

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 29, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
2358-A RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
374 CHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide \$3.6 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program.

According to HUD's 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, the number of sheltered individuals identified as chronically homeless increased by 20 percent between 2020 and 2021.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the report found that while there was an overall decrease in the number of people staying in sheltered locations (i.e.: emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens), more than 326,000 people are still experiencing sheltered homelessness in the United States on any given night.<sup>2</sup>

The 2020 AHAR states that the year 2020 marked the first time since data collection began that more individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered than were sheltered, and the number of unsheltered people in families with children increased.<sup>3</sup> Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, HUD was unable to provide an accurate count of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness for the last year, but experts believe that unsheltered homelessness has likely increased.

The combination of a nationwide shortage of affordable housing and higher rent prices is leaving millions of Americans vulnerable to homelessness. To combat this, state and local governments depend on HUD programs like the HAG Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. These programs are successfully used by state and local governments, as well as an extensive network of providers of shelter and housing services in hundreds of communities, to reduce homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2022, February). *The 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2021-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021, January). *The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

The CoC and ESG programs help to fund services for people at risk of, and currently experiencing, homelessness, whether by non-profits, community action programs, faith-based groups, government agencies, or other providers. The activities supported by these programs include the development and operation of shelters, outreach efforts to identify unsheltered homeless families and individuals, rapid re-housing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), and homelessness prevention. RRH emphasizes housing search and relocation services, and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless families and individuals (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing. PSH is housing assistance paired with supportive services, formulated to assist homeless persons with a disability, or families with an adult or child with a disability, achieve housing stability.

For over a decade, federal policy has emphasized the effectiveness of Housing First, an evidence-based, system-wide approach to homelessness. This approach connects people back to a home as quickly as possible, while making readily available the wraparound services (including case management, counseling, healthcare, treatment, and job training) that people may need to be stable and secure. Housing First is the best way to permanently house people, put them in the position to address any underlying issues, and help communities avoid costs associated with homelessness, including law enforcement, emergency healthcare, and corrections costs.

Without stable homes, children and youth face challenges in school, adults struggle to maintain employment, and those battling physical and mental health disorders, as well as substance abuse, lack the support they need to adequately address and treat these issues. Additionally, people who are homeless have higher rates of illness and die on average 12 years sooner than the general U.S. population.<sup>4</sup> Homelessness poses significant threats to not only public health, but the health and wellbeing of our most at risk populations.

Given the lack of affordable housing across the nation and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, strong funding for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program is necessary to avoid increases in homelessness and to get more people off the streets and into permanent housing. Therefore, we ask that you provide at least \$3.6 billion for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program in FY23.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continued leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,

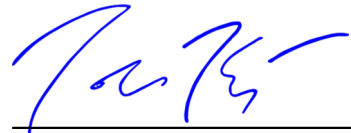
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<sup>4</sup> National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (2019, February). *Homelessness & Health: What's the Connection?* <https://nhhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/homelessness-and-health.pdf>



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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John Katko  
Member of Congress



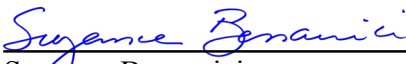
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



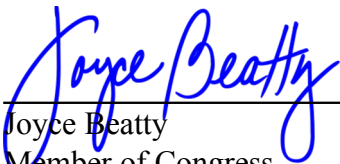
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



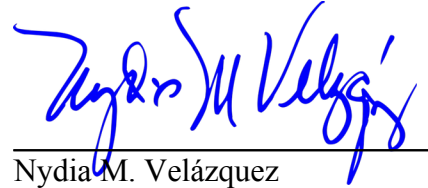
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



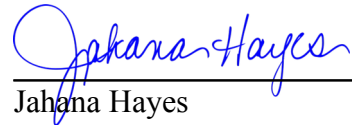
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



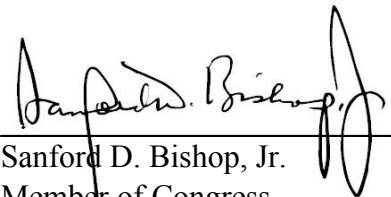
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



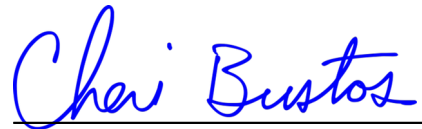
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



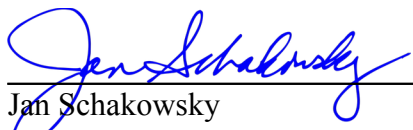
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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



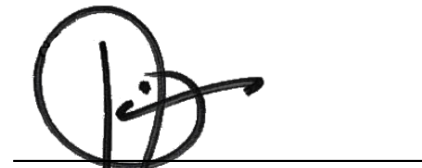
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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



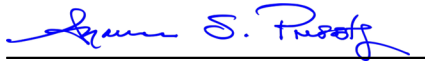
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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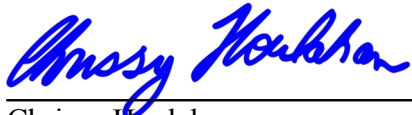
Kaiuli' Kahele  
Member of Congress



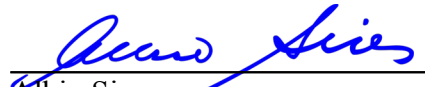
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



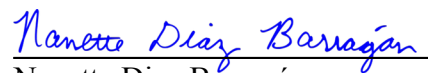
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



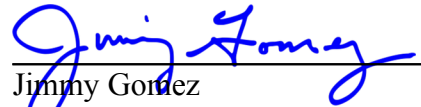
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



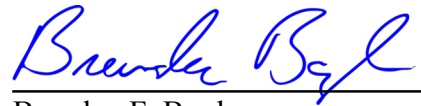
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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Kathy E. Manning  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress




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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



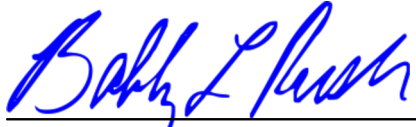
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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



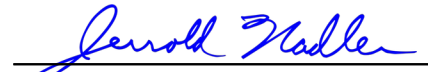
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



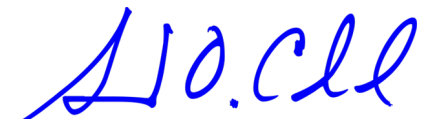
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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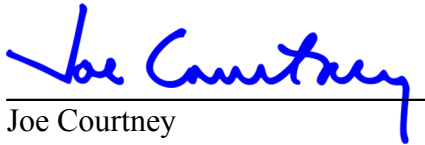
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress





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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



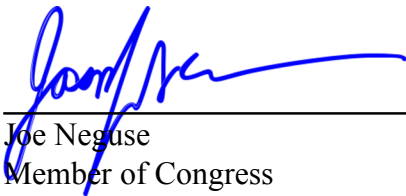
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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



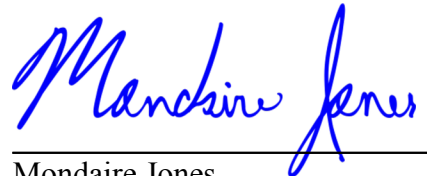
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Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



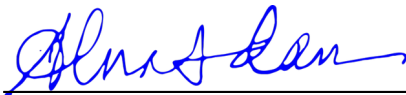
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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



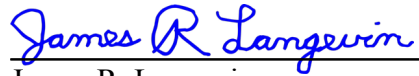
Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



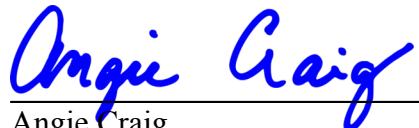
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



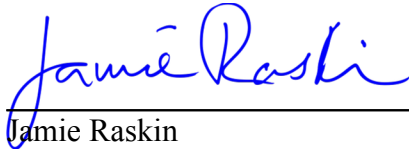
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



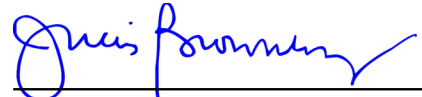
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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



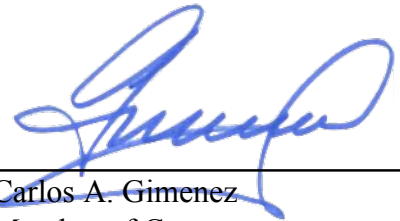
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



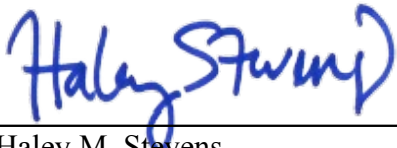
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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



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Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



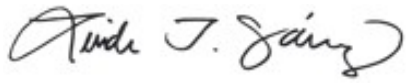
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



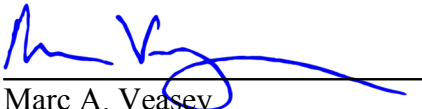
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



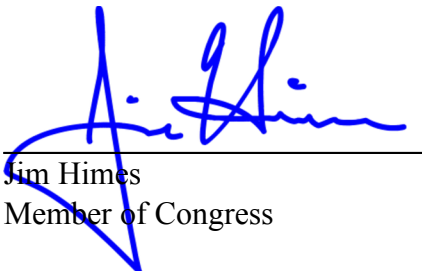
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



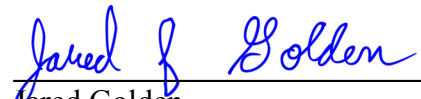
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



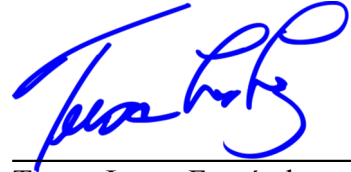
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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



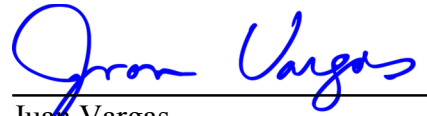
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Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress



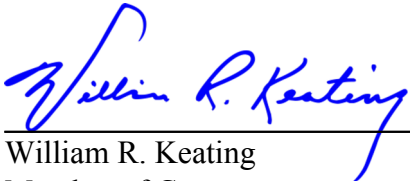
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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



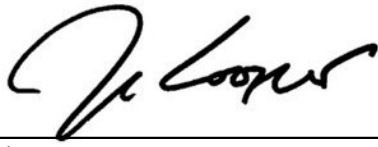
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress




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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress




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Maxine Waters  
Chairwoman, Committee on  
Financial Services



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Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



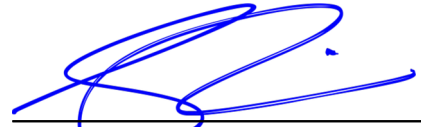
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



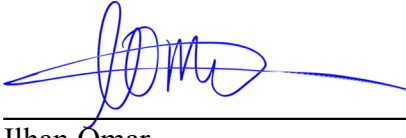
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



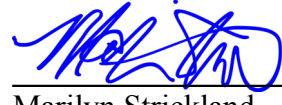
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



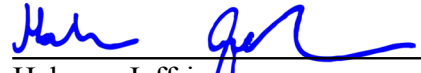
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



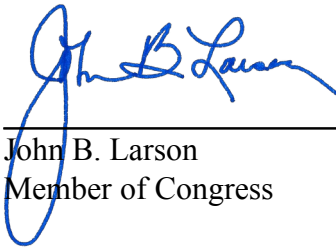
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress




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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress





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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



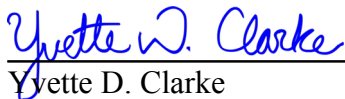
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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



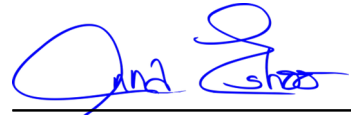
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



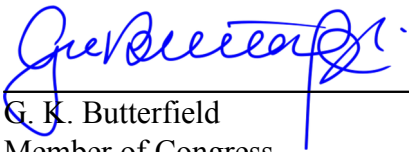
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



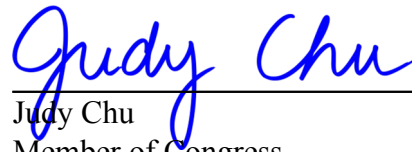
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress