

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2013

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 The Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Visclosky:

In the United States in 2013 alone approximately 296,000 women and 2,240 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die of the disease. While we have made some progress in prevention efforts, more accurate diagnosis, and better treatments, much work remains to be done to end breast cancer once and for all. As a nation, we must continue to show a commitment to changing these statistics and finding answers to these questions.

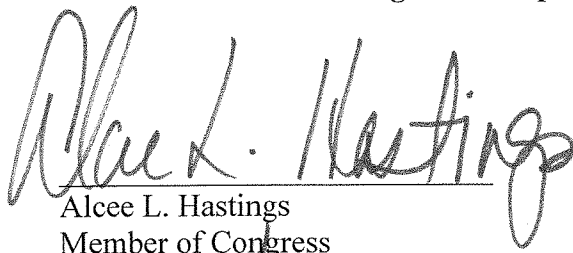
Fortunately, thanks to your leadership and support, as well as that of the Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Subcommittee and the entire Appropriations Committee, the DOD peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) has led the way in the fight against breast cancer since it began in 1992 and now offers true promise in finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer once and for all. **In order to continue its progress towards this goal, we urge you to include level funding for the DOD BCRP in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2014. It is our** understanding this request is fully consistent with the House of Representatives prohibition on earmarks, as stated in House Rule XXI, Clause 9.

As both of you are aware, the DOD BCRP has established itself across the nation and around the world as a model medical research program. Some of the keys to the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP's success are:

- **This Program is innovative and unique.** The DOD BCRP has a unique grants structure that allows it to be more flexible than other traditional competitive, peer-reviewed medical research programs. Due to this structure, it is able to fund innovative, high-risk, high-return research and quickly respond to current scientific advances. In addition, the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP is able to fill gaps by focusing on areas of research that are promising but otherwise underfunded. In its reviews of the DOD BCRP, the Institute of Medicine has stated, "the program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer."
- **It addresses specific needs.** The DOD BCRP directs research to address specific health concerns that are a priority and identifies the specific research areas where funding is to be allocated.

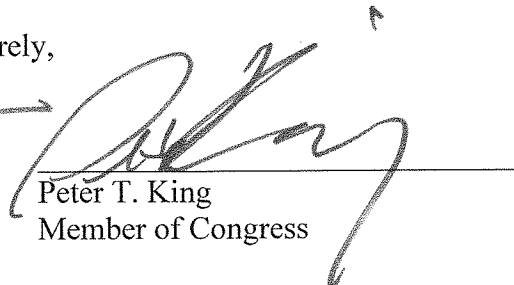
- **It is efficient.** 90 percent of the appropriated funding goes directly to competitive, peer-reviewed research grants awarded to the best science.
- **It is accountable to the public and transparent.** Educated, trained consumer advocates participate in a two-tiered process where research proposals are reviewed first for scientific quality, and then for programmatic relevance. This consumer involvement allows for grant funding decisions to be based on the real-life experiences, concerns and needs of both the patient and medical communities. It allows for the perspective of those who have no agenda other than to end breast cancer for everyone. Once funded by the DOD BCRP, each researcher must present their results online on the program's website and at public meetings called "Era of Hope." This transparency allows scientists, consumers and the public to view the progress made in breast cancer research through the DOD BCRP.
- **It has produced extraordinary results.** The DOD BCRP has made significant scientific breakthroughs that have contributed to our understanding and treatment of breast cancer. For example, the drug trastuzumab (Herceptin) developed as a result of research funded through the DOD BCRP, can prolong the lives of women with a particularly aggressive type of advanced breast cancer that was previously untreatable.
- **It benefits all.** As the first of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs), the DOD BCRP strives to uphold the vision of the CDMRPs "to find and fund the best research to eradicate diseases and support the war fighter for the benefit of the American public." It does so by directly supporting the over 400,000 women currently serving on active duty, in the Reserves and National Guard, their male counterparts, and their families - as well as the millions living with breast cancer across the nation and around the world

The DOD BCRP has proven itself a powerful weapon in the fight against breast cancer and continues to bring us closer to finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer once and for all. On behalf of the millions of Americans living with breast cancer, their families, and friends, **we ask you to continue your support for and investment in the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP and include level funding in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for FY2014.**

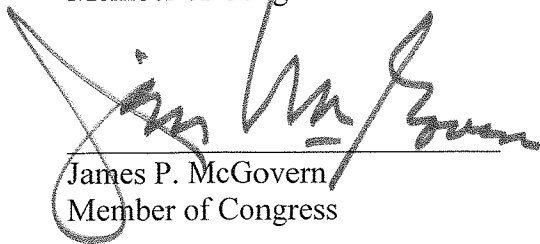


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Peter T. King
Member of Congress





James P. McGovern
Member of Congress




Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress


Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

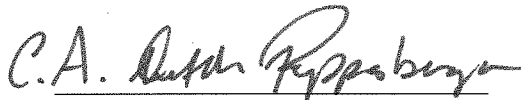

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

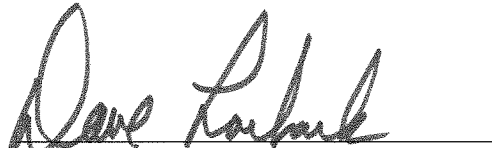

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress


Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress


John Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

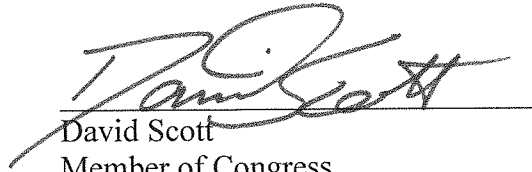

Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress


David Cicilline
Member of Congress

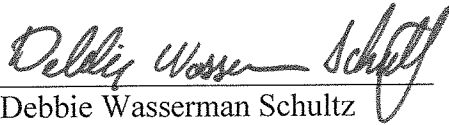

Ron Kind
Member of Congress



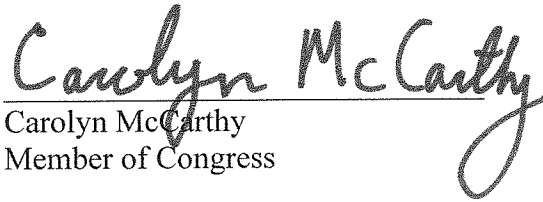
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



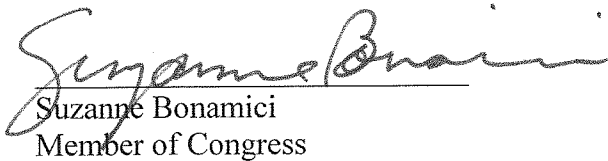
David Scott
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



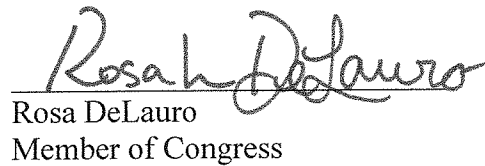
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



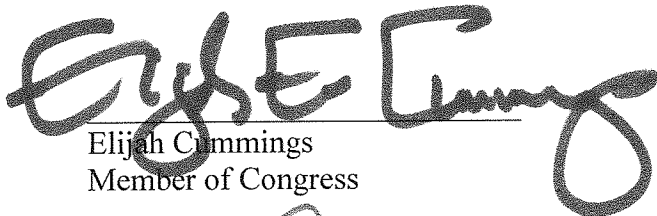
Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



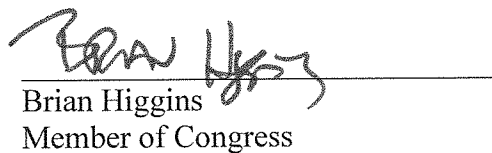
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



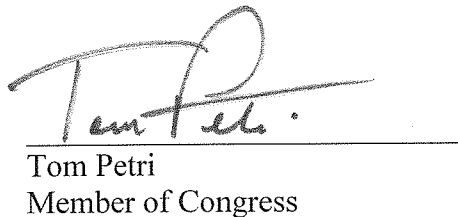
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



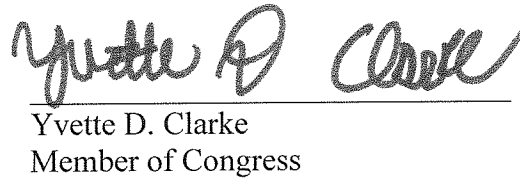
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



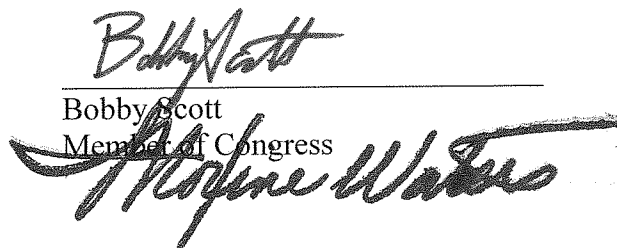
Tom Petri
Member of Congress



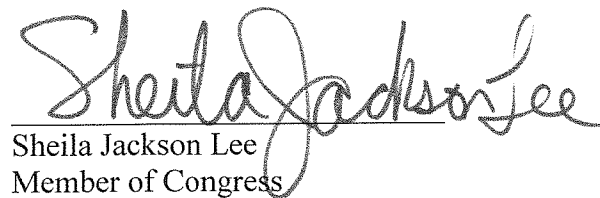
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Andre Carson
Member of Congress

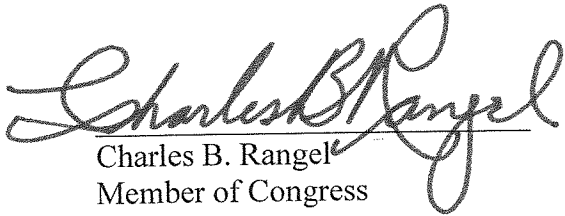


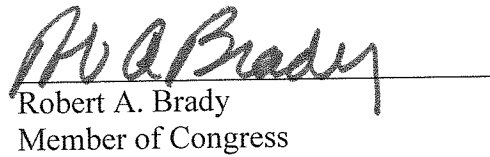
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress



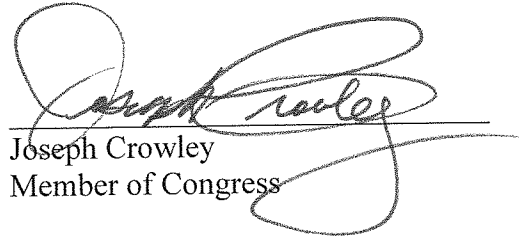
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

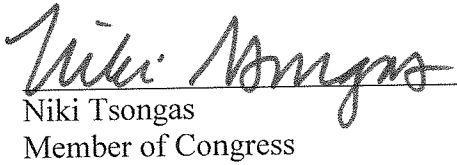

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

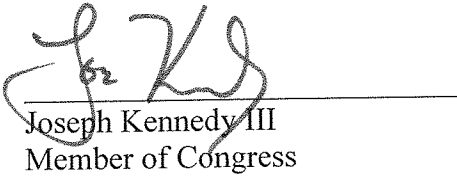

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

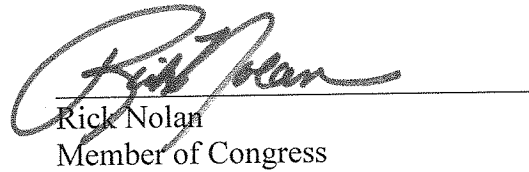

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

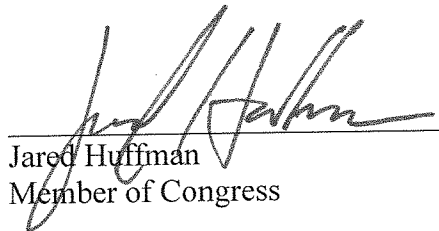

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

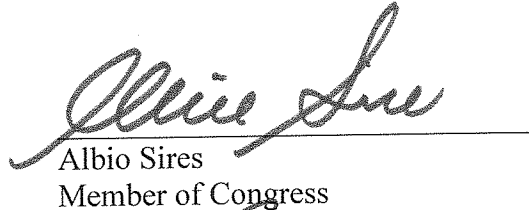

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

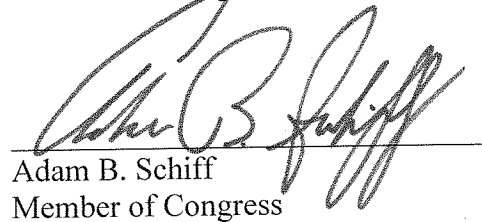

Joseph Kennedy III
Member of Congress

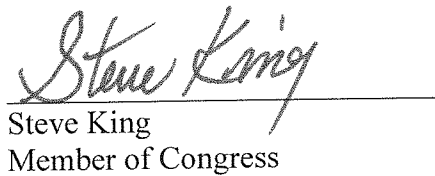

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

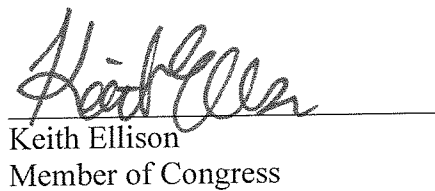

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

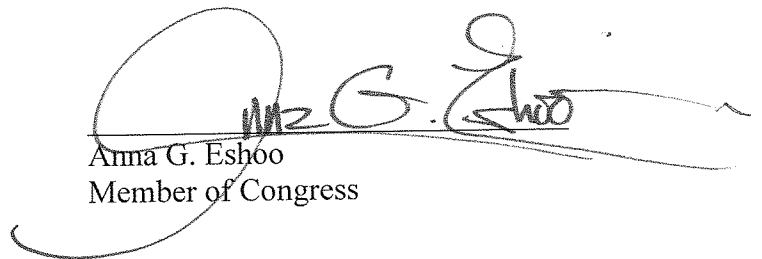

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



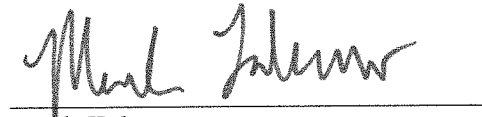
Anne McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



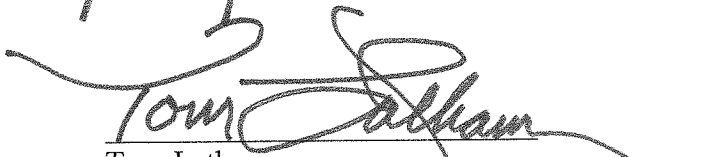
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



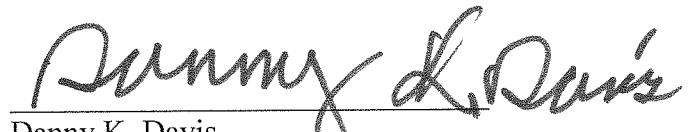
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



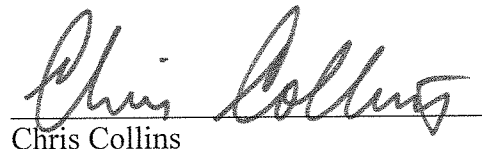
Tom Latham
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



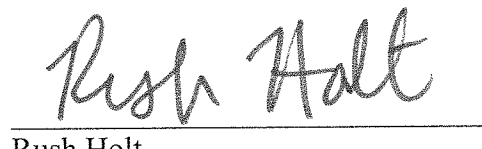
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



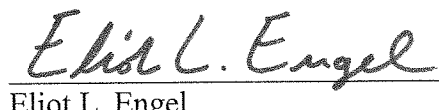
Chris Collins
Member of Congress




Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



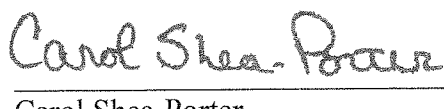
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



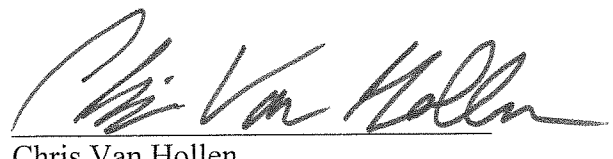
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



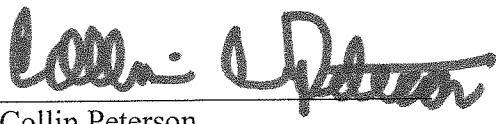
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



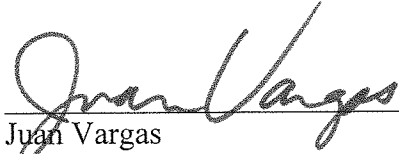
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



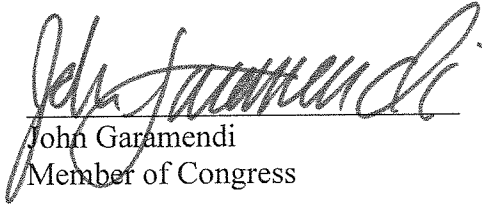
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



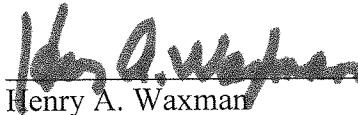
Jim Himes
Member of Congress




Sam Farr
Member of Congress



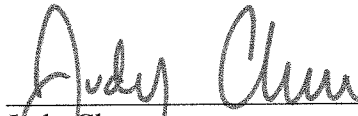
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



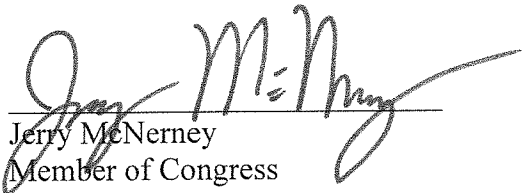
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



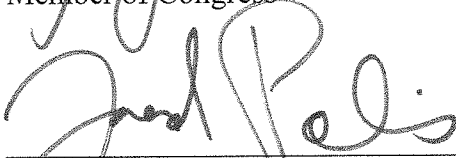
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



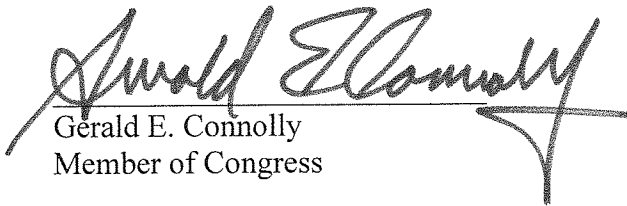
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



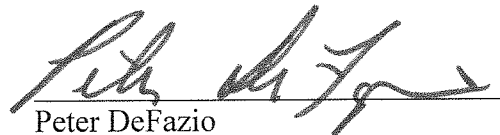
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



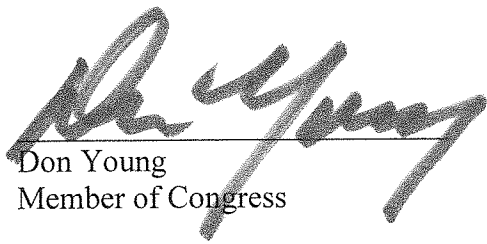
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress




John Conyers
Member of Congress



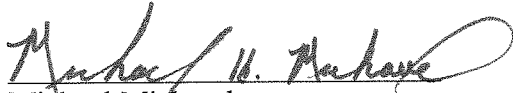
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



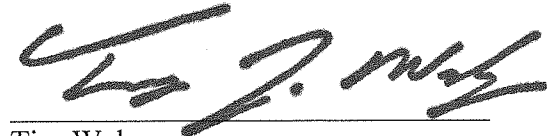
Don Young
Member of Congress



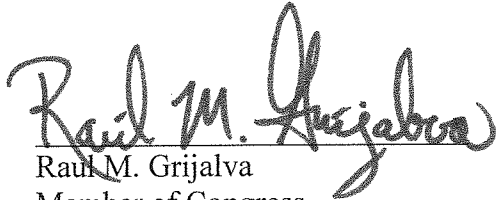
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



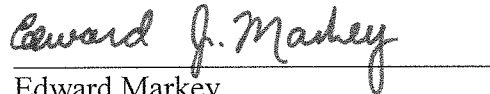
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress




Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



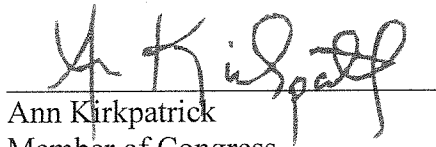
Edward Markey
Member of Congress




Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



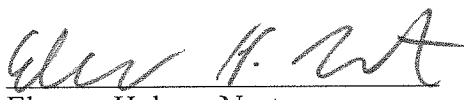
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



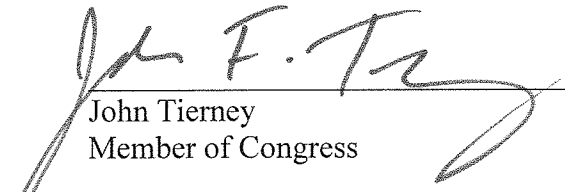
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress




Nick J. Rahall III
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



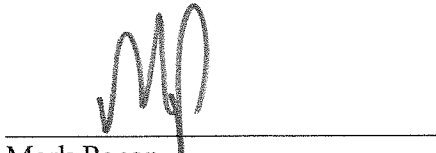
John Tierney
Member of Congress



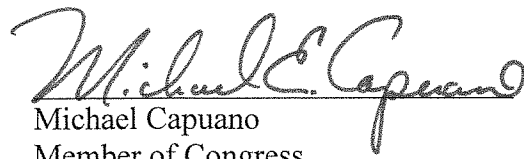
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



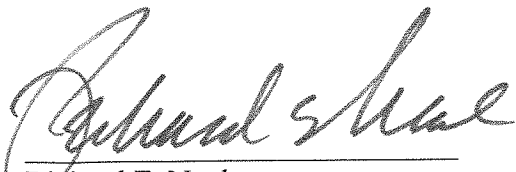
Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

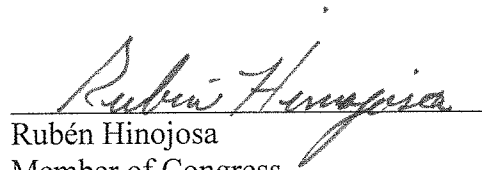



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress





Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

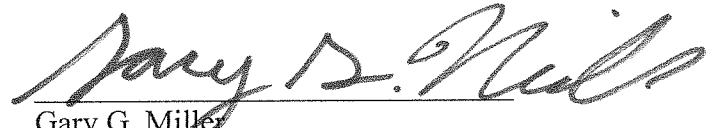

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

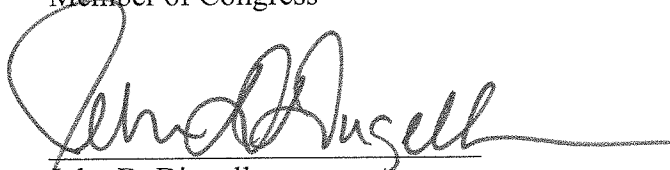

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

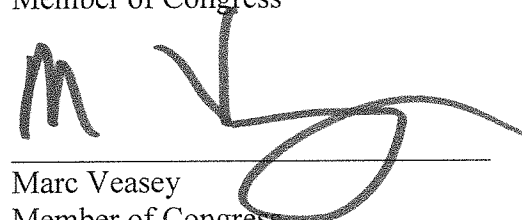

Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

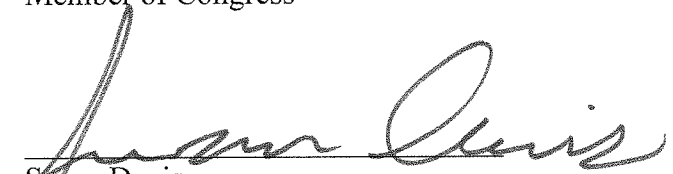

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Gary G. Miller
Member of Congress


John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

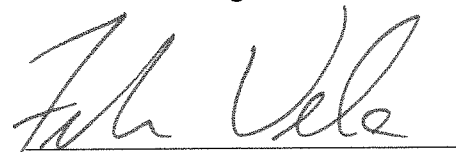

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

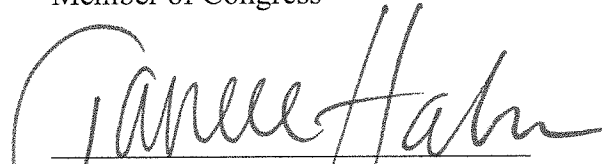

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress


Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Dan Maffei
Member of Congress


Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress


Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



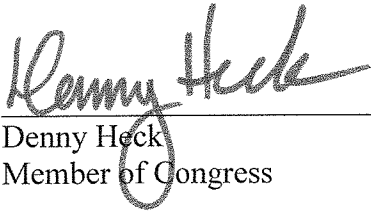
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



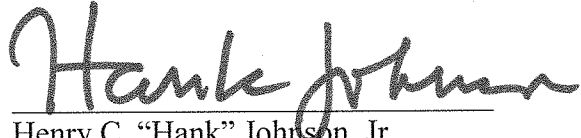
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress




Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



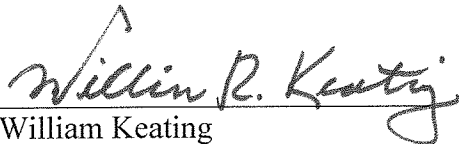
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



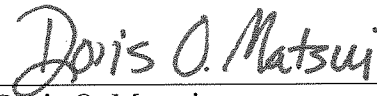
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress



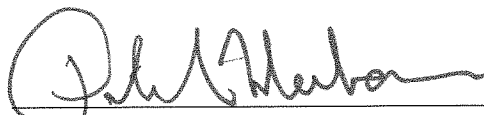
William Keating
Member of Congress



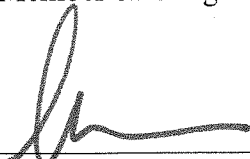
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



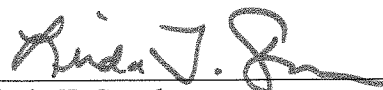
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



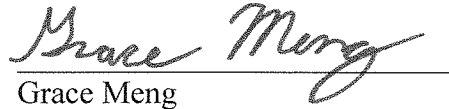
Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



Eric M. Swalwell
Member of Congress



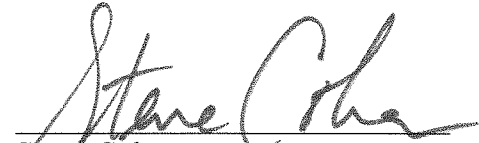
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



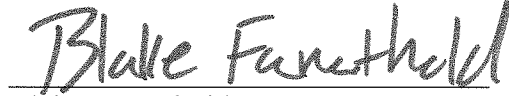
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



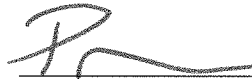
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Eric Paulsen
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress