

October 22, 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



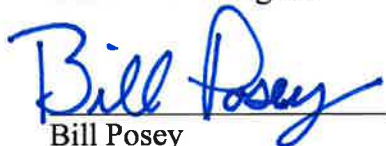
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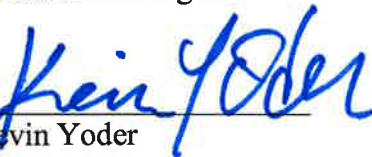
Frederica Wilson
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Jackie Speier
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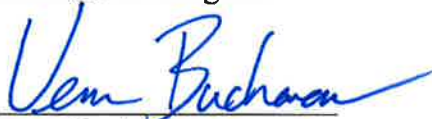
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



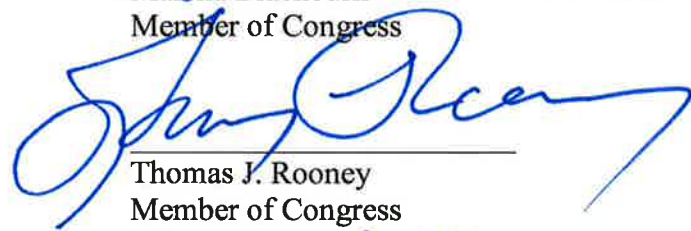
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Marsha Blackburn
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Vern Buchanan
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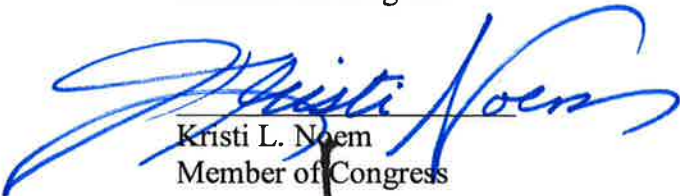
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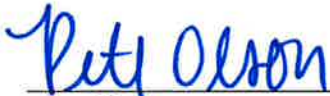
Frank R. Wolf
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Timothy Bishop
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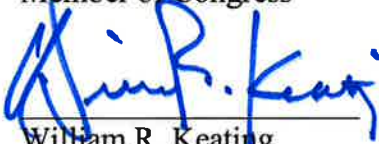
Gregg Harper
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Pete Olson
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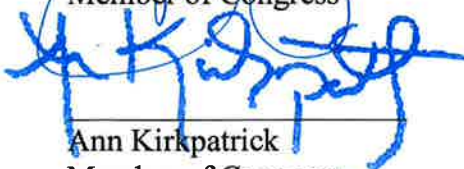
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



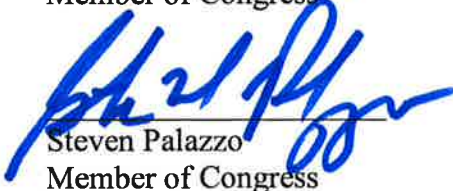
Richard Hanna
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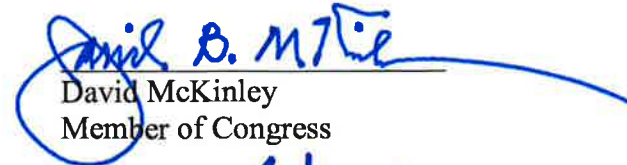
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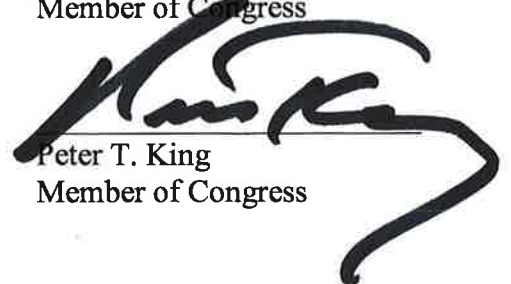
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



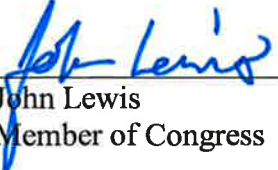
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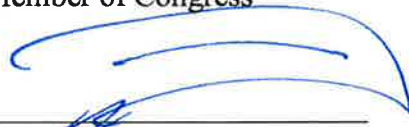

Renee L. Ellmers
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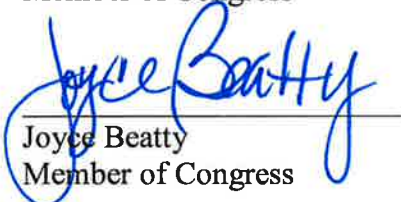

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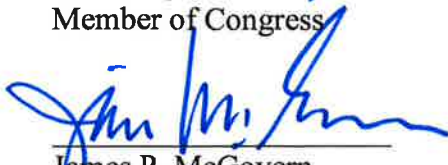

Denny Heck
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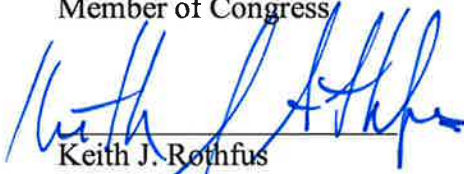
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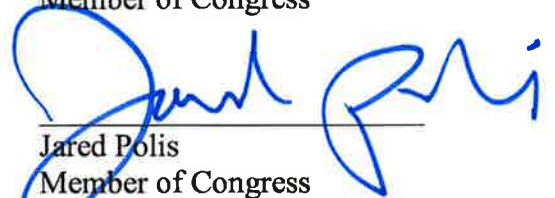
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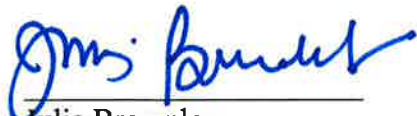
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Julia Brownley
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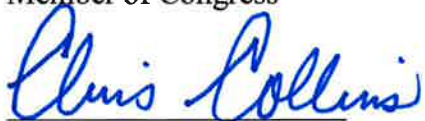
Theodore Deutch
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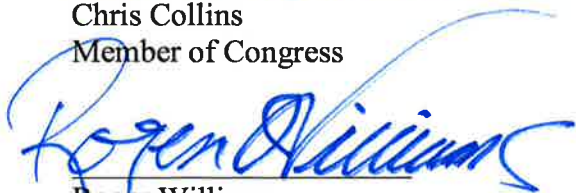
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



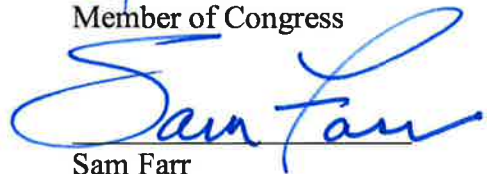
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Devin Nunes
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Marcia L. Fudge
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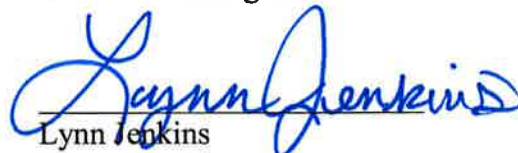
Keith Ellison
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Kevin Cramer
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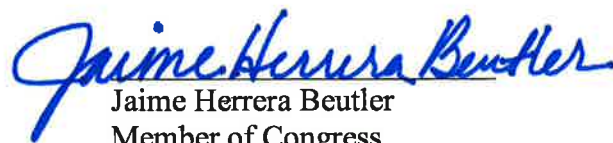
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



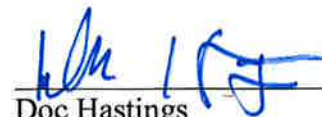
Lynn Jenkins
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Mike Quigley
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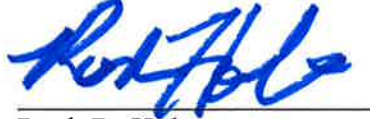
Jaime Herrera Beutler
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Doc Hastings
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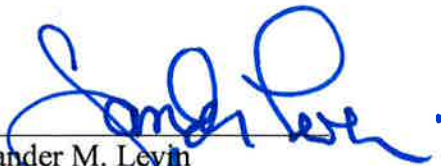
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



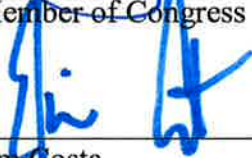
Rush D. Holt
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Adam Kinzinger
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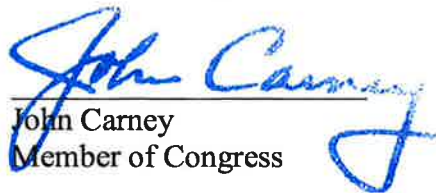
Sander M. Levin
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Jim Costa
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



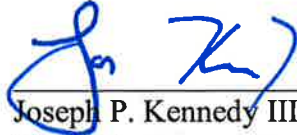
John Carney
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Matthew Cartwright
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Jerry McNerney
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Joseph P. Kennedy III
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Ed Perlmutter
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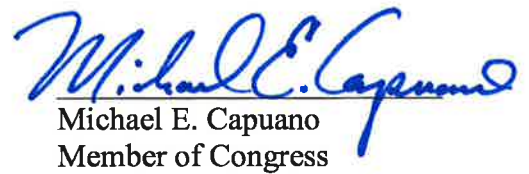
Jon Runyan
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Robert J. Wittman
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Zoe Lofgren
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Michael E. Capuano
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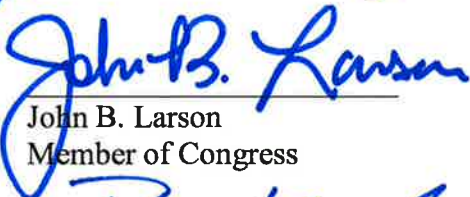
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Joseph Crowley
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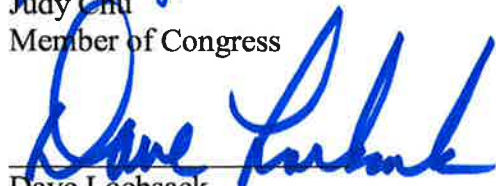
Tony Cardenas
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Raul M. Grijalva
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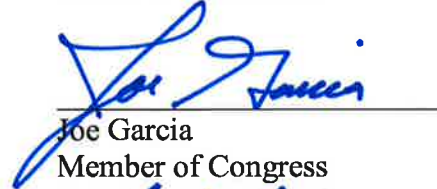
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



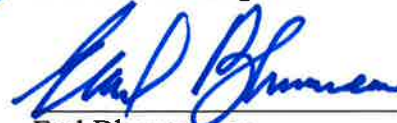
Dave Loebsack
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Garland "Andy" Barr
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Joe Garcia
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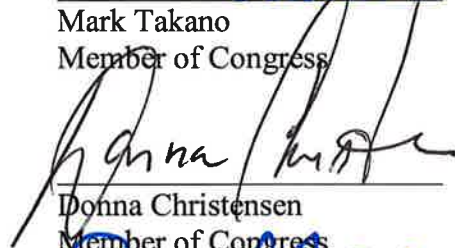
Earl Blumenauer
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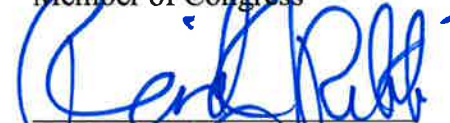
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Reid Ribble
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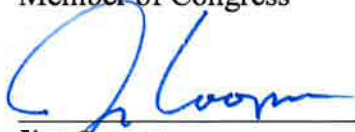


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Carol Shea-Porter
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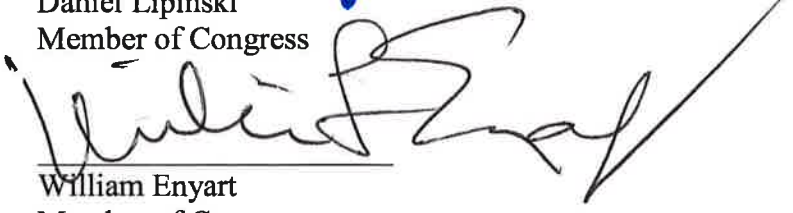

Juan Vargas
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Grace Napolitano
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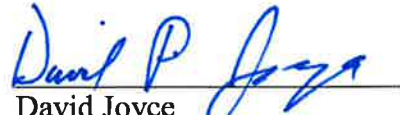

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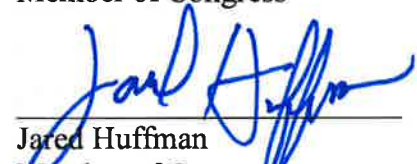

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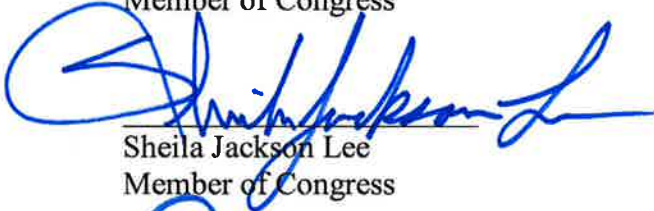
Rodney Davis
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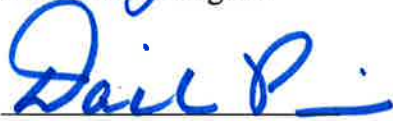
Mike McIntyre
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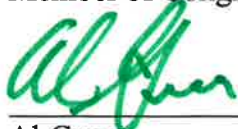
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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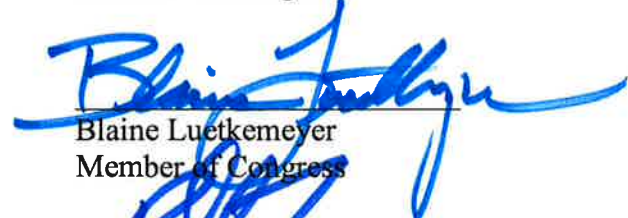
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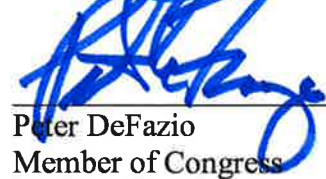
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Peter DeFazio
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



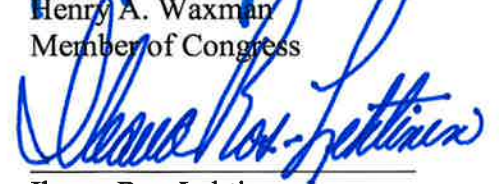
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Howard Coble
Member of Congress



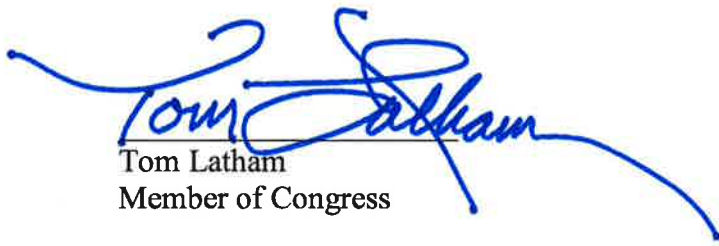
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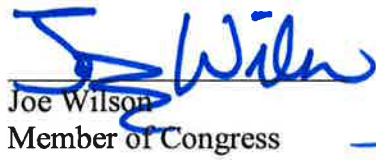


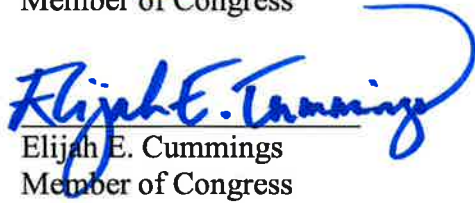
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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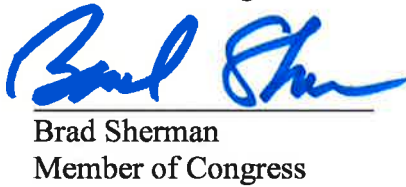
Collin Peterson
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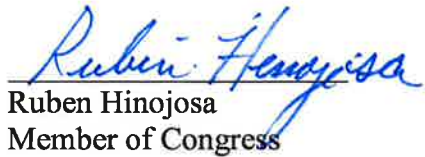

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Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

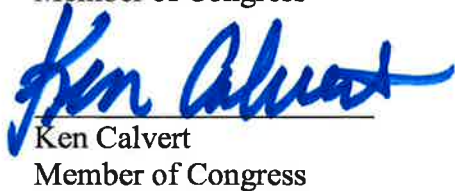

Elijah E. Cummings
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James P. Moran
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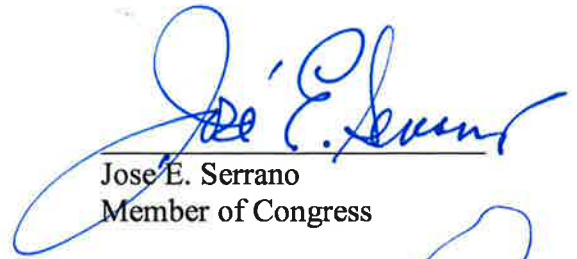

Brad Sherman
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Ruben Hinojosa
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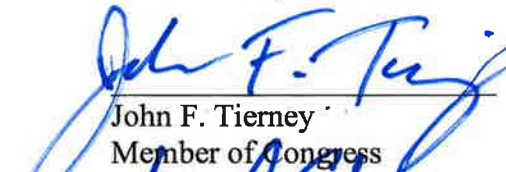

Barbara Lee
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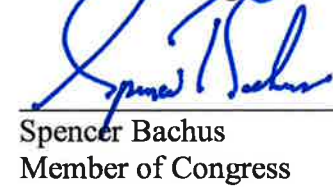

Melvin Watt
Member of Congress


Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress

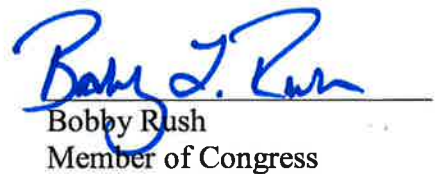

Lois Capps
Member of Congress


John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

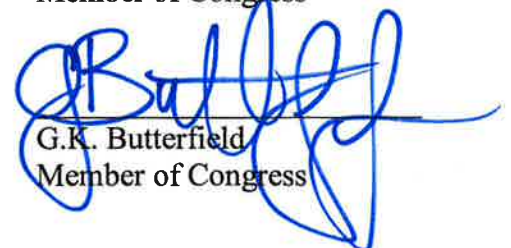

Michael S. Burgess
Member of Congress


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-Allard
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

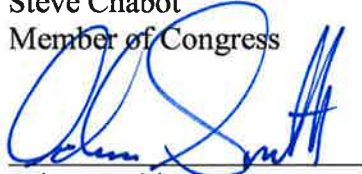
John Culberson
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

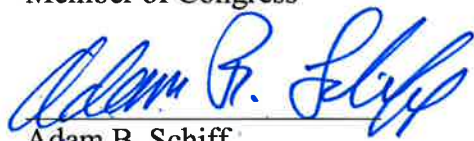
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

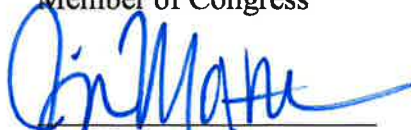

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

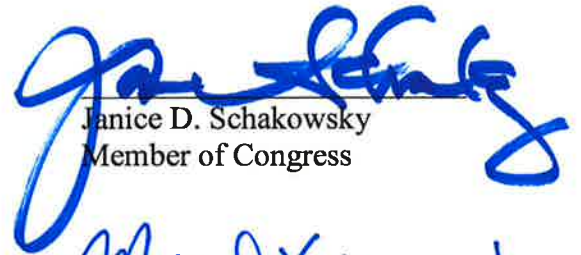

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

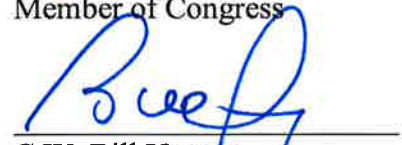

Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

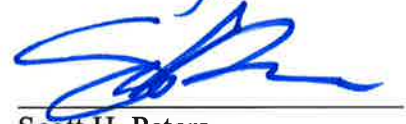

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress


Jim Matheson
Member of Congress


Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

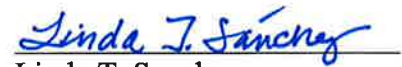

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

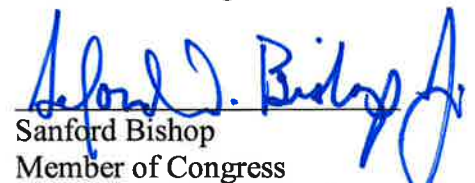

C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

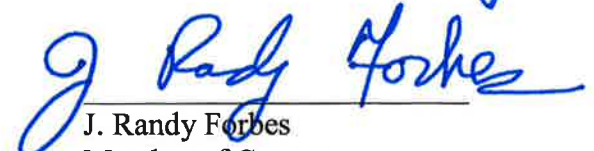

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

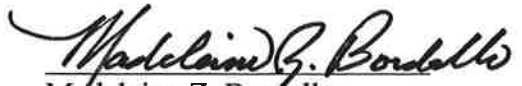

William "Lacy" Clay
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

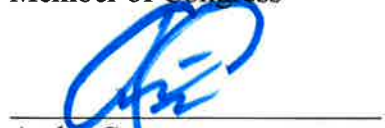

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress


Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

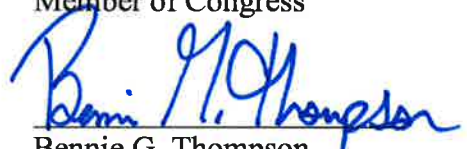

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress

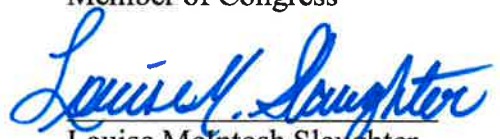

Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

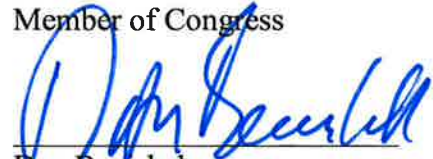

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress


Dan Bemshek
Member of Congress


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Joaquin CASTRO

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Paul Cook

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Pete Gallego

Pete Gallego
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

Sam Graves

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

George Holding

George Holding
Member of Congress

Steve King

Steve King
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy

Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress


Michael McCaul

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

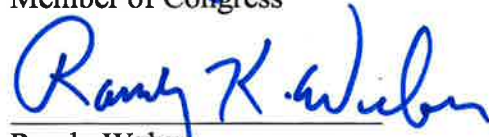

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Bill Owens
Member of Congress

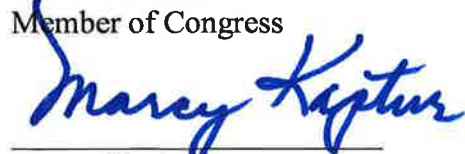

Scott Perry
Member of Congress


Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress

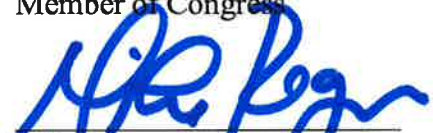

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

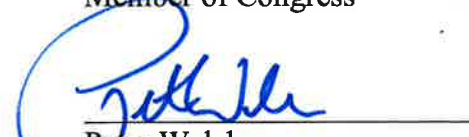

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress


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

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Raúl R. Labrador

Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Patrick E. Murphy

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Nydia Velaquez

Nydia Velaquez
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

Ralph Mc Hall

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Kay Granger

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

John Barrow

John Barrow
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

Ted Yoho

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw

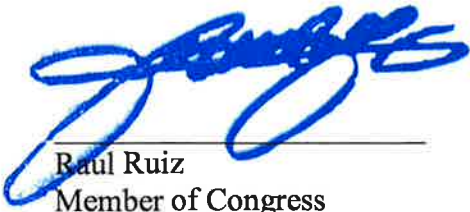
Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Rodney Frelinghuysen

Rodney Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher

Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



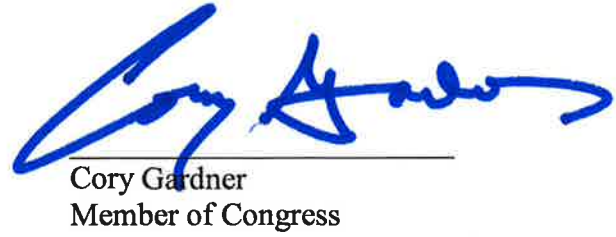
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



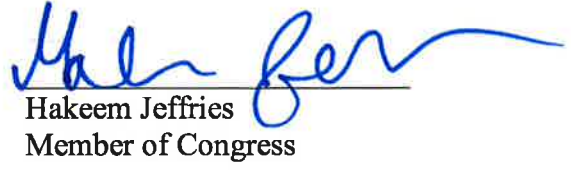
Daniel Maffei
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



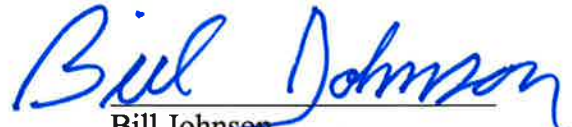
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress