

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,



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Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



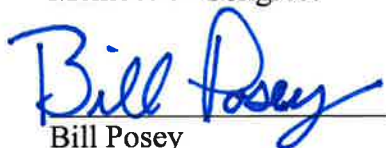
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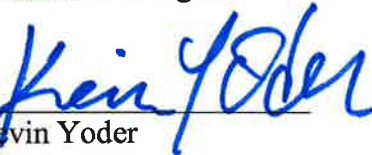
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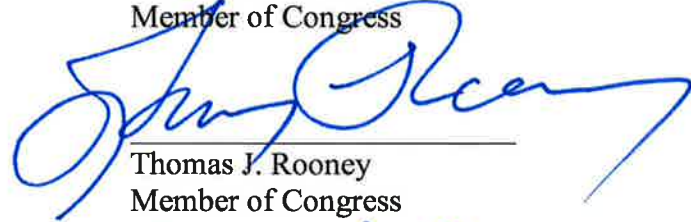
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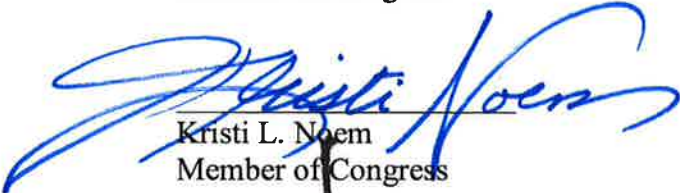
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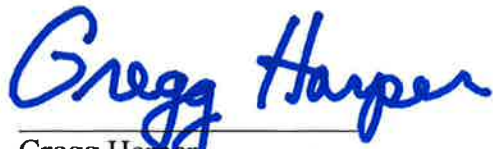


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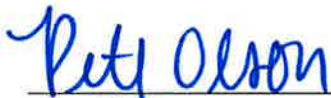


Timothy Bishop  
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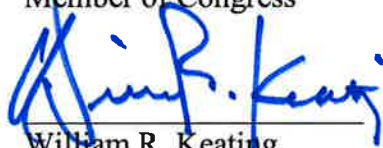
Gregg Harper  
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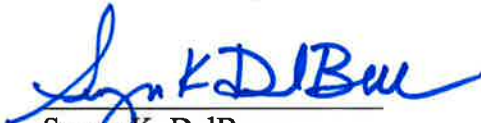
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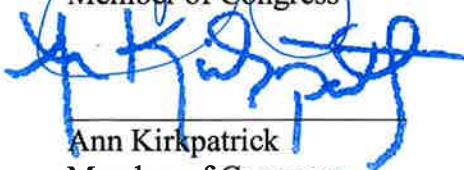
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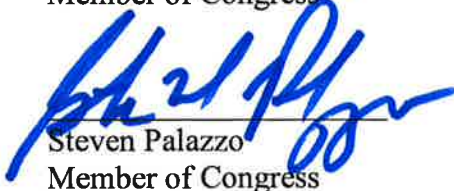
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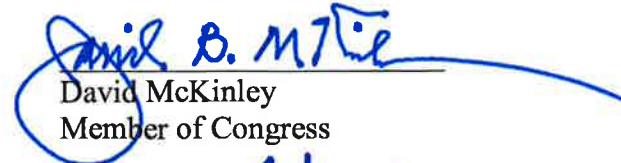
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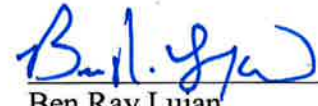
Donna Edwards  
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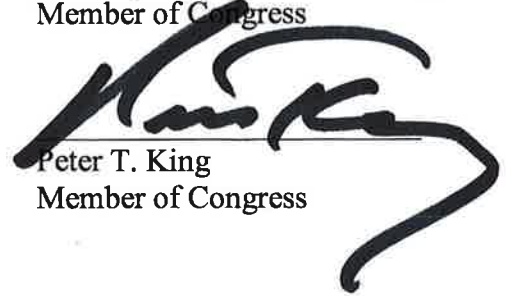
Tim Murphy  
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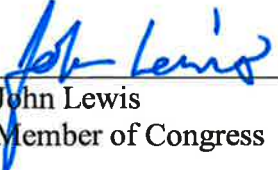
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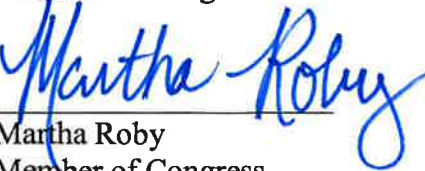
  
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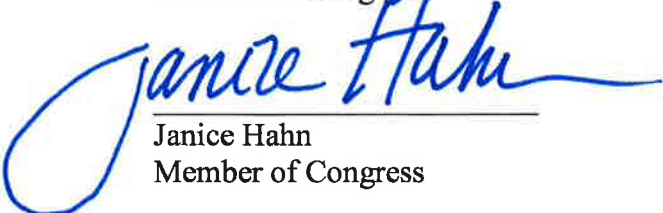
  
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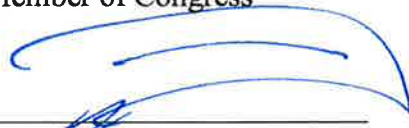
  
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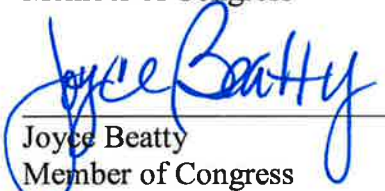
  
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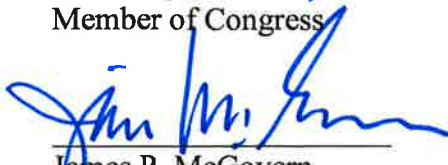
  
Leonard Lance  
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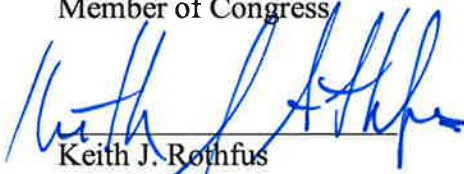
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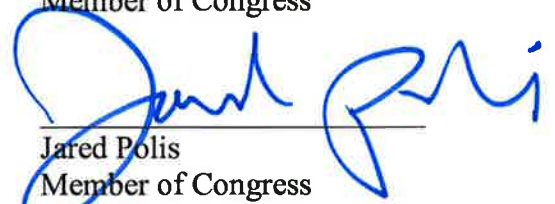
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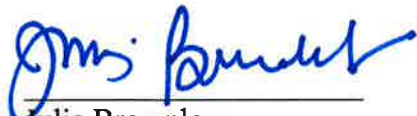
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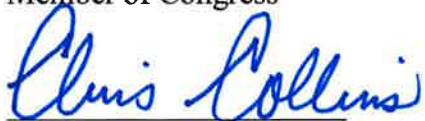
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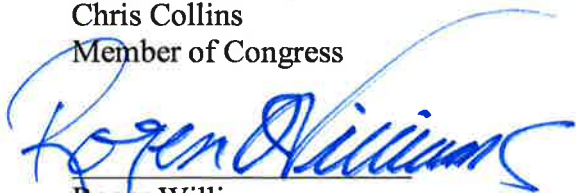
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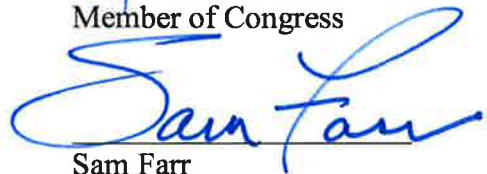
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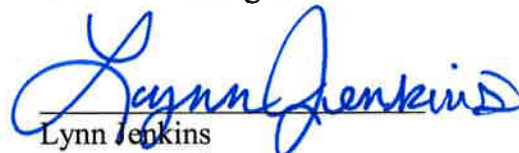
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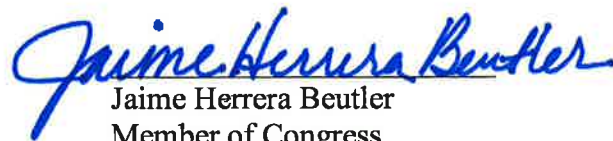
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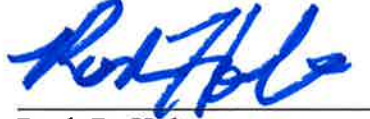


Doc Hastings  
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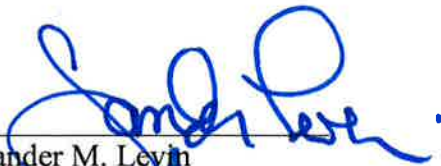
Sean Duffy  
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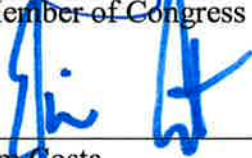
Rush D. Holt  
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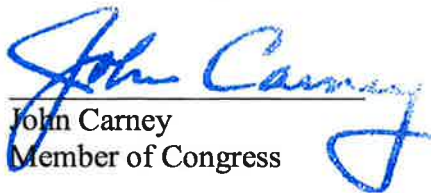
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Jim Costa  
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



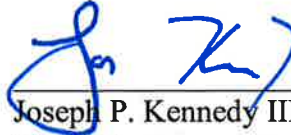
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Matthew Cartwright  
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Joseph P. Kennedy III  
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Ed Perlmutter  
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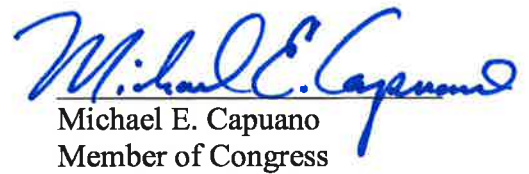
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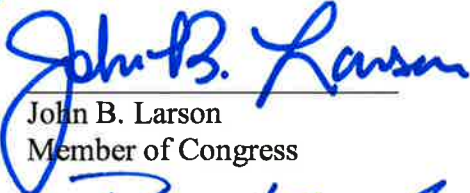
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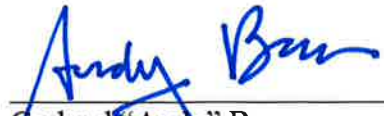
Raul M. Grijalva  
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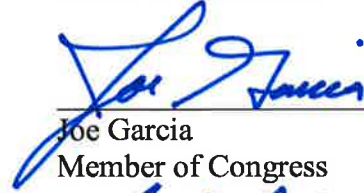
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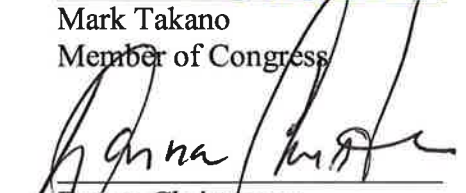
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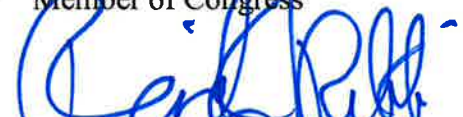
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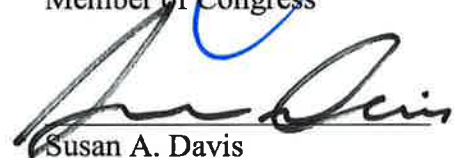
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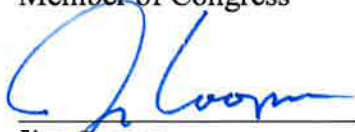


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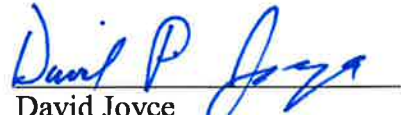
  
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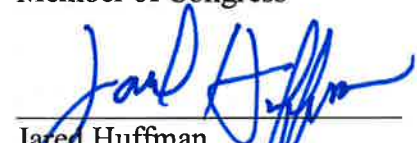
  
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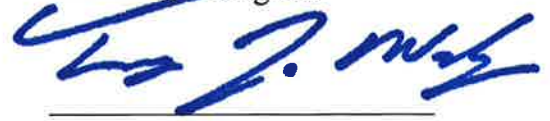
  
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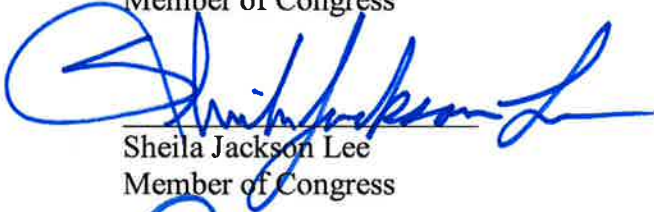
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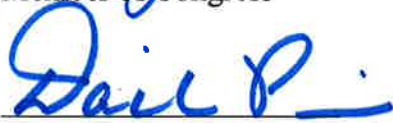
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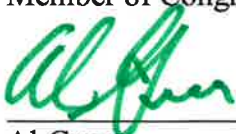
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Al Green  
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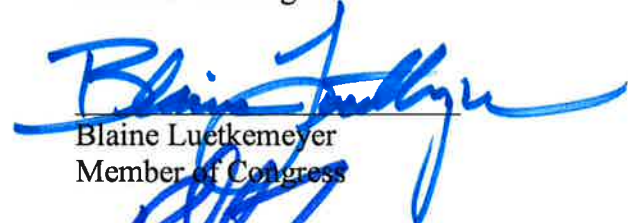
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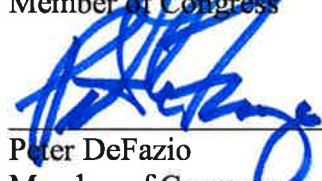
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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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Peter DeFazio  
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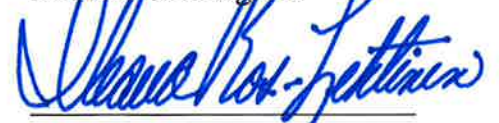
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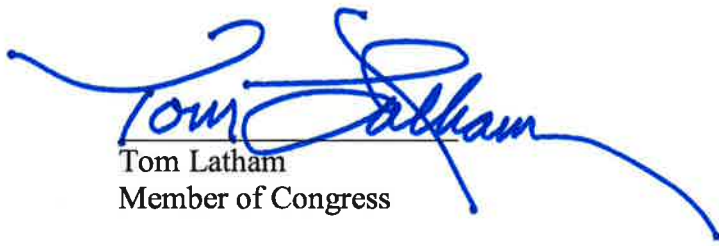
Henry A. Waxman  
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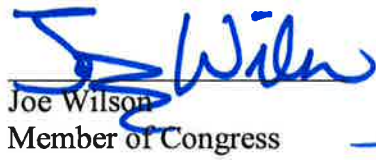


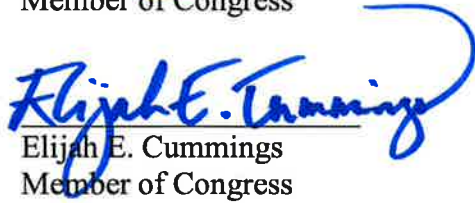
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
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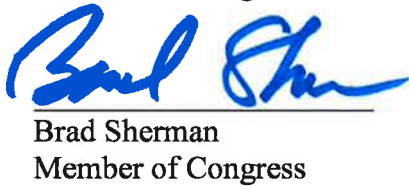
Collin Peterson  
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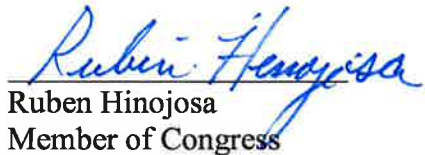
  
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

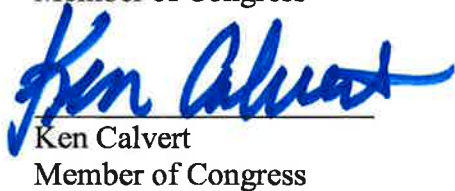
  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

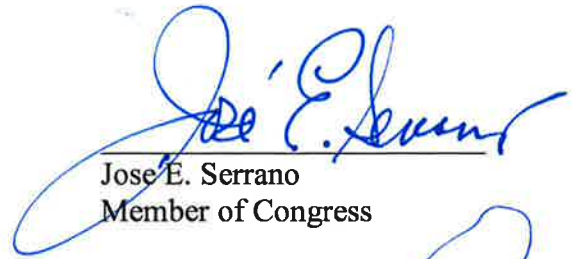
  
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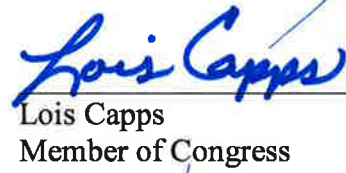
  
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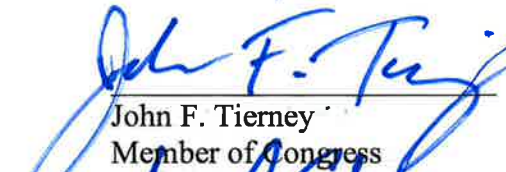
  
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Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

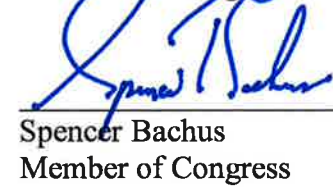
  
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Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

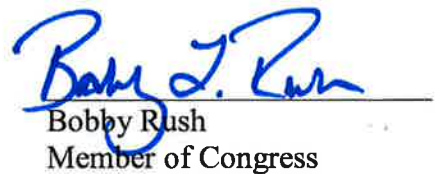
  
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John F. Tierney  
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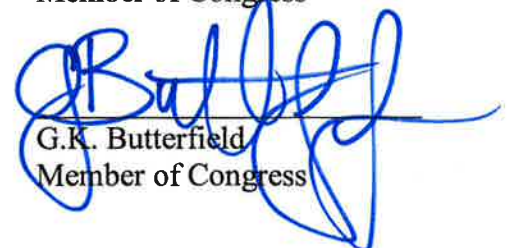
  
Michael S. Burgess  
Member of Congress

  
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  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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Gary G. Miller  
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Yvette Clarke  
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John Culberson  
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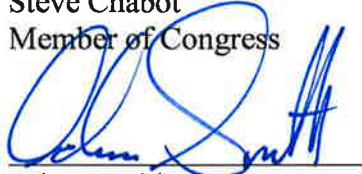
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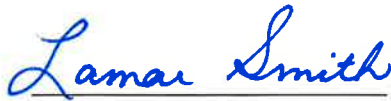
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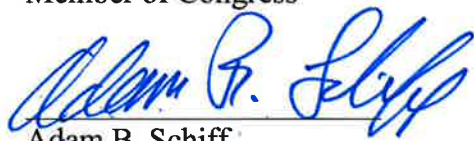



  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress


  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

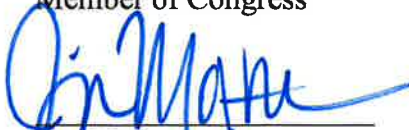
  
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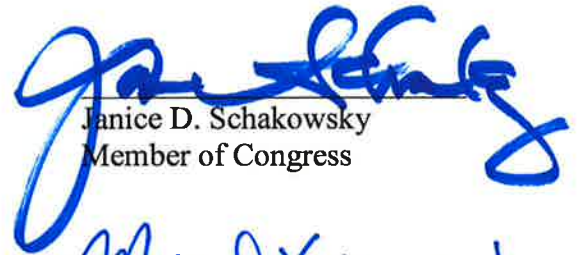
  
Adam B. Schiff  
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C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress

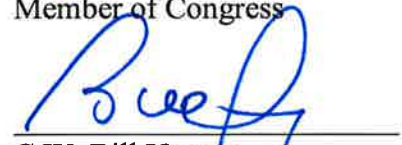
  
Eni Faleomavaega  
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Frank A. LoBiondo  
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Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

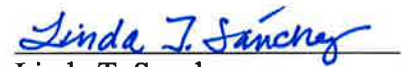
  
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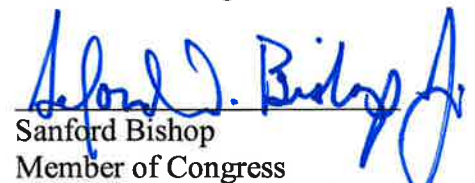
  
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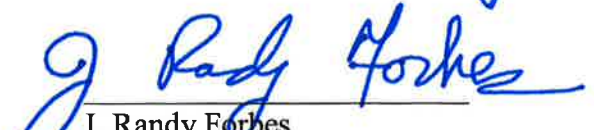
  
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

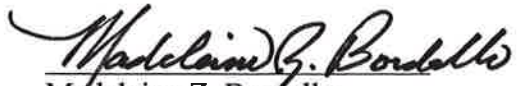
  
William "Lacy" Clay  
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Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

  
Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress


  
J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

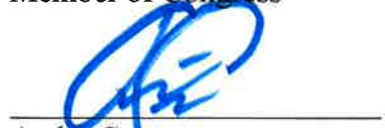
  
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Jim Gerlach  
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Shelley Moore Capito  
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Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

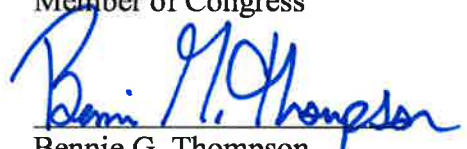
  
Robert E. Latta  
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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

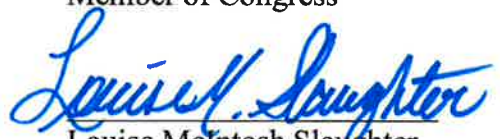
  
Tom Cole  
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Brian Higgins  
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Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress

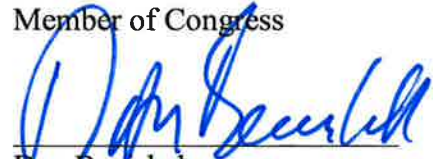
  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
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  
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Trey Gowdy

Trey Gowdy  
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Michael McCaul


Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress




  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

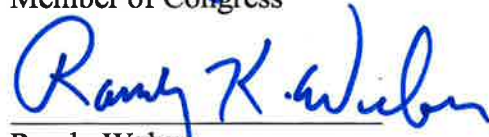
  
Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress


  
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress

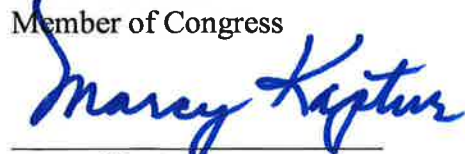
  
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Ryan  
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Randy Weber  
Member of Congress


  
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

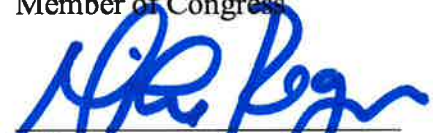
  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress


  
Markwayne Mullin  
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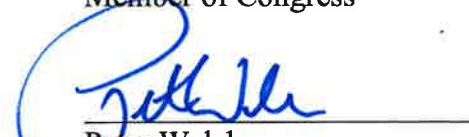
  
Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress

  
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

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

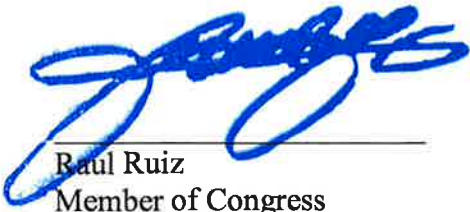
Rodney Frelinghuysen

Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher

Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress





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Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



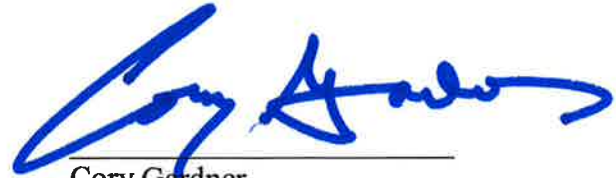
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Daniel Maffei  
Member of Congress




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Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



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Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

*Mike Coffman*

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

*CPA*

Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

*Tim Griffin*

Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress

*Bill Johnson*

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

*Allyson Schwartz*

Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress

*Chris Van Hollen*

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress