

September 30, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi,

We write to ask for your continued support for the Special Diabetes Program (SDP), which is improving the lives of 26 million Americans who have diabetes and yielding a real return on the federal investment. Diabetes costs our nation over \$245 billion annually, a staggering 41 percent increase from 2007. It is also the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic amputations, and blindness and a major cause of heart disease and stroke. Americans with diabetes incur medical expenses that are 2.3 times higher than those incurred by those without diabetes.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced recently that type 1 diabetes among American youth (people under age 20) rose by 23 percent between 2001 and 2009. At this rate, type 1 diabetes will double every generation.

While the growth in these statistics is alarming, the Special Diabetes Program is making meaningful progress in research studies and human clinical trials that are accelerating progress towards curing, treating, and preventing type 1 diabetes. A few of the SDP research achievements that are improving lives and will ultimately yield significant savings to our nation's health care system include:

- Artificial pancreas (AP) technologies, which would help people to better manage their blood sugar levels and avoid long-term and costly complications, are being tested in outpatient human clinical trials approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and are closer to being on the market. A recent study estimates the use of AP technology in working age adults who have T1D will result in nearly \$1 billion in savings to Medicare over 25 years.
- The discovery that 6.5 years of intensive blood glucose control can cut in half the onset of impaired kidney function in T1D patients. This finding will enable steps to be taken well in advance to avoid end-stage renal disease (ESRD), and save Medicare over \$126 billion over 25 years. Diabetes is the leading cause of ESRD.
- A treatment that reached the market last year preserves and even improves vision in people who have diabetic eye disease. This advance makes the difference between being able to see well enough to drive or hold a job – or not – and carry out other daily activities.
- Immune therapy drugs have slowed the immune attack for approximately one year in patients newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Patients required less insulin and had improved glucose control for a period of time.

A continued investment in SDP will allow key clinical trials to continue without interruption, such as building on our understanding of the genetic underpinnings and environmental triggers of type 1 diabetes so the disease can be prevented altogether.

The Special Diabetes Program is also making a tremendous difference in the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), who are burdened disproportionately with type 2 diabetes at a rate of 2.8 times the national average. In these communities, the program has increased significantly the availability of diabetes prevention and treatment services for those with diabetes. These increased services have translated into remarkable improvements in diabetes care including:

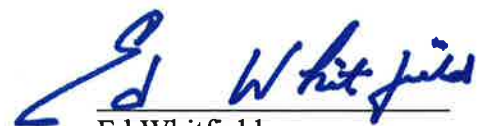
- The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) supported the first large-scale national evaluation of the effectiveness of lifestyle interventions on diabetes incidence in diverse AI/AN communities. This demonstration project successfully translated the landmark Diabetes Prevention Program clinical trial conducted by the NIH into the real world of tribal communities.
- The average blood sugar level, as measured by the hemoglobin A1C test, decreased from 9.0 percent in 1996 to 8.1 percent in 2010. Every percentage point drop in A1C results can reduce risk of eye, kidney, and nerve complications by 40 percent.
- Average low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, which is associated with multiple health problems, declined from 118 mg/dL in 1998 to 94 mg/dL in 2011. Improved control of LDL cholesterol can reduce cardiovascular complications by 20-50 percent.
- Between 1995 and 2006, the incident rate of End-Stage Renal Disease in AI/AN people with diabetes fell by nearly 28 percent – a greater decline than any other racial or ethnic group. Given that Medicare costs per year for one patient on hemodialysis were approximately \$82,000 in 2009, this reduction in new cases of ESRD means a decrease in the number of patients requiring dialysis, translating into millions of dollars in cost savings for Medicare, the Indian Health Service, and other third party payers.

These are only a few of the many developments that are the result of the SDP. The groundbreaking discoveries made possible by the SDP are already improving diabetes care for the 26 million Americans combating the disease in ways that will reduce long-term health expenditures for costly diabetes complications. We are pleased that this program has received such overwhelming bipartisan support in the past and we look forward to working with you in the future to ensure the Special Diabetes Program can capitalize on the significant achievements to date and explore the opportunities that remain ahead.

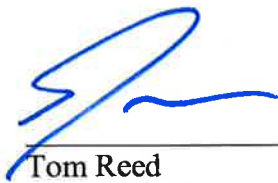
Sincerely,



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress




Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



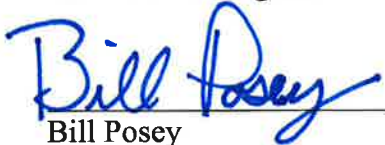
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



David Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Joseph J. Heck  
Member of Congress



Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress



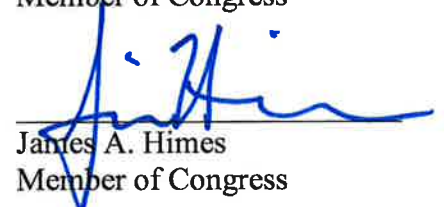
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



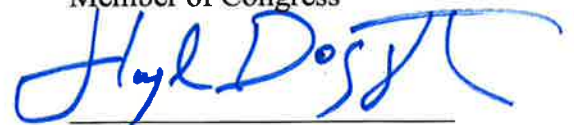
Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



James B. Renacci  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



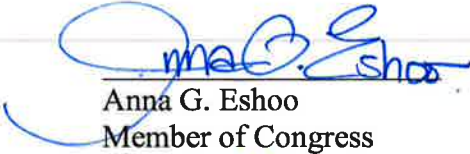
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



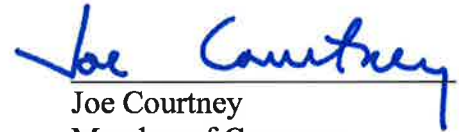
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



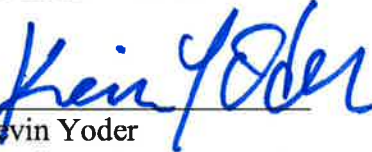
Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



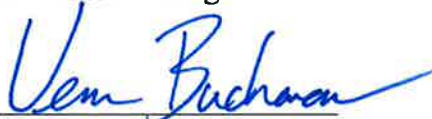
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



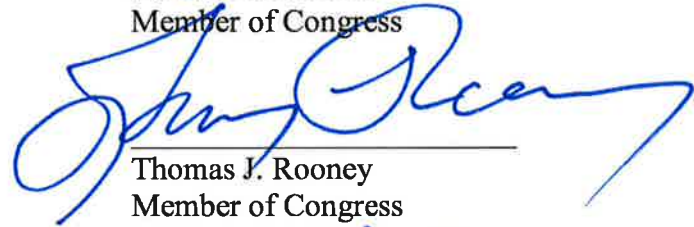
Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



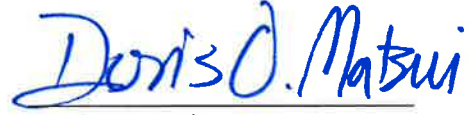
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



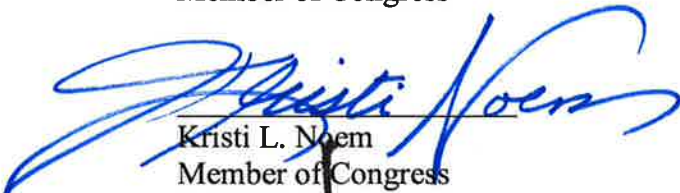
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Kristi L. Noem  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Colleen W. Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



Timothy Bishop  
Member of Congress

*Gregg Harper*

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress

*Pete Olson*

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

*Mark Pocan*

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

*William R. Keating*

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

*Suzan K. DelBene*

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

*Richard Hanna*

Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress

*Steve Stockman*

Steve Stockman  
Member of Congress

*Ann Kirkpatrick*

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

*Steven Palazzo*

Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress

*Brett Guthrie*

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

*David McKinley*

David McKinley  
Member of Congress

*Kurt Schrader*

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

*Bradley S. Schneider*

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

*Donna F. Edwards*

Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

*Tim Murphy*

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

*Daniel T. Kildee*

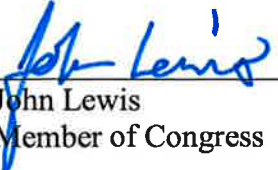
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

*Ben Ray Lujan*

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

*Peter T. King*

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

  
Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

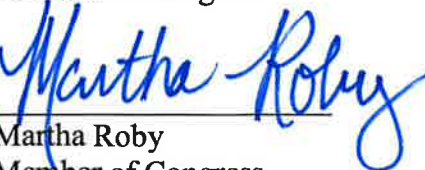
  
John Carter  
Member of Congress


  
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress

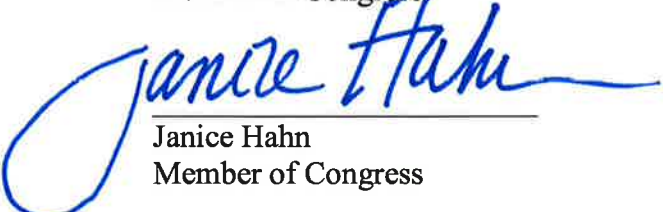
  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Gerry E. Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Renee L. Ellmers  
Member of Congress

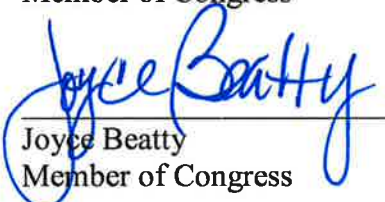
  
Martha Roby  
Member of Congress


  
Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress


  
David P. Roe  
Member of Congress

  
Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

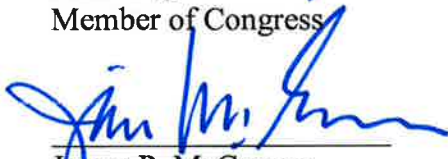
  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

  
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



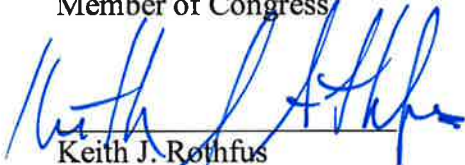
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



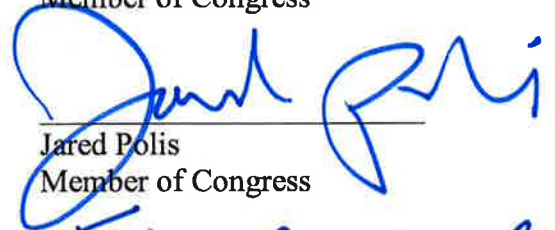
Todd C. Young  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



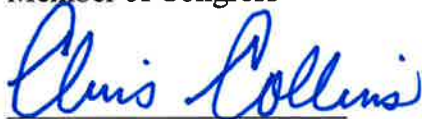
Theodore Deutch  
Member of Congress



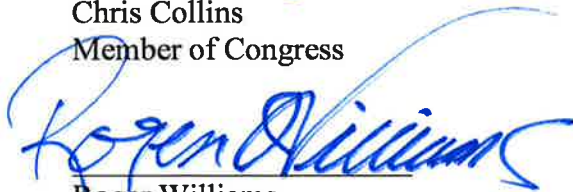
Ron Barber  
Member of Congress



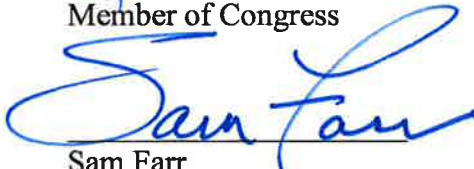
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



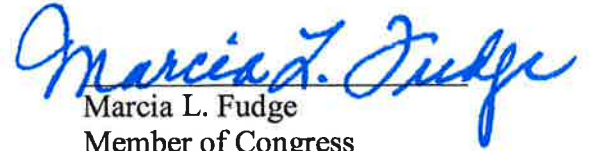
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



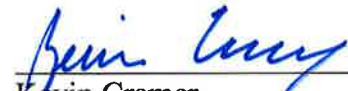
Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



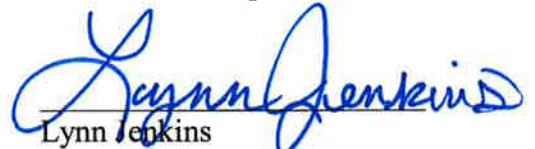
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



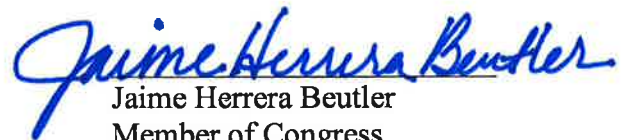
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

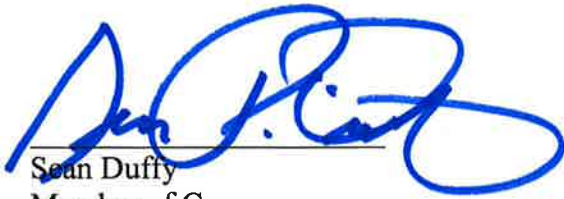


Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress





Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



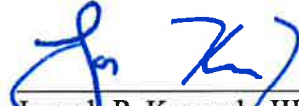
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



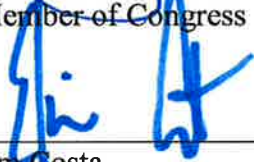
Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



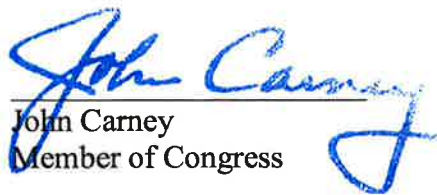
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress




John Carney  
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright  
Member of Congress



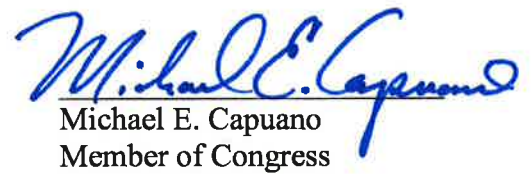
Jon Runyan  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



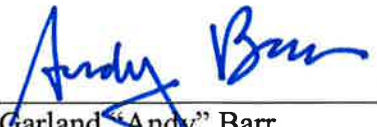
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



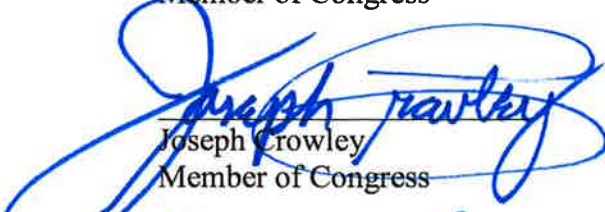
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



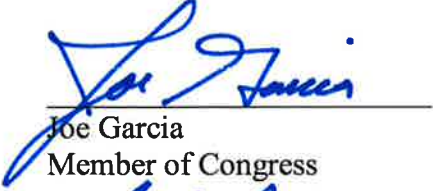
Delek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



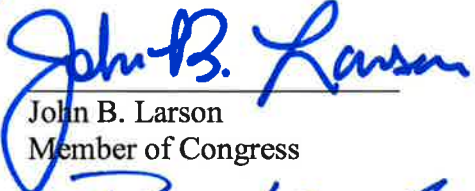
Garland "Andy" Barr  
Member of Congress



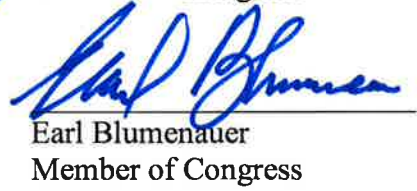
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress




Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks  
Member of Congress



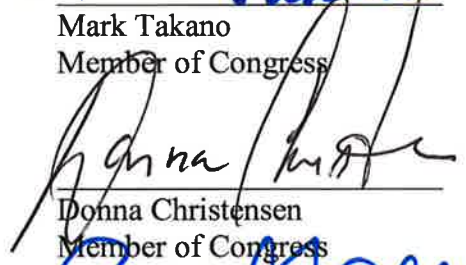
Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



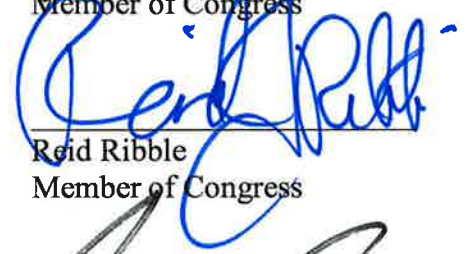
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



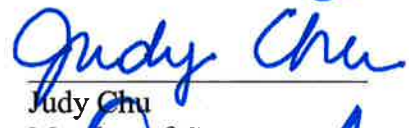
Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress



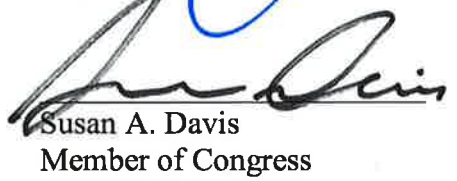
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



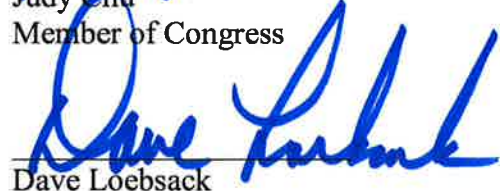
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress




Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

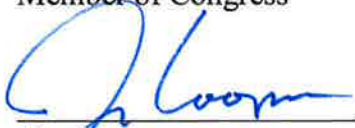


Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress




Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

  
William Cassidy  
Member of Congress


  
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

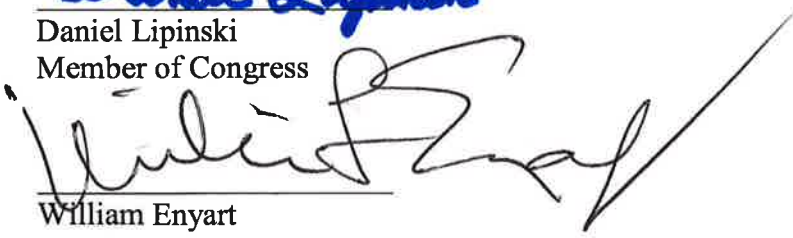
  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

  
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

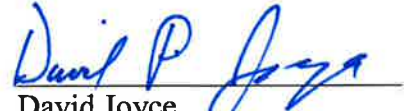
  
John Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress


  
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

  
William Enyart  
Member of Congress


  
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

  
David Joyce  
Member of Congress


  
Billy Long  
Member of Congress


  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

  
Timothy Walz  
Member of Congress

  
Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress



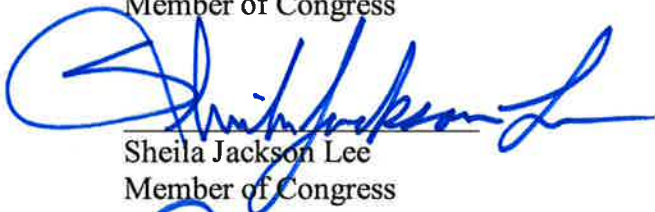
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



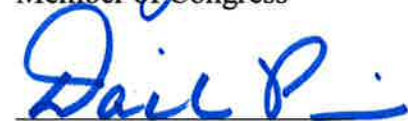
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



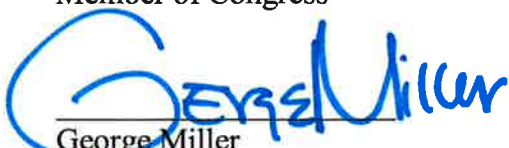
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



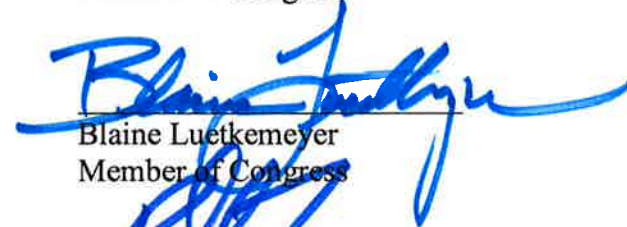
George Miller  
Member of Congress



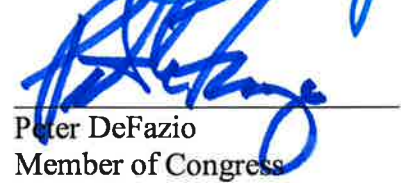
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



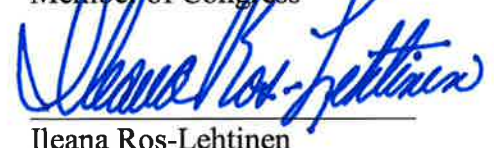
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Howard Coble  
Member of Congress



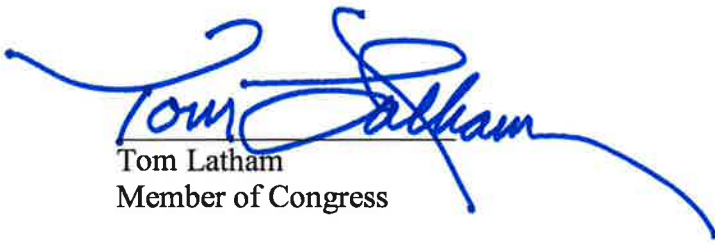
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



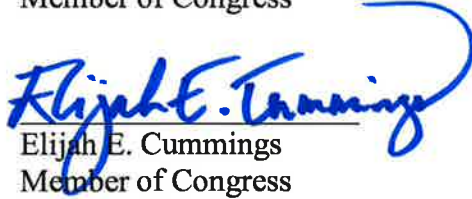
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



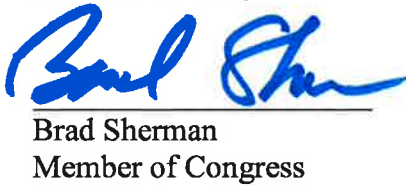
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress

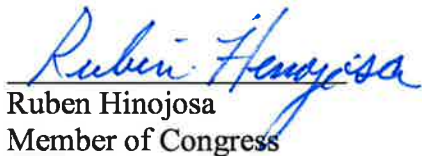
  
Tom Latham  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

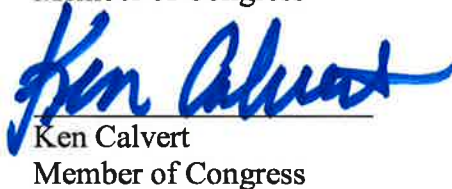
  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

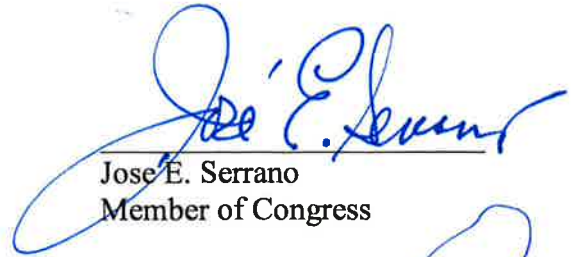
  
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

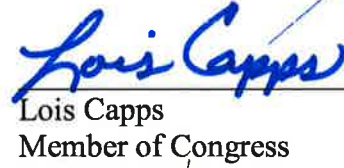
  
Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

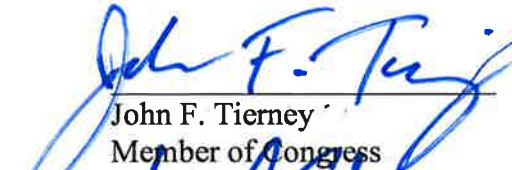
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

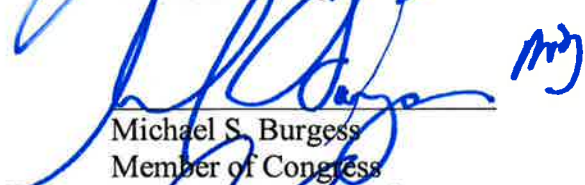
  
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

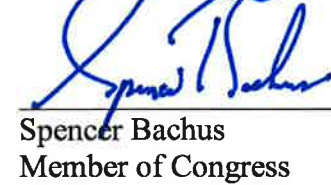
  
Melvin Watt  
Member of Congress

  
Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

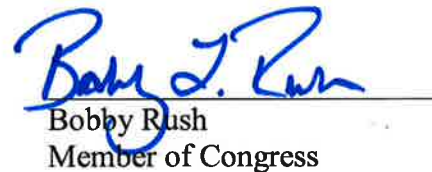
  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

  
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress

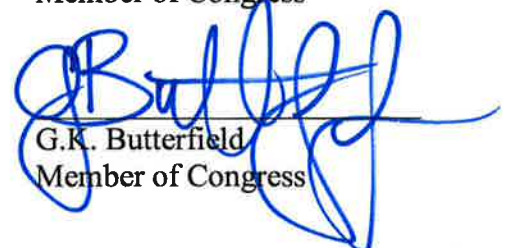
  
Michael S. Burgess  
Member of Congress

  
Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

  
Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

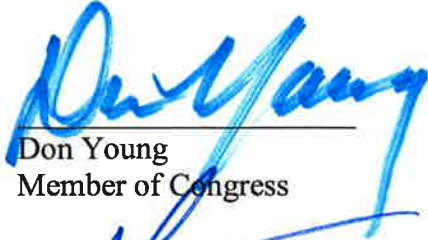
  
G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



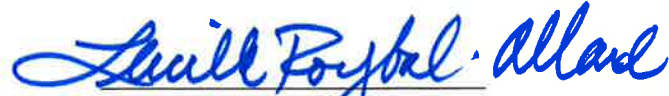
Nick J. Rahall II  
Member of Congress



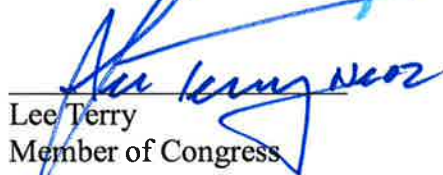
Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Alford  
Member of Congress



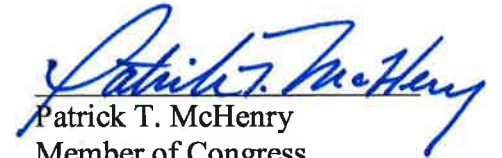
Lee Terry  
Member of Congress



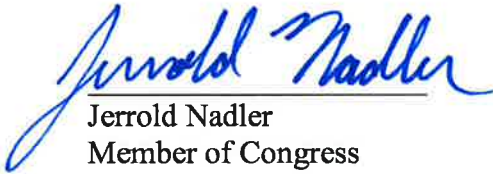
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Patrick T. McHenry  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



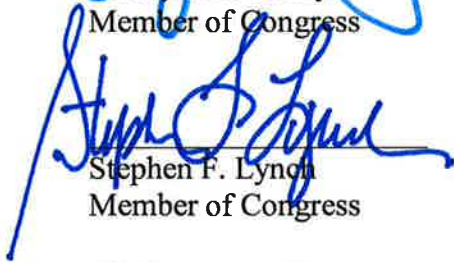
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Gary G. Miller  
Member of Congress



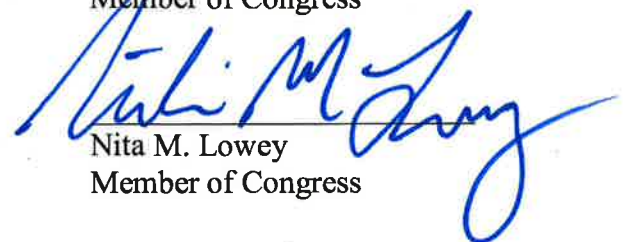
Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



John Culberson  
Member of Congress



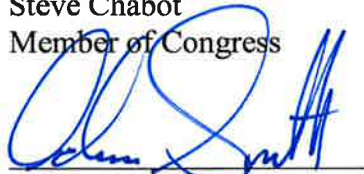
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress




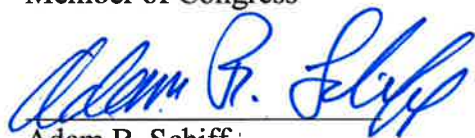
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

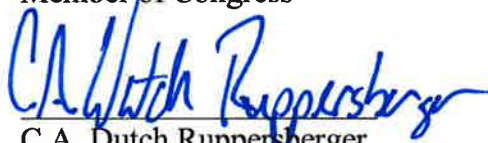
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress


  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

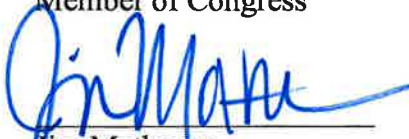
  
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

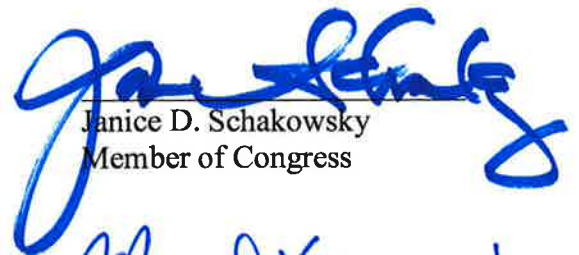
  
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

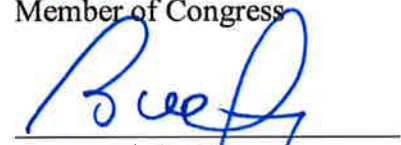
  
Eni Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress


  
Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress


  
Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

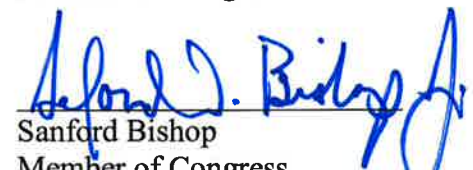
  
C.W. Bill Young  
Member of Congress

  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress


  
William "Lacy" Clay  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress


  
Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress


  
J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress


  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

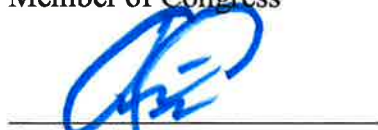
  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress


  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress


  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

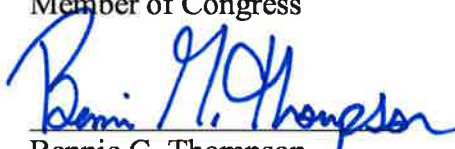
  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress


  
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

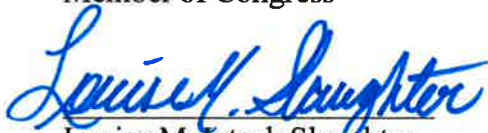
  
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress


  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress

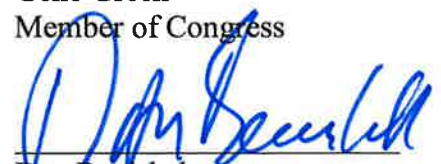
  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

  
Gene Green  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

  
Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

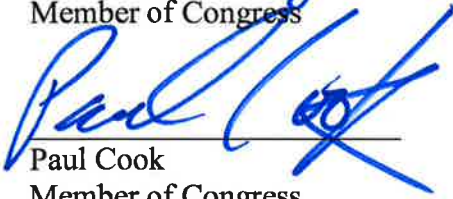




Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



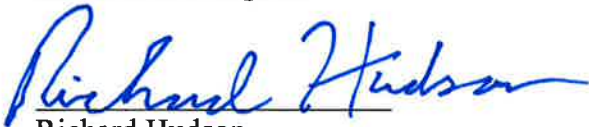
Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Pete Gallego  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



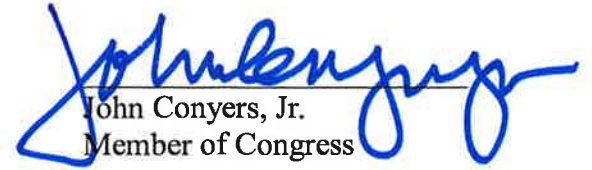
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



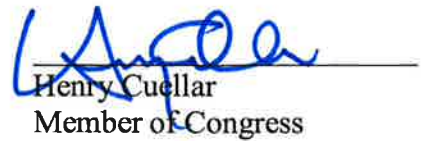
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



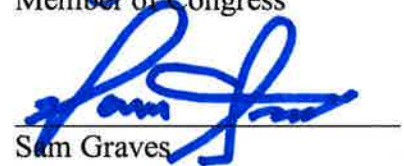
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



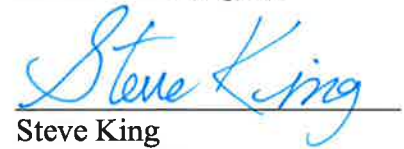
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress



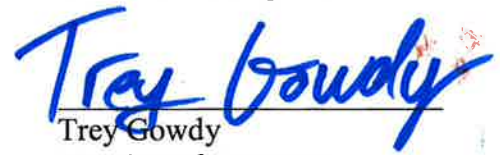
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



George Holding  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Trey Gowdy  
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress



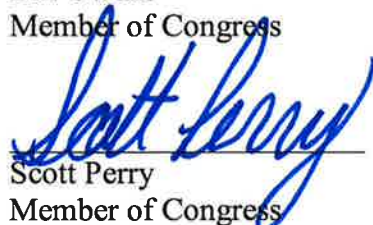
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



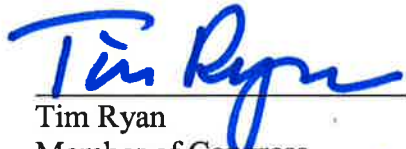
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



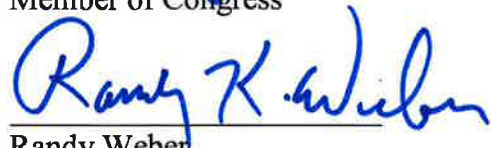
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



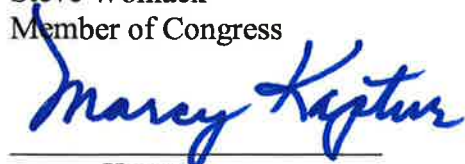
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



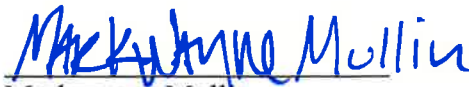
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



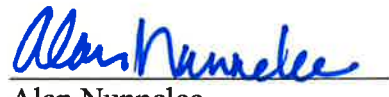
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress



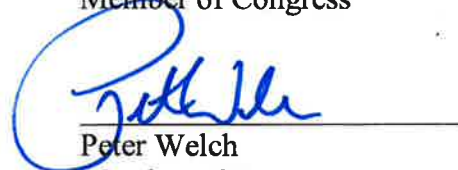
Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi

Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant

Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Raúl R. Labrador

Raúl Labrador  
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock

Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velaquez

Nydia Velaquez  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston

Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Patrick E. Murphy

Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress



Kay Granger  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



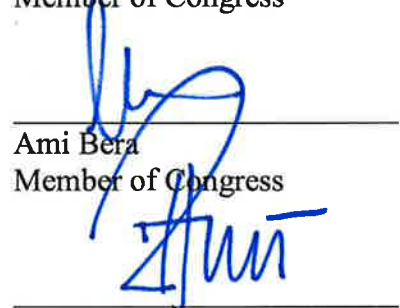
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



John Barrow  
Member of Congress



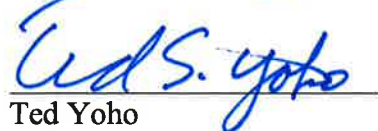
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress



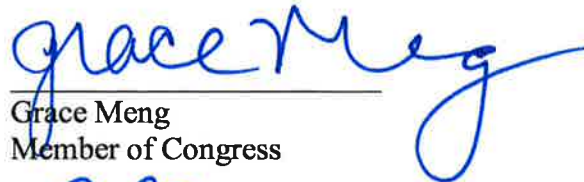
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



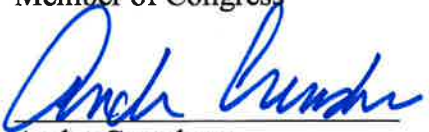
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



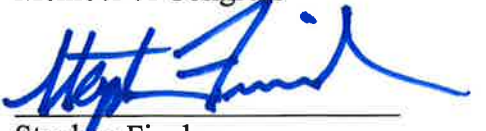
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress




Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Member of Congress



Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress



---

Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress




---

Daniel Maffei  
Member of Congress




---

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



---

Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



---

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress