

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and Delauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in achieving better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request an FY18 appropriation of \$36 billion to reflect the rising costs of biomedical research. Therefore we respectfully request that the NIH receives an increase of at least \$2 billion above Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. This amount, which accounts for inflation, is the minimum level of funding needed to reflect the rising costs associated with biomedical research. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Over the past decade, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs. Although a modest increase was included in the 2016 end of the year spending package, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. Students are receiving a world-class education at American universities only to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

The 114th Congress made a down payment on continued advancements at the NIH through the passage of the 21st Century Cures law. While that funding will benefit the Precision Medicine and BRAIN initiatives as well as the Cancer Moonshot, this request for discretionary funding is necessary for the NIH to continue as the world's preeminent medical research institution and our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that

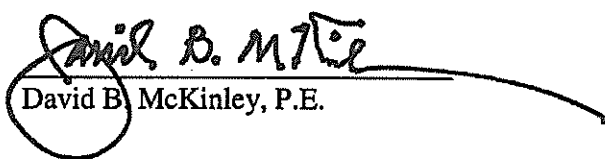
is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major advancements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and Parkinson's.

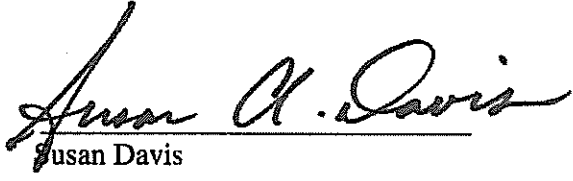
Critical medical research at NIH is on the cutting edge inspiring American researchers and scientists into vital fields. Increased funding for the NIH would allow, for example, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to speed up its development of cell culture-based influenza vaccines. Currently, annual influenza vaccines are developed and manufactured using a 50 year old technology involving chicken eggs. Switching to a cell culture-based process could shave weeks off the current six to nine month production process. In addition, it would allow for the rapid adjustment to changes in the annual flu, as is happening this year, or in the event of an emergency. Cell culture-based vaccines would be available to people with egg allergies that currently are not able to receive annual flu vaccines.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America.

In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$36 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2018. Please contact Margie Almanza (Rep. McKinley) at margie.almanza@mail.house.gov, Nathan Bennett (Rep. Carson) at nathan.bennett@mail.house.gov, Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at matt.weiner@mail.house.gov, or Jamie Matese (Rep. King) at jamie.matese@mail.house.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely,


David B. McKinley, P.E.


Susan Davis


André Carson


Peter T. King



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
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Bradley Byrne
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Ann M. Kuster
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Glenn Thompson
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Paul Mitchell
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Alan S. Lowenthal
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Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

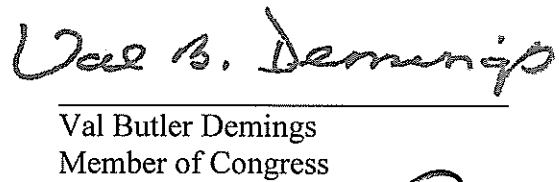


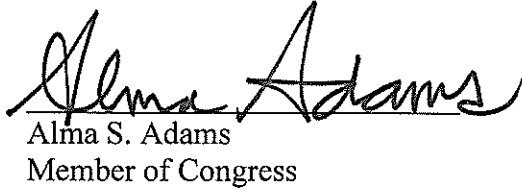
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

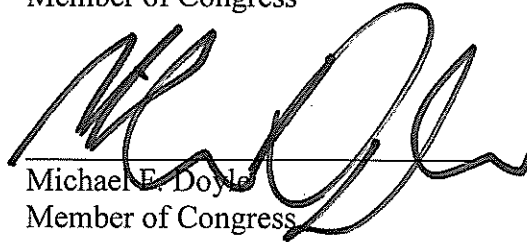


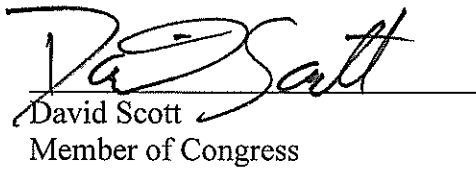
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

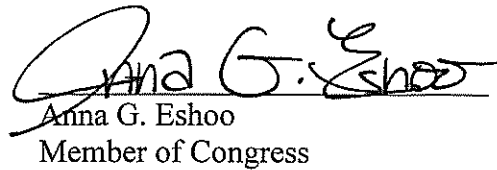

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

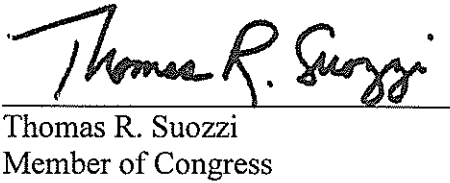

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams
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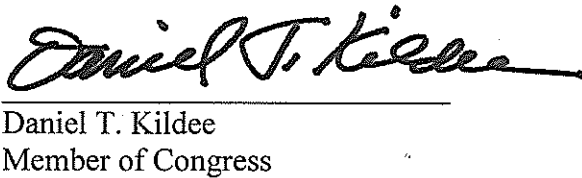

Michael E. Doyle
Member of Congress

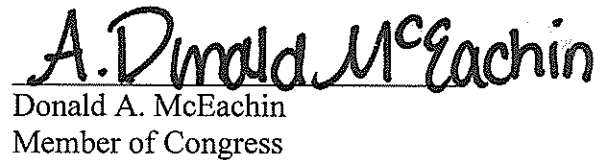

David Scott
Member of Congress

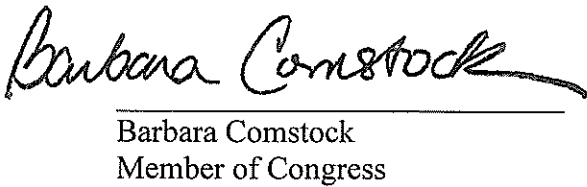

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

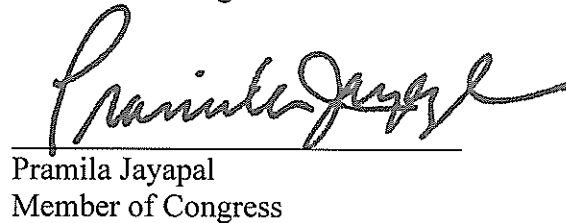

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

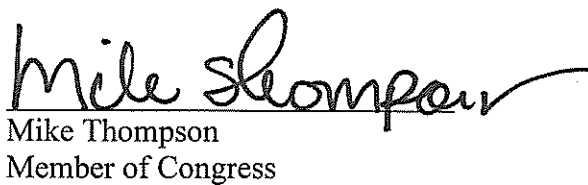

Ruben Kihuen
Member of Congress


Daniel T. Kildee
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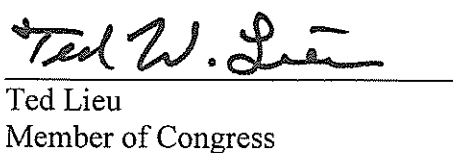

Donald A. McEachin
Member of Congress

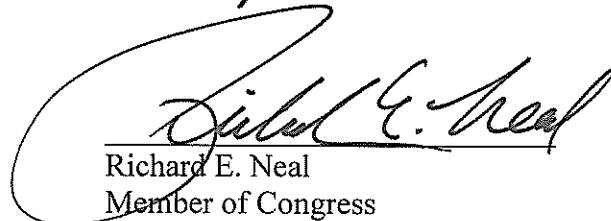

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

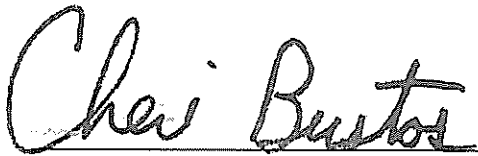

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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Ted Lieu
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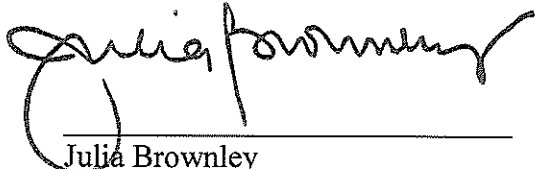

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



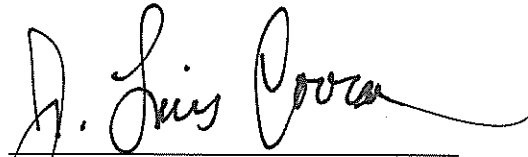
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



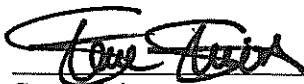
Lois Frankel
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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



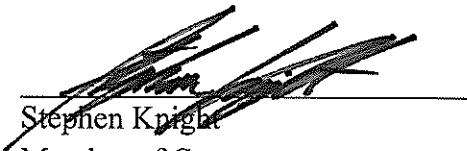
Luis J. Correa
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Rod Blum
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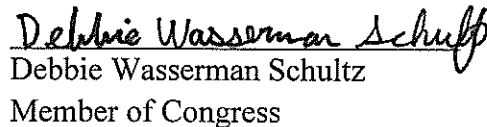
Stephen Knight
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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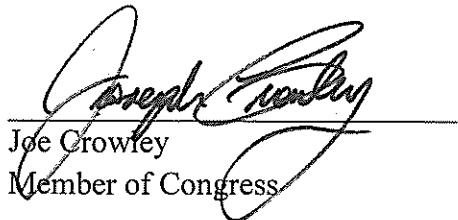
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



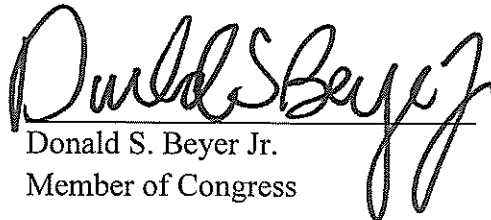
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



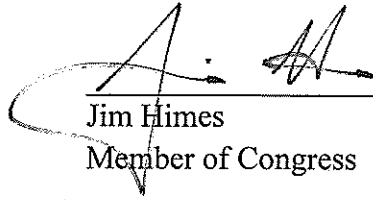
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



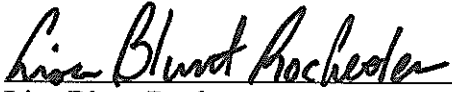
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



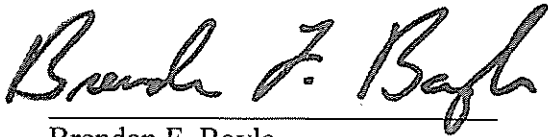
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



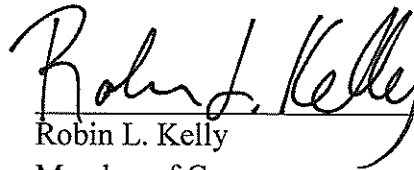
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Stephanie N. Murphy
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



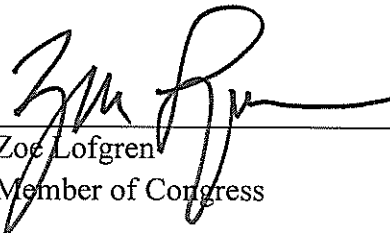
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



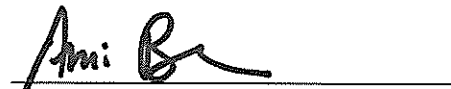
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



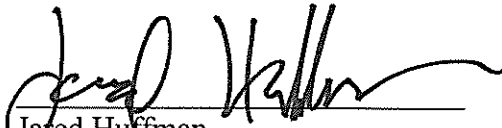
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



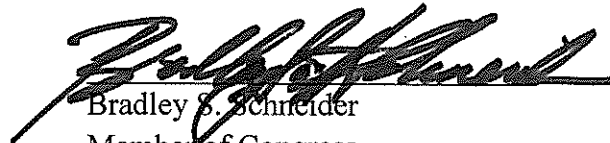
Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



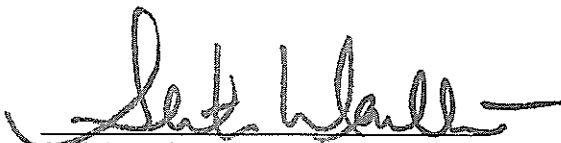
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress




Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress




Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



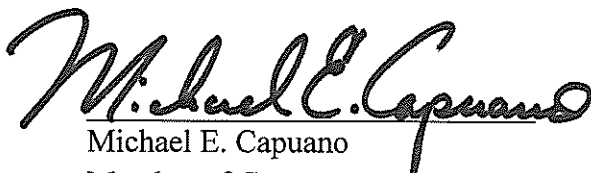
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



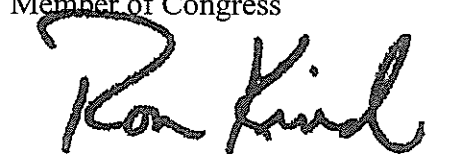
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress




Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



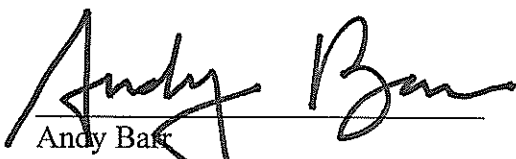
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



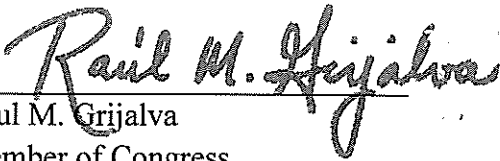
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Donald W. Norcross
Member of Congress



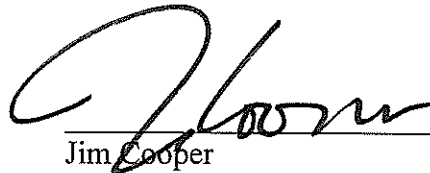
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



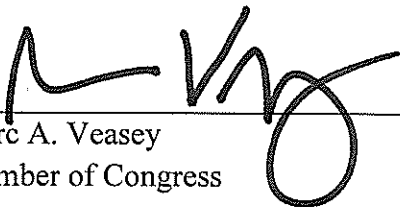
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



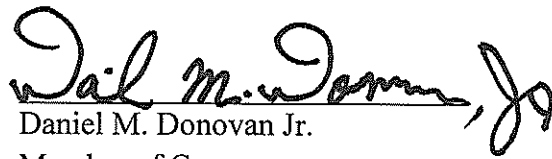
Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress



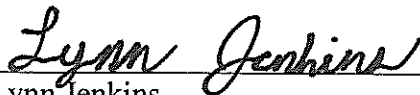
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



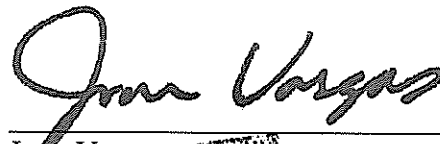
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan Jr.
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



David Loebbeck
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Bob A. Brady

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Pete Olson

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

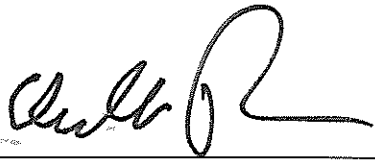
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

David E. Price

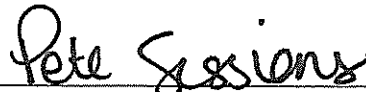
David E. Price
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

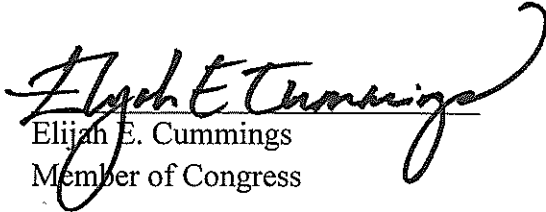
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



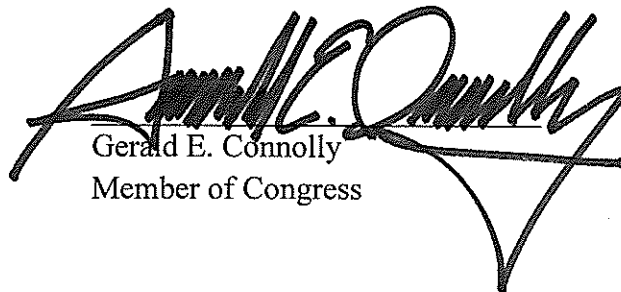
Brad Sherman
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Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



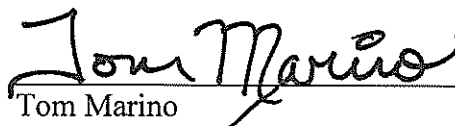
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



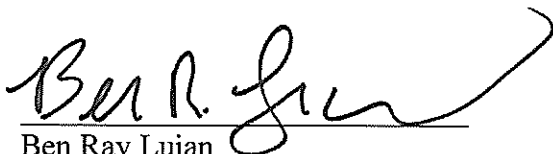
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress



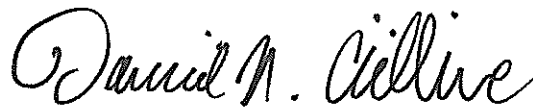
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



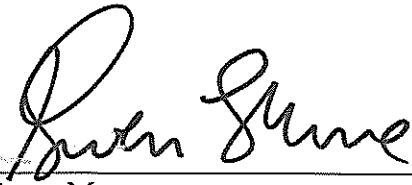
Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



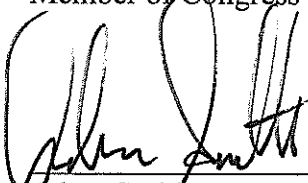
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



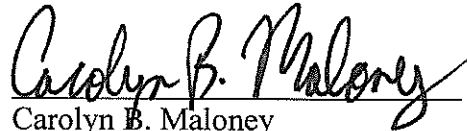
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



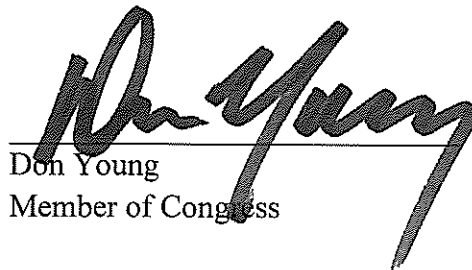
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



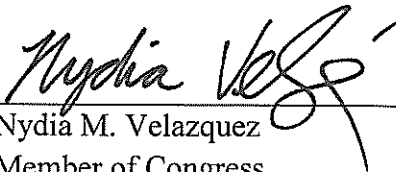
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



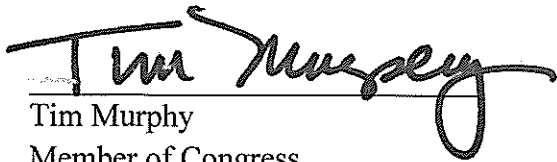
Don Young
Member of Congress

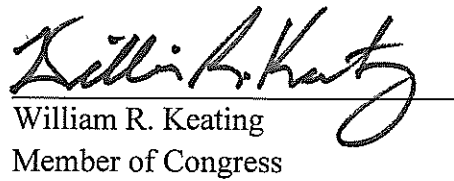


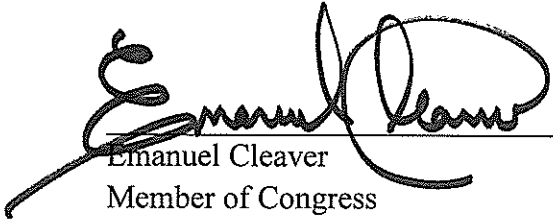
Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress

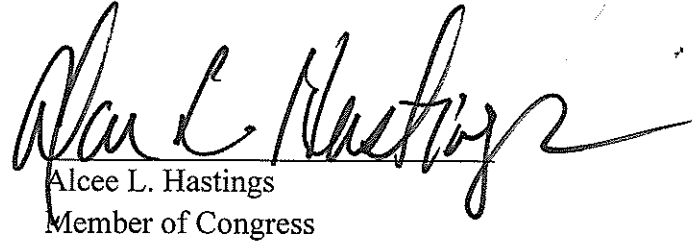


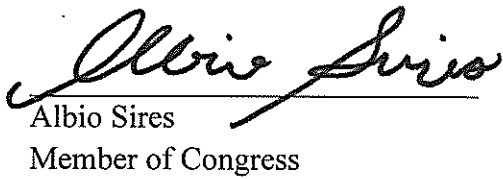
Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

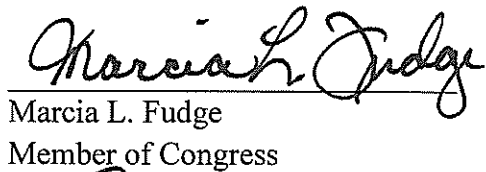

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

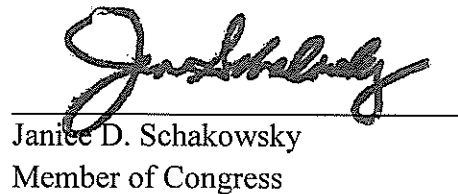

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

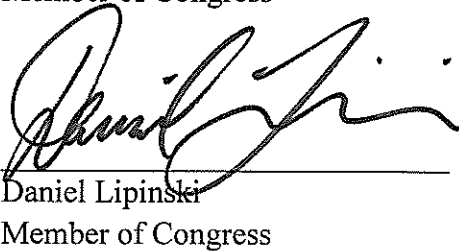

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

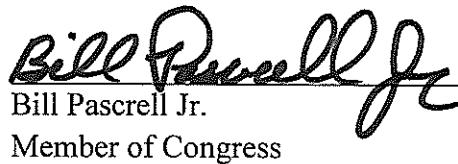

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

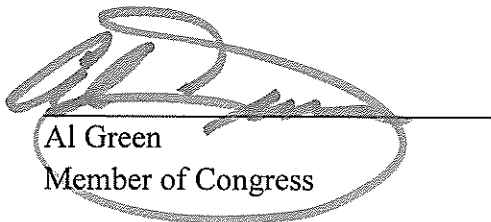

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

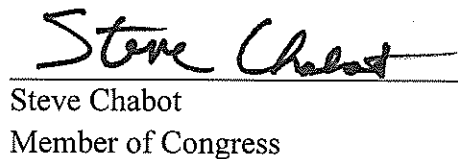

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

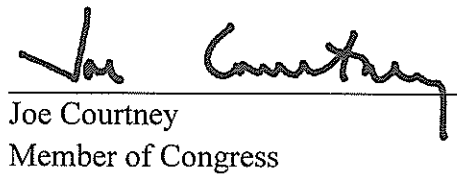

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Steve Chabot
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



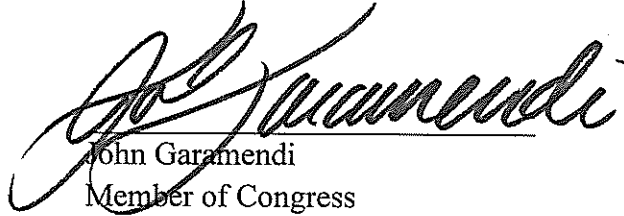
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



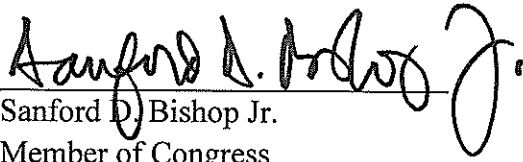
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



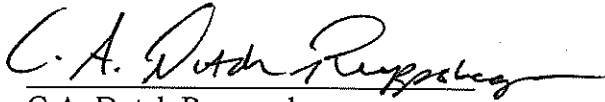
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



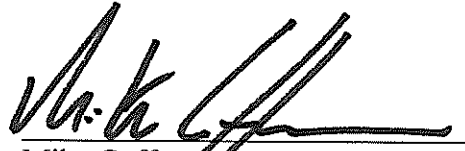
Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress



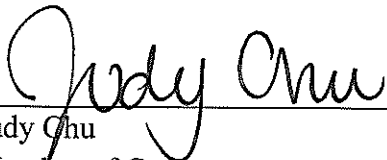
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



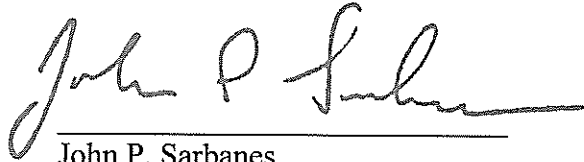
C.A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



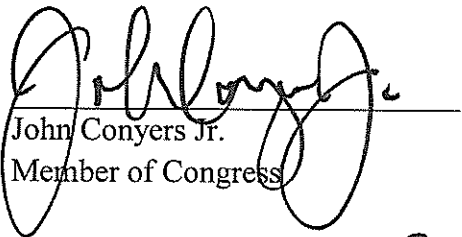
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



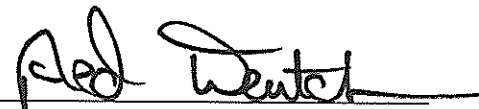
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



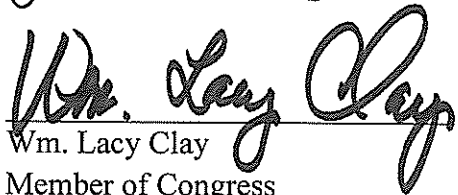
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



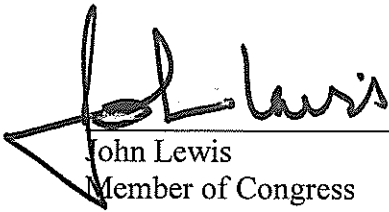
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



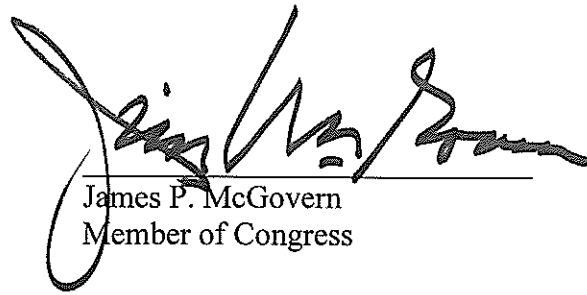
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



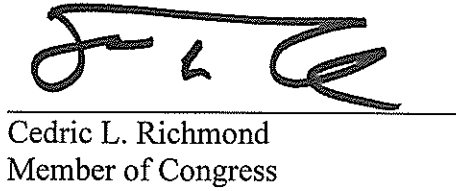
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



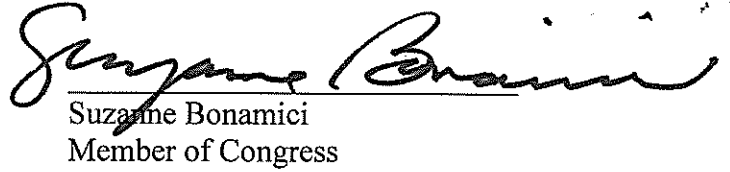
John Lewis
Member of Congress



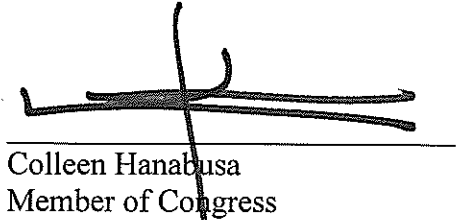
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



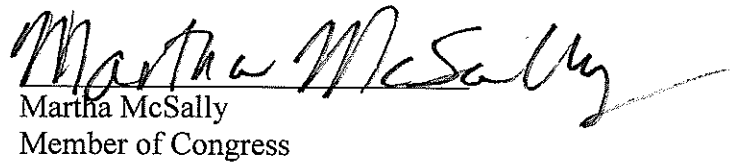
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



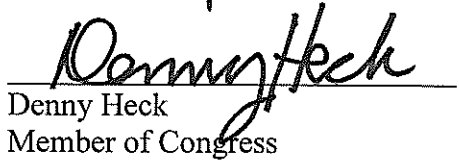
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



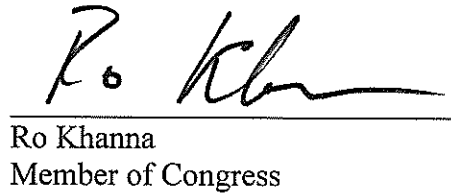
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



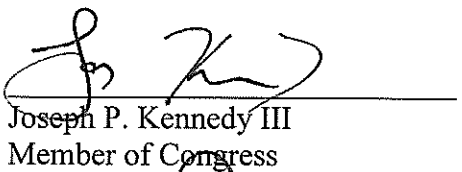
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



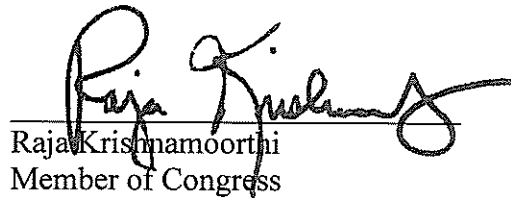
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



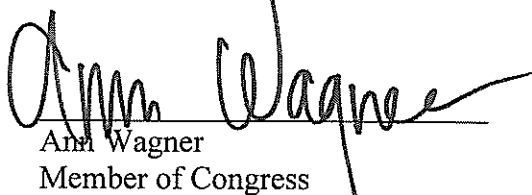
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



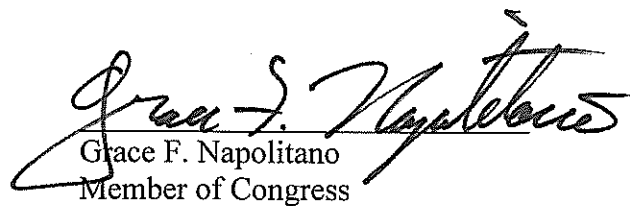
Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



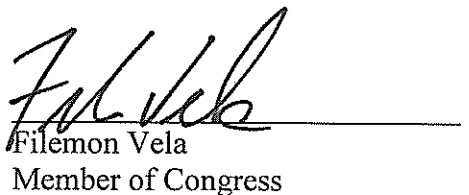
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



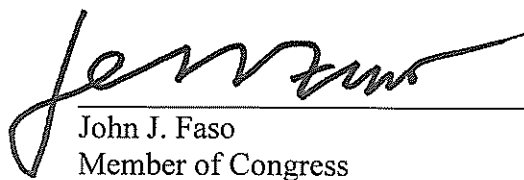
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



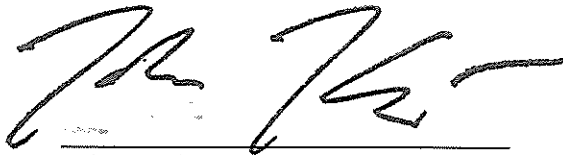
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



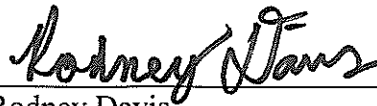
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



John J. Faso
Member of Congress



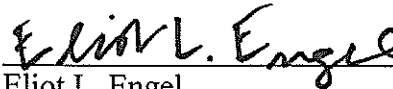
John Katko
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Adriano D. Espaillat
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



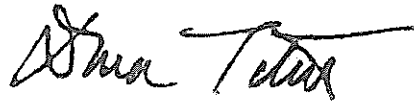
John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



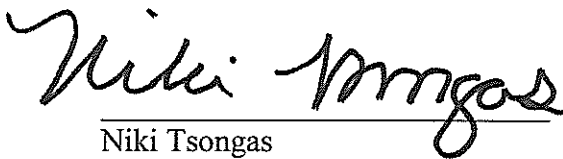
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



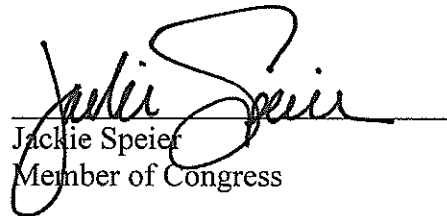
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



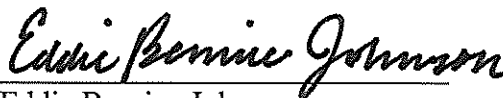
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



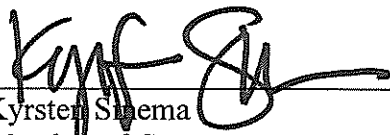
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



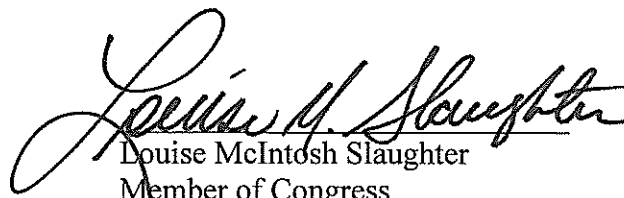
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



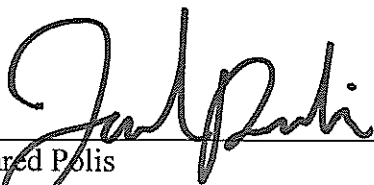
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



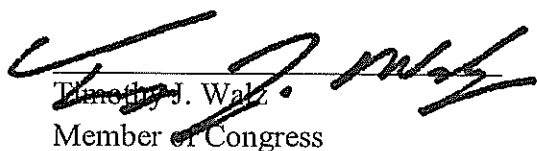
Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



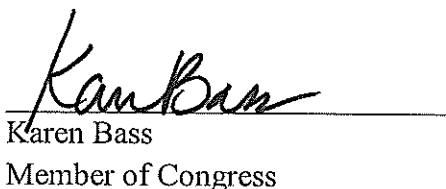
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



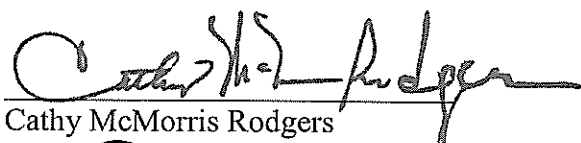
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



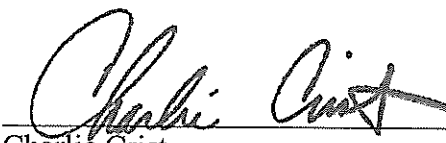
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



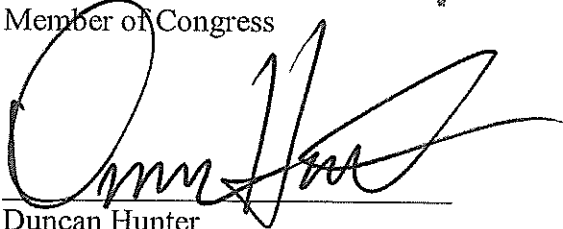
Darren Soto
Member of Congress




Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress