,000 a year – yet they spend, on average, three times as much of those limited incomes on health care as other Americans. Raising their already heavy cost-sharing burden or increasing the age of eligibility doesn't lower health care costs, it just shifts them to those who can least afford more financial burdens – seniors, people with disabilities and their families.

A commitment to keeping the middle-class strong and reducing poverty requires a commitment to keeping Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid strong. We urge you to reject any proposals to cut benefits, and we look forward to working with you to enact approaches that instead rely on economic growth and more fair revenue-raising policies to solve our fiscal problems.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Rep. Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Rep. Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

*Karen Bass*

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

*Suzanne Bonamici*

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

*Robert Brady*

Robert Brady  
Member of Congress

*Bruce Braley*

Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

*Corrine Brown*

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

*Julia Brownley*

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

*Cheri Bustos*

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

*G.K. Butterfield*

G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

*Lois Capps*

Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

*Tony Cardenas*

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

*Matt Cartwright*

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

*Donna Christensen*

Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

*Judy Chu*

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

*David N. Cicilline*

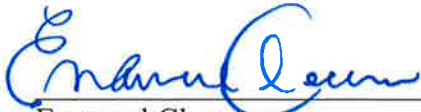
David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

*Wm. Lacy Clay*

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

*Yvette D. Clarke*

Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



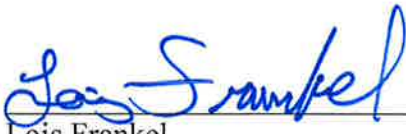
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



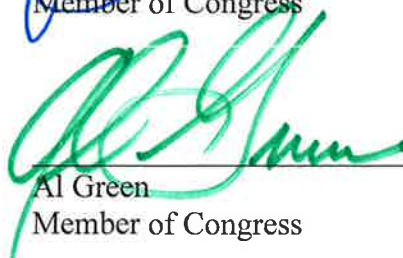
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress


  
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

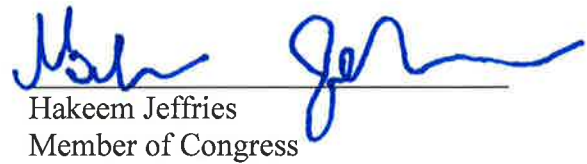
  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

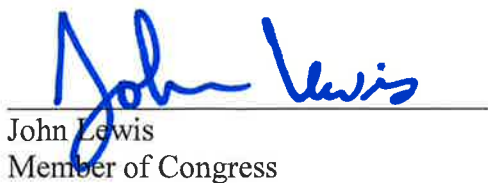
  
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress

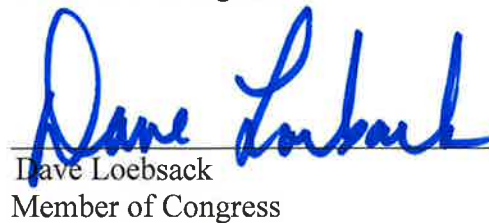
  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

  
James Langevin  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



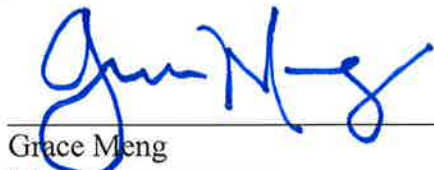
Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress



Ed Markey  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



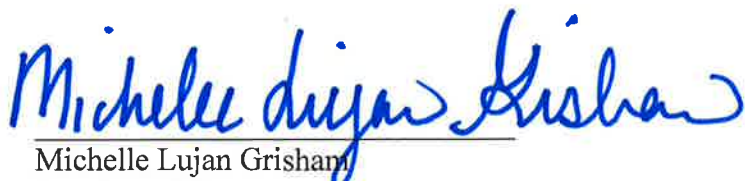
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress



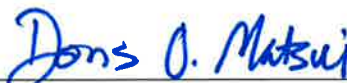
Donald Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



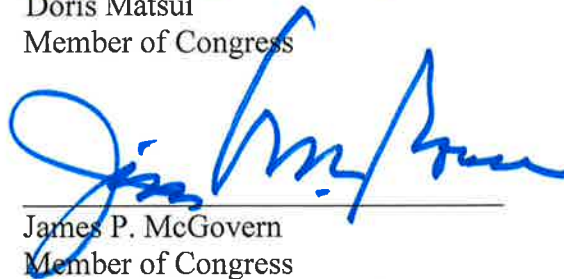
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



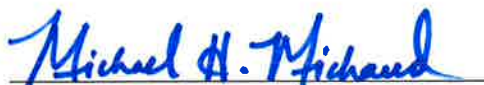
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



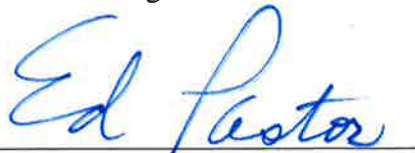
Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress



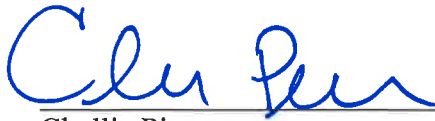
Jerry Nadler  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress




Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



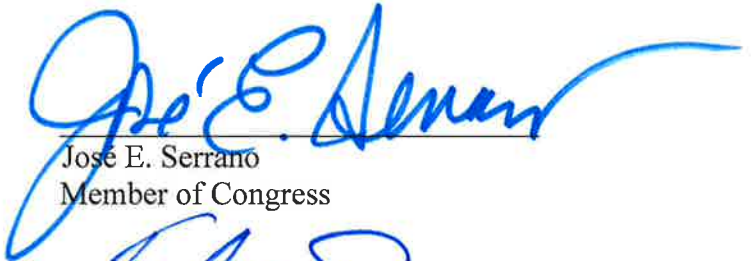
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress



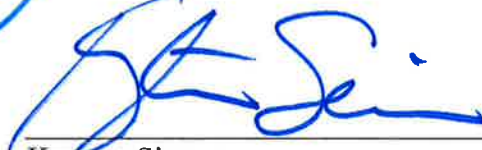
Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress



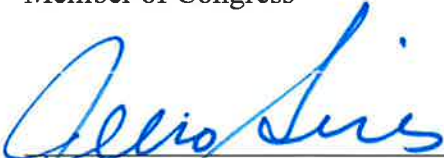
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



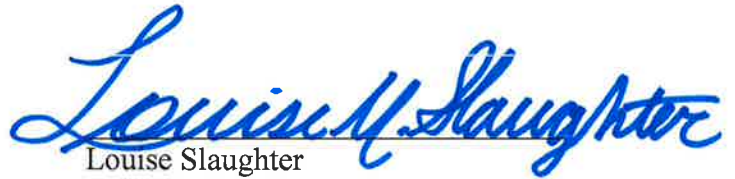
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



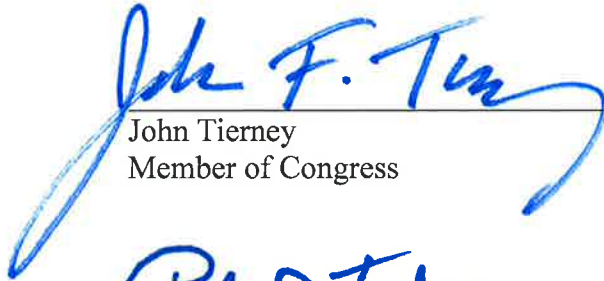
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress



John Tierney  
Member of Congress



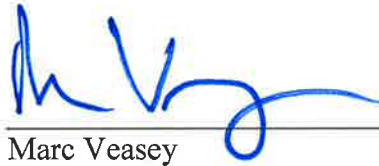
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



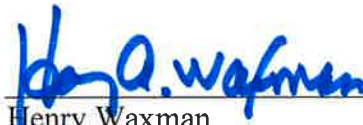
Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress



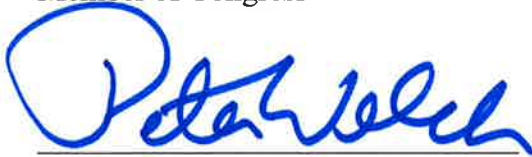
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Mel Watt  
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



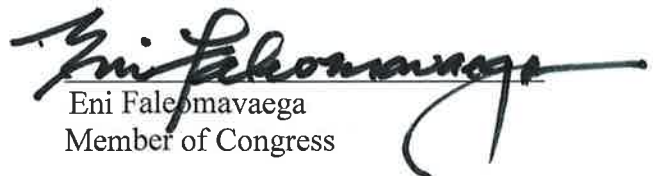
Ron Barber  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress




Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

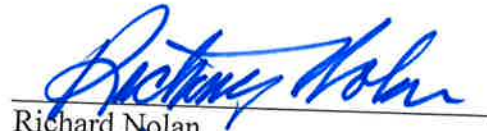


Eni Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress


  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

  
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

  
Richard Nolan  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

  
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

cc: Speaker John Boehner  
House Minority Leader Pelosi  
Senate Majority Leader Reid  
Senate Minority Leader McConnell