

Congress of the United States
Washington D.C. 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of America's Community Health Centers as a longstanding bipartisan solution to the primary care access problems facing this country. As you proceed with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee provide robust funding for Community Health Centers within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY 2023. This will ensure that health centers can continue to provide high-quality, cost-effective primary care to millions of Americans, many of whom remain medically underserved.

For more than 50 years, health centers have proven to be a worthwhile investment, providing quality and affordable primary and preventive care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, and a variety of complementary services to America's most vulnerable patients and medically underserved communities. These providers are trusted voices in their communities, and millions of Americans rely on them for services such as flu vaccination and treatment, HIV/AIDS prevention care, maternal health care, and opioid addiction treatment. Community Health Centers have also played a critical role in the fight against COVID-19 by providing testing, vaccinations, contact tracing, and education in communities hardest hit by the pandemic. Since January 2021, Community Health Centers have administered over 19 million COVID-19 vaccines and 17 million tests. These providers are trusted voices in their communities, which are often difficult to reach. Two-thirds of patients vaccinated by health centers are from racial and/or ethnic minority backgrounds.

Thanks to longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, today there are well over 1,400 health center organizations serving more than 14,000 communities in every state and U.S. territory, 42 percent of which are located in rural areas. These centers are the health care home for nearly 29 million patients, including nine million children and over 375,000 veterans. They employ over 255,000 people, generate \$63.4 billion in economic impact for local communities, and provide cost savings to our nation's health care system.

For the past decade, Congress has supported health centers on a bipartisan basis through the annual appropriation for the Health Center program, combined with investments in the mandatory Community Health Center Fund. With the mandatory funding through the Health Center Fund set at level funding for FY 2023, we urge you to work with your colleagues to prioritize funding for health centers in FY 2023. This combined funding is critical to the success of these safety net providers as they meet the growing demand for affordable care and respond to the changing needs of their communities.

For many Community Health Centers, funding will be crucial to provide post-COVID-19 follow-up care and to address health center provider shortages. Severe workforce shortages, which already existed before the pandemic, and growing salary gaps make it increasingly difficult for health centers to recruit and retain the workforce necessary to provide high-quality care. Burnout, early retirement, sickness, and marketplace competition because of COVID-19 have only exacerbated this crisis.

As Congress works to improve access to care and promote patient-centered solutions to our health care challenges, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to support robust funding for Community Health Centers. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



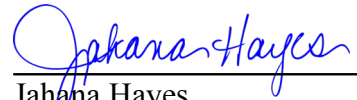
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
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Jahana Hayes
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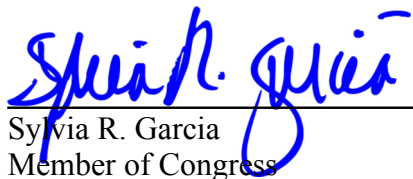
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



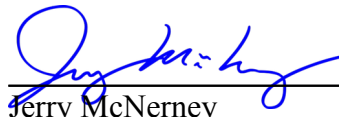
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



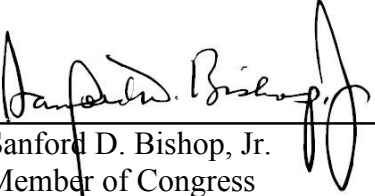
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress




Jerry McNerney
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Haley M. Stevens
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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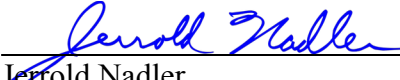
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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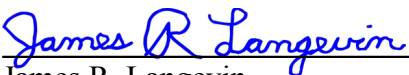
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
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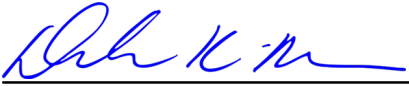
James R. Langevin
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Jenniffer González-Colón
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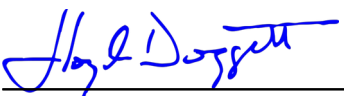
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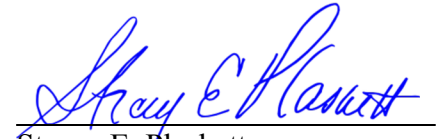
Doris Matsui
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Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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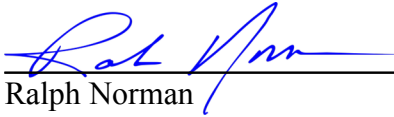
Angie Craig
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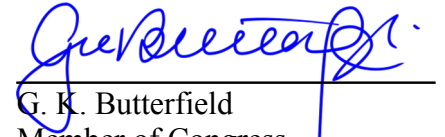
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Al Green
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Ralph Norman
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G. K. Butterfield
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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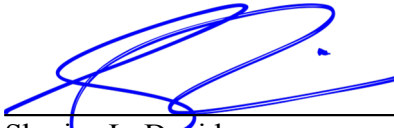
Terri A. Sewell
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Brian Higgins
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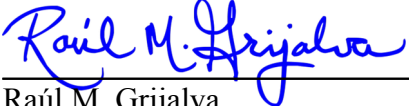
Markwayne Mullin
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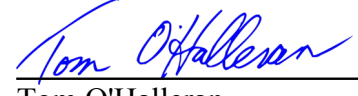
Bill Posey
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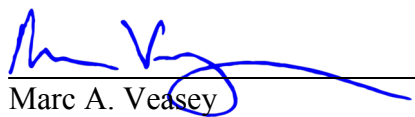
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Jamie Raskin
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Katie Porter
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Joe Wilson
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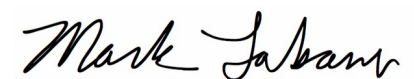
Seth Moulton
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Gwen S. Moore
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Mark Takano
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Troy Carter
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Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Contracting
and Infrastructure



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
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John Yarmuth
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Peter Welch
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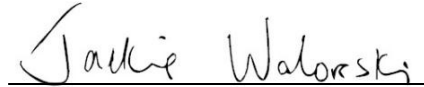
Chrissy Houlahan
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Alex X. Mooney
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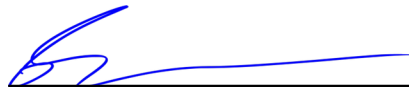
John Joyce
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Jackie Walorski
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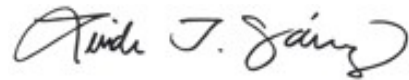
John Katko
Member of Congress



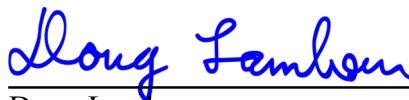
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Doug Lamborn
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Anthony Gonzalez
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Elise M. Stefanik
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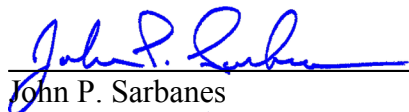
H. Morgan Griffith
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Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



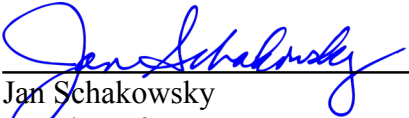
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



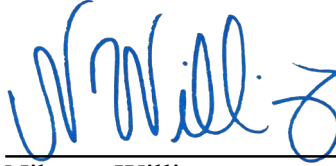
John P. Sarbanes
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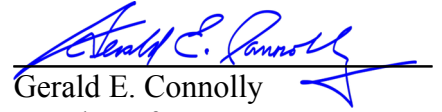
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



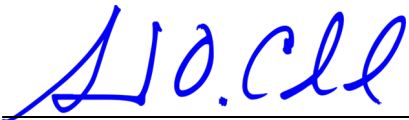
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



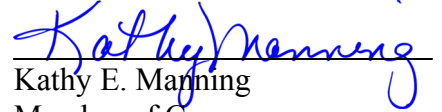
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



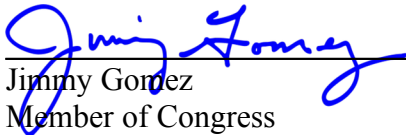
Tom Malinowski
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Daniel Meuser
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Jimmy Gomez
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



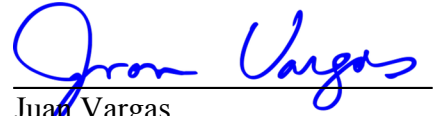
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



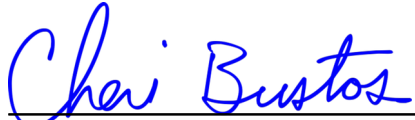
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



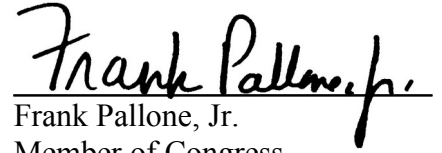
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



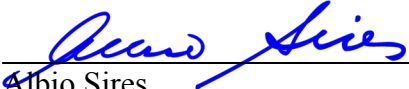
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



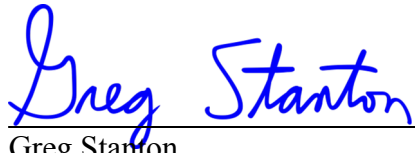
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



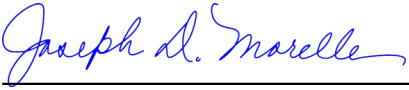
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
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Debbie Dingell
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Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



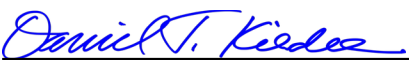
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



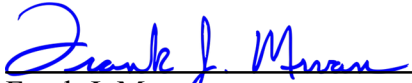
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



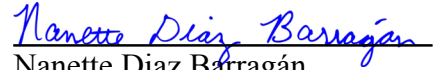
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



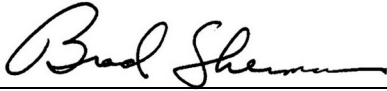
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



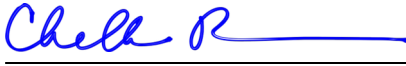
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



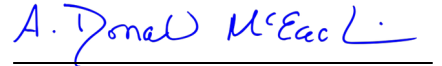
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Brad Sherman
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



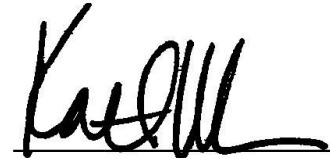
A. Donald McEachin
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Conor Lamb
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Adam Smith
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Austin Scott
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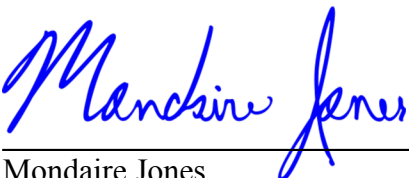
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



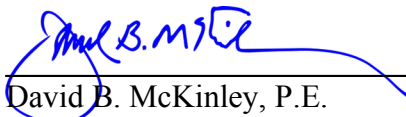
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



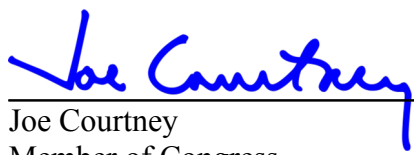
Mondaire Jones
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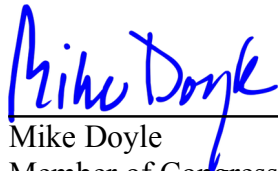
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



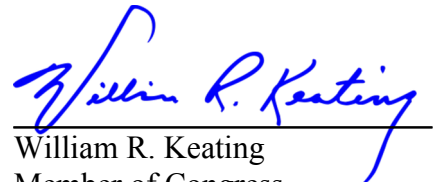
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



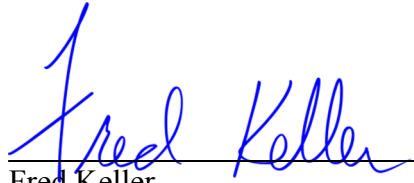
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
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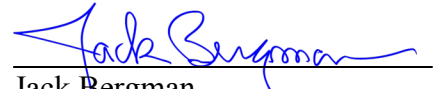
William R. Keating
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Mike Gallagher
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Jack Bergman
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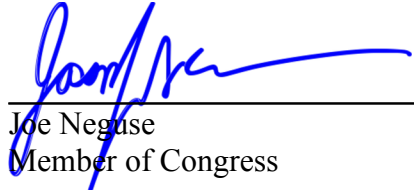
Anna G. Eshoo
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Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
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Karen Bass
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



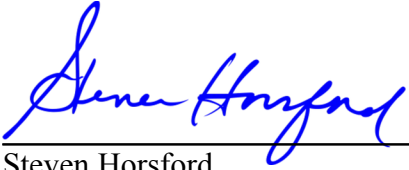
Rashida Tlaib
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Joaquin Castro
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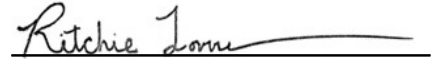
Thomas R. Suozzi
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Steven Horsford
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Ritchie Torres
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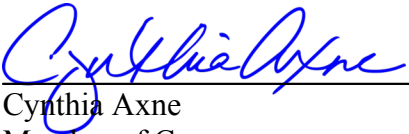
Hakeem Jeffries
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Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



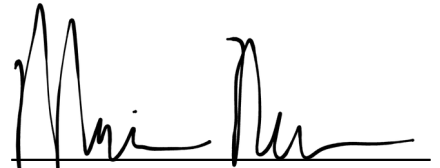
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



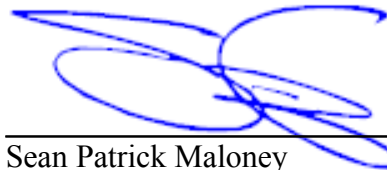
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Marie Newman
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Val Butler Demings
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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Rick Larsen
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Mike Thompson
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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John Garamendi
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Darin LaHood
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J. Luis Correa
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Anthony G. Brown
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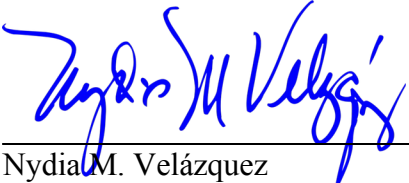
Fred Upton
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Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



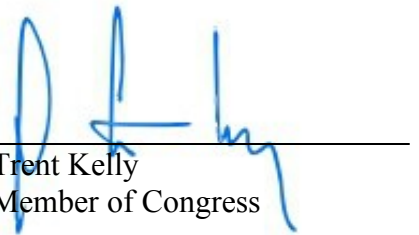
Theodore E. Deutch
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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John Rose
Member of Congress



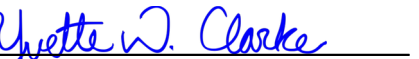
Trent Kelly
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Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



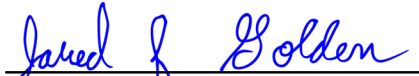
Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



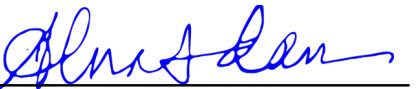
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



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



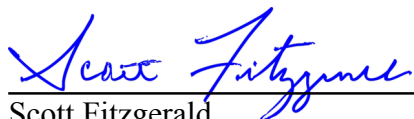
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



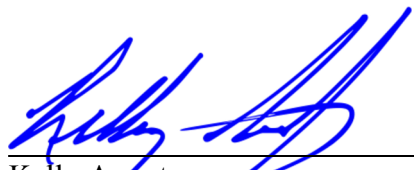
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



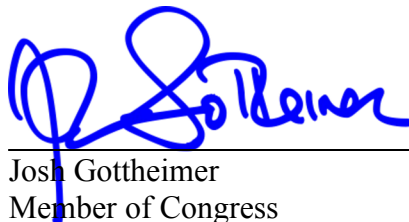
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



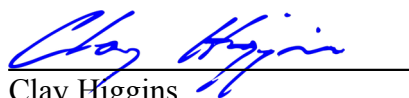
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



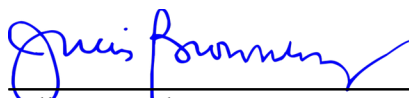
Mike Bost
Member of Congress




Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



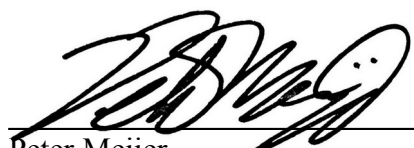
David E. Price
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



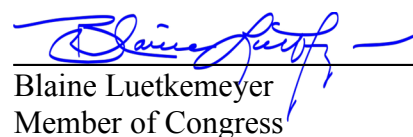
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress




Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



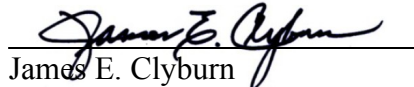
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



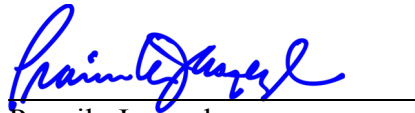
Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



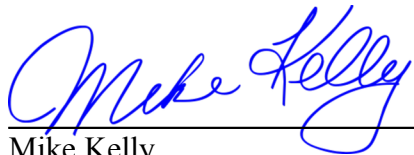
James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



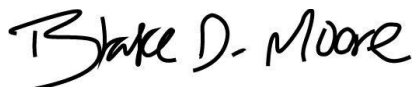
Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



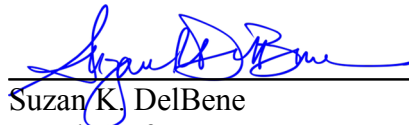
Bob Good
Member of Congress



Kaiuli Kanehe
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



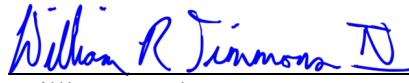
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



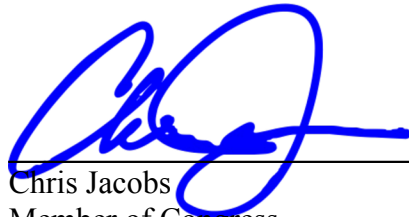
William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



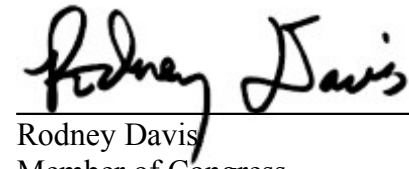
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



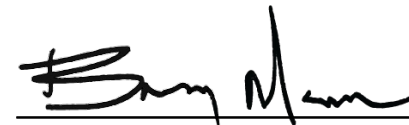
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



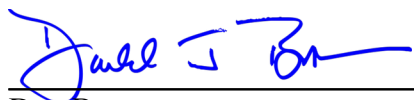
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



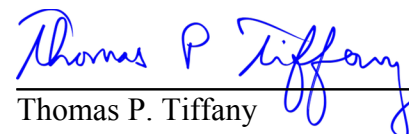
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Michelle Steel
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

André carson

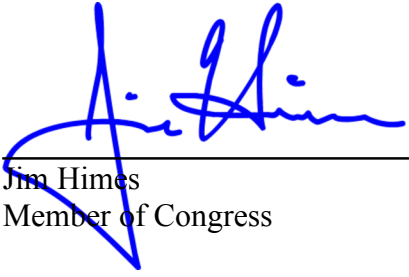
André Carson
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



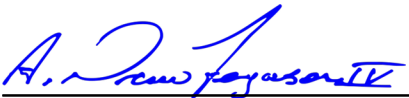
Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



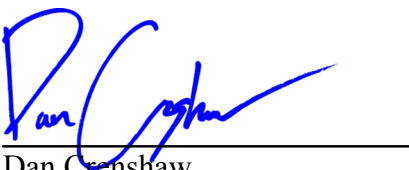
A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



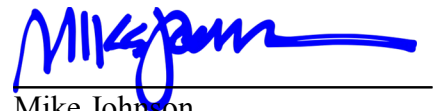
John R. Curtis
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



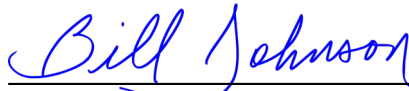
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



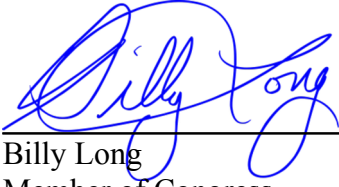
Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



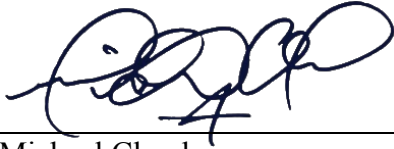
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



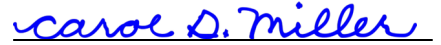
Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



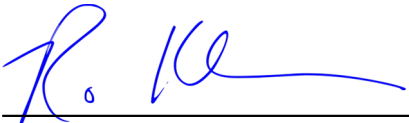
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress