

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
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 better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the NIH receives at least \$32 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We feel this amount 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. Since 2003, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have stagnated and 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.

Full funding for NIH is critical if the agency is to continue to serve 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.

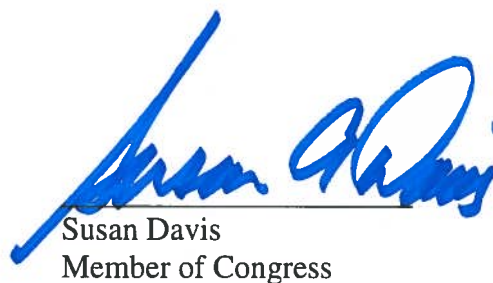
In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters 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 \$32 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2016. Please contact Audrey Smith (Rep. McKinley) at audrey.smith@mail.house.gov, Erica Powell (Rep. Carson) at erica.powell@mail.house.gov, Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at matt.weiner@mail.house.gov, or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) at Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely,



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



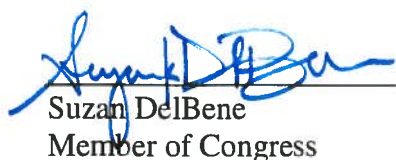
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



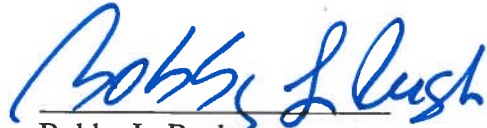
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



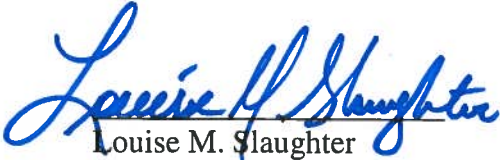
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



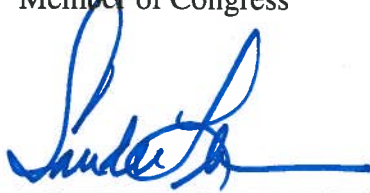
Bobby L. Rush
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Louise M. Slaughter
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Sander Levin
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Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



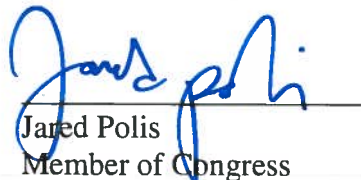
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



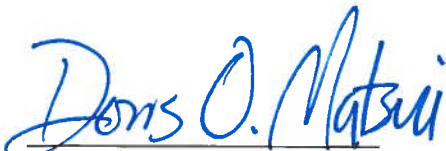
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



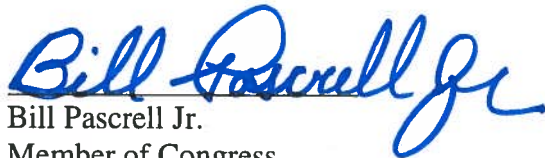
John P. Sarbanes
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Bill Pascrell Jr.
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Joyce Beatty
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Earl Blumenauer
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Alcee L. Hastings
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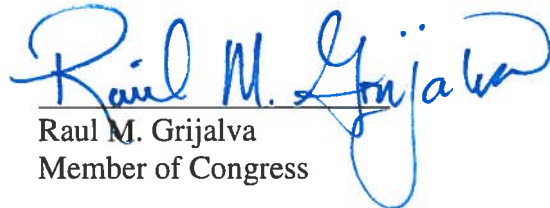
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Raul M. Grijalva
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Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



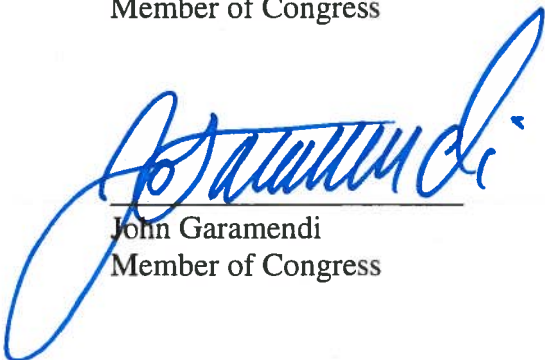
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



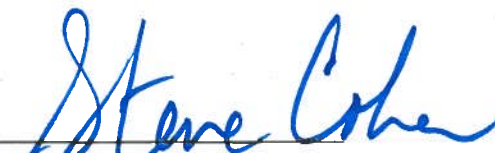
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David Scott
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Suzanne Bonamici
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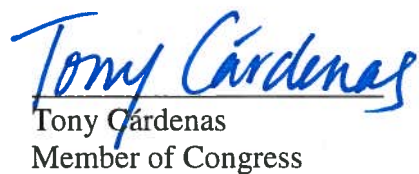
Ron Kind
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John Yarmuth
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Charles B. Rangel
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Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



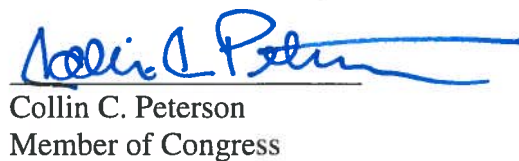
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



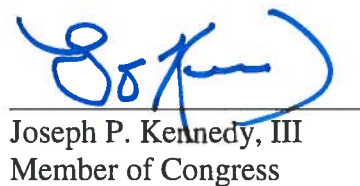
Sean Patrick Maloney
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Peter DeFazio
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Collin C. Peterson
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
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Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



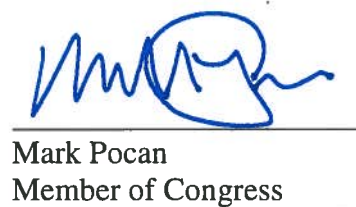
James R. Langevin
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Mark Takano
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Al Green
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Mark Pocan
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Mike Coffman
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Gwen Moore
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John Lewis
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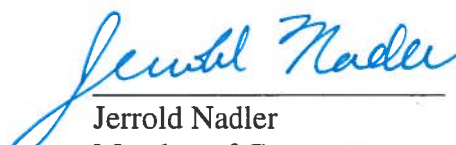

Sam Farr
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Lois Capps
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Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

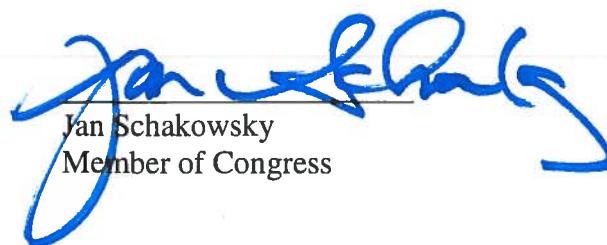

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

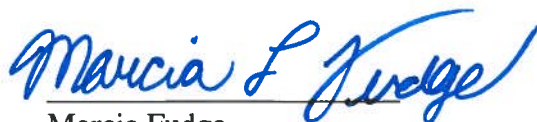

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Jerrold Nadler
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Barbara Lee
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Jan Schakowsky
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Marcia Fudge
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William Keating
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Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Bill Foster
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Ted Deutch
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

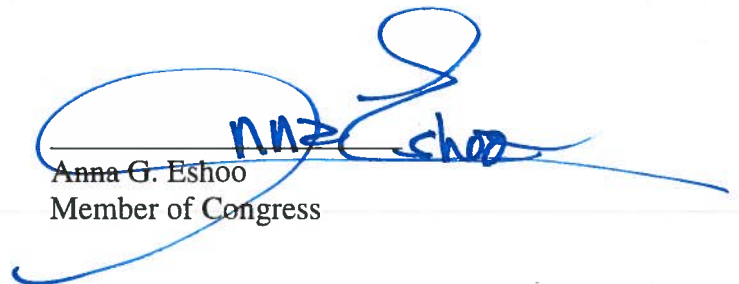

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz
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Jackie Speier
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Katherine Clark
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Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

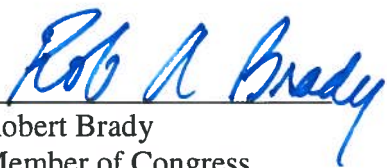

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

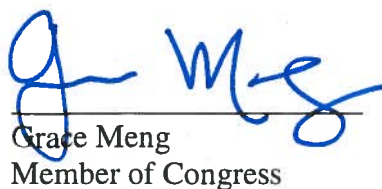

Eric Swalwell
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Mike Thompson
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Gene Green
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Robert Brady
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Grace Meng
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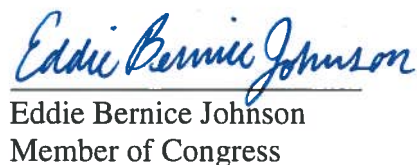
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



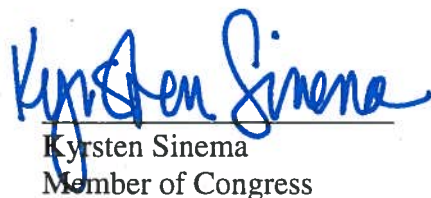
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



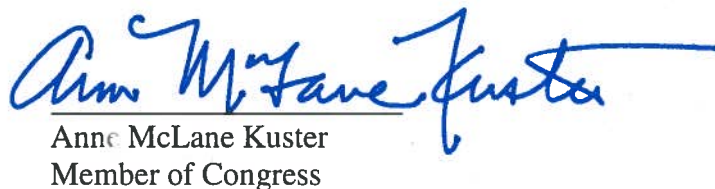
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



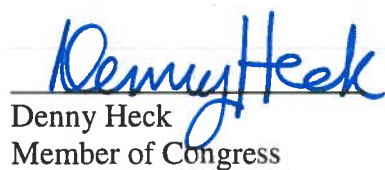
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



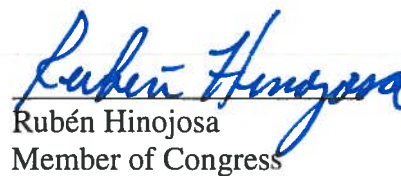
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



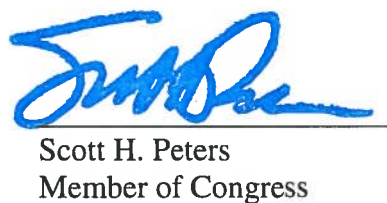
Anne McLane Kuster
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Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Christopher P. Gibson
Member of Congress



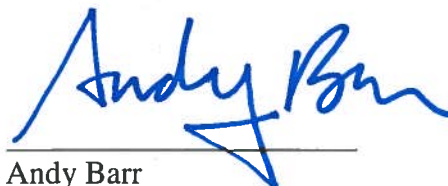
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



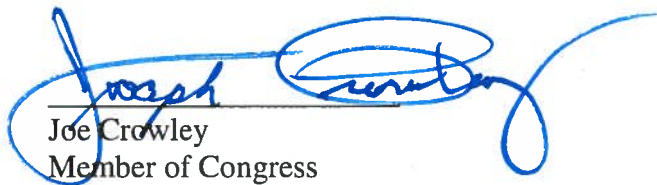
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



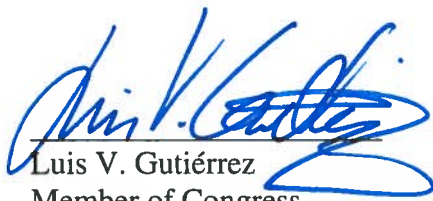
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



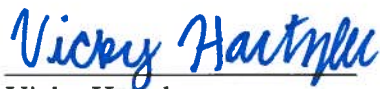
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress

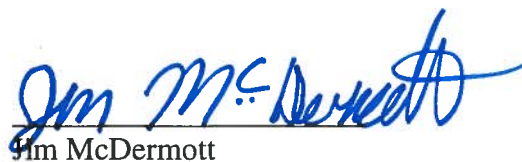


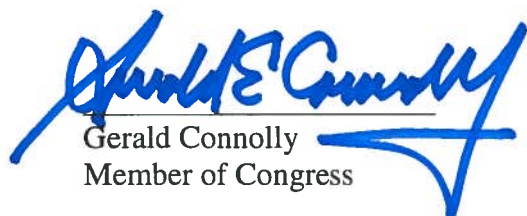
Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

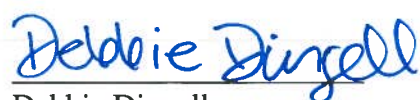

Chris Smith
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress


Tom Marino
Member of Congress


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



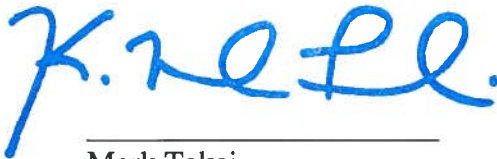
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



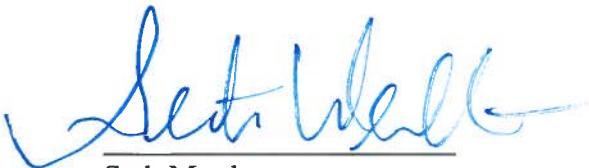
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



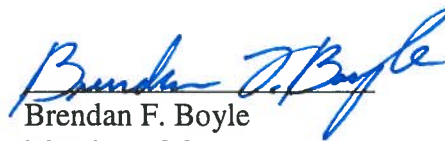
Mark Takai
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



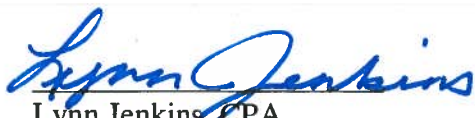
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



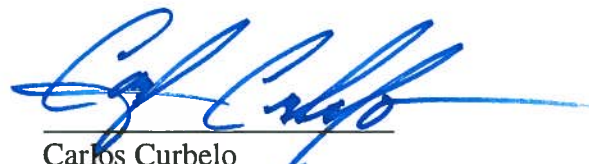
Lynn Jenkins CPA
Member of Congress



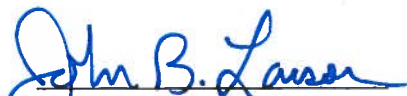
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
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John B. Larson
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Lloyd Doggett
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Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

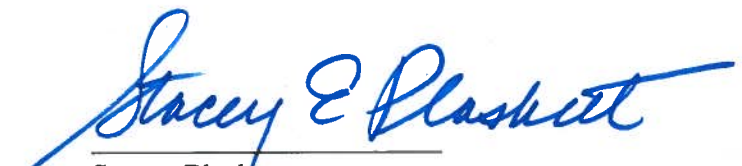

Pete Olson
Member of Congress


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

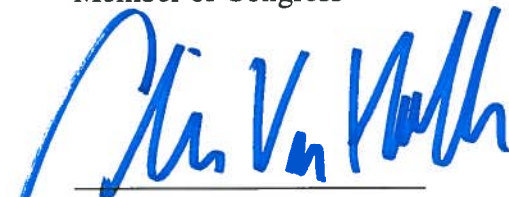

Cedric Richmond
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Matt Cartwright
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Stacey Plaskett
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Tammy Duckworth
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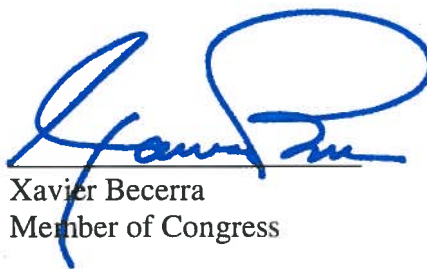

Chris Van Hollen
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Mark Walker
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Brad Sherman
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