

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-310, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you consider appropriations legislation for the coming year, we respectfully request robust funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill.

LSC helps military families and veterans, those affected by opioids and addiction, victims of natural disasters, domestic violence survivors, families with children, homeowners and renters, the disabled, the elderly, and many others across the country. LSC-funded legal aid programs help constituents who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which in 2019, is \$15,613 for an individual and \$32,188 for a family of four. Today, nearly 60 million Americans, or 18.2 percent of the U.S. population, currently qualify for legal assistance from LSC-funded programs. LSC's clients span every demographic and live in rural, suburban, and urban areas, and LSC basic field funding supports essential client services in every congressional district.

In 2017, LSC released a study, "The Justice Gap: Measuring the Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans," showing 86 percent of the civil legal problems of low-income Americans received inadequate or no legal help in the past year. The "justice gap" is the difference between the civil legal needs of low-income Americans and the resources available to meet those needs. Investment in civil legal aid is one of the most effective ways to help Americans navigate the justice system. Funding for legal aid promotes individual empowerment and self-reliance by giving people the tools and knowledge to access the civil court system to protect and exercise their rights.


At the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the establishment of LSC, late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia remarked, "Equal treatment is the element of justice most fundamental...denial of access to professional legal assistance is denial of equal justice." This sentiment has been echoed by business leaders, private law firms, state attorneys general, and Chief Justices of state courts who have advocated their support for robust funding for LSC.

LSC provides basic field funding, which supports essential client constituent services in every congressional district. A reduction in LSC's funding level for FY20 would result in many more otherwise qualified people being turned away from civil legal assistance organizations. This would result in hundreds of thousands of fewer citizens being served by LSC nationwide, and would reduce access to the judicial system proportionately.

Congress enshrined these principles when it established LSC to operate as a private, nonprofit corporation to promote equal access to justice and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons and families. LSC distributes more than 94 percent of its total funding to 132 independent nonprofit legal aid programs.

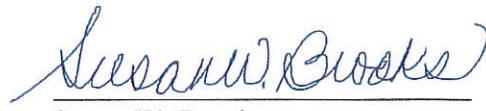
We hope you will do everything possible to ensure that the Legal Services Corporation receives robust funding in the FY 2020 CJS Appropriations bill to ensure that critical legal assistance will be available to those in urgent need.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

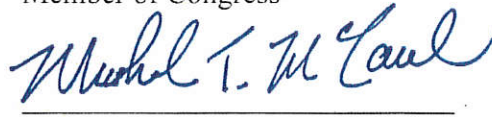
  
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Member of Congress

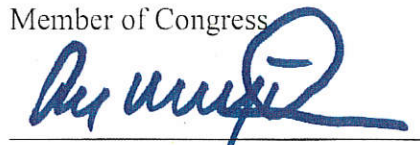
  
Debbie Dingell  
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Fred Upton  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Anthony Gonzalez  
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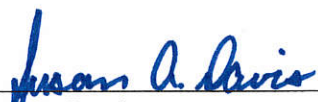
  
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



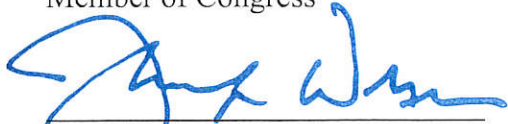
Ruben Gallego  
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Dave Loebsack  
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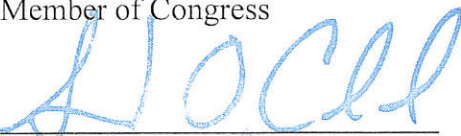
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



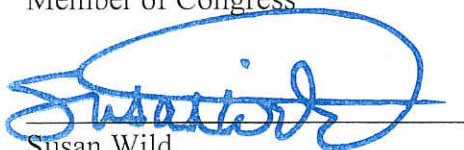
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



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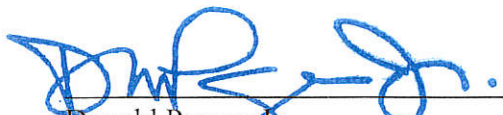
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



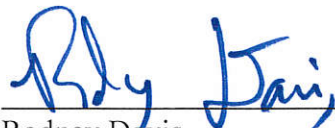
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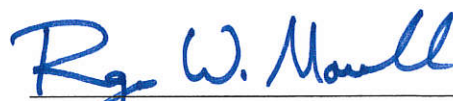
Pete Stauber  
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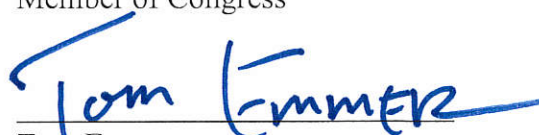
Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



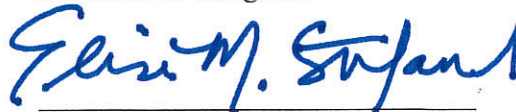
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Thomas Suozzi  
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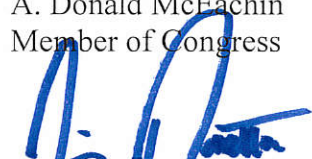
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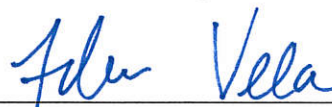
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Filemon Vela  
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Greg Walden  
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Steve Stivers  
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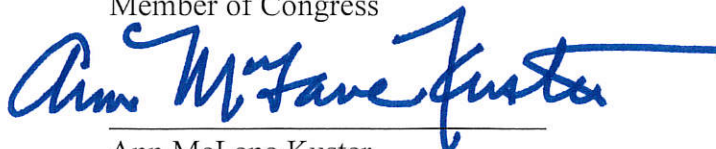
Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



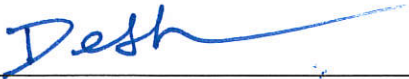
John Katko  
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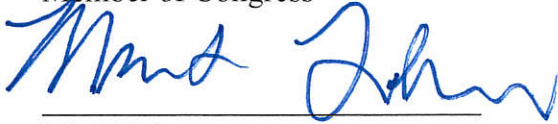
Ann McLane Kuster  
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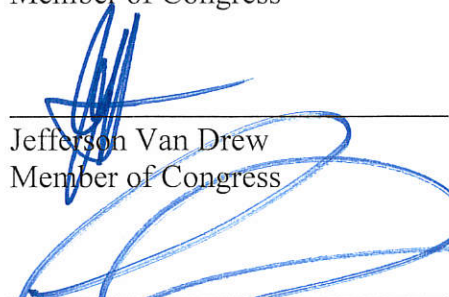
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Jefferson Van Drew  
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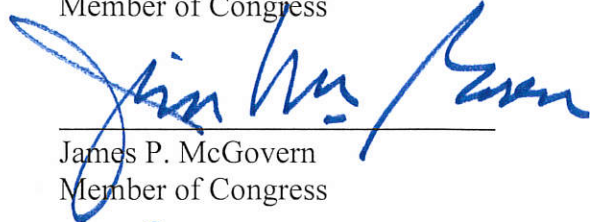
Ed Perlmutter  
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Dean Phillips  
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Rick Crawford  
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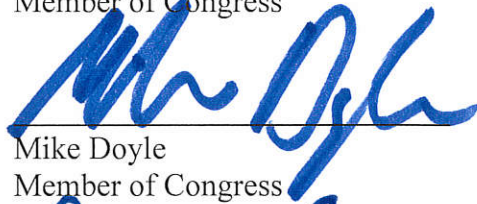
James P. McGovern  
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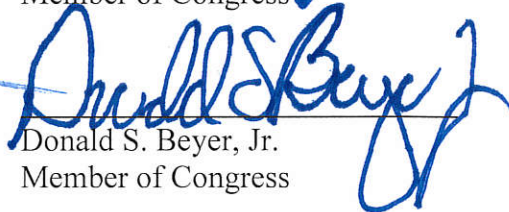
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Mike Doyle  
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Jared Golden  
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Deb Haaland  
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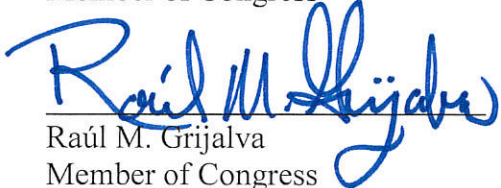
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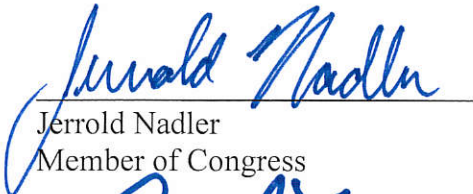
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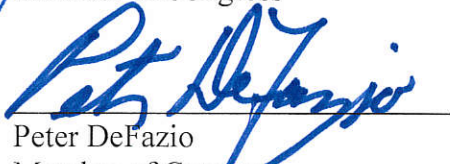
Karen Bass  
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
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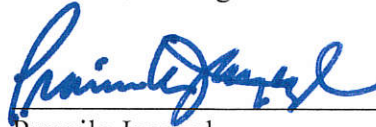
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Peter DeFazio  
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Ron Kind  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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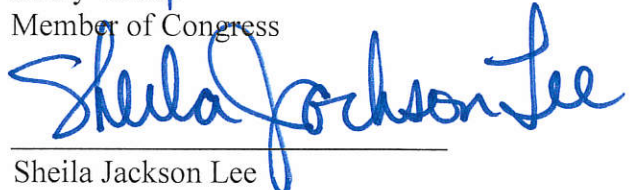
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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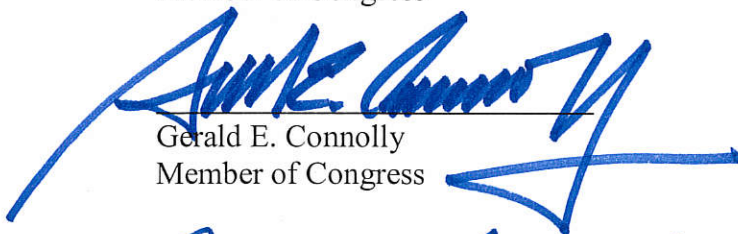
  
Zoe Lofgren  
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Veronica Escobar  
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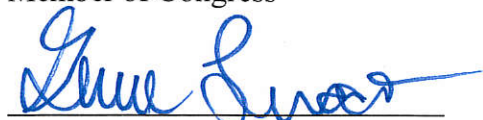
  
Chellie Pingree  
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Peter Welch  
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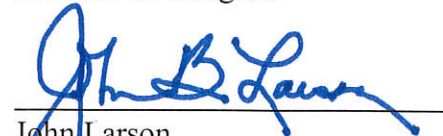
  
Suzanne Bonamici  
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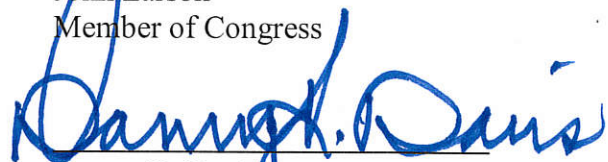
  
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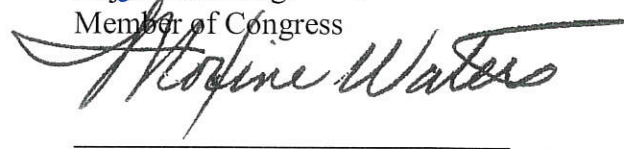
  
Gwen Moore  
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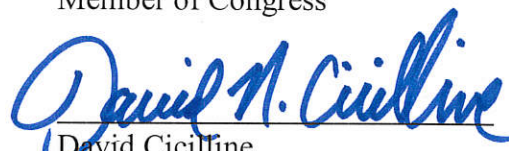
  
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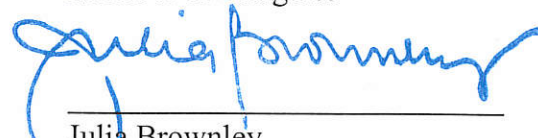
  
Elijah Cummings  
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David Cicilline  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
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Juan Vargas  
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



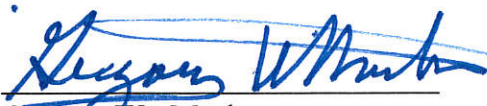
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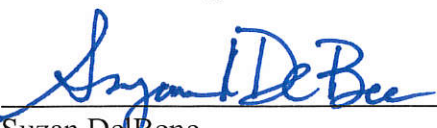
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Suzan DelBene  
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Emanuel Cleaver  
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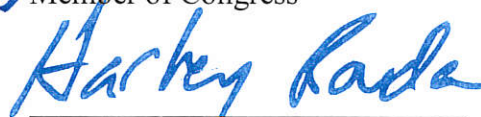
Alcee L. Hastings  
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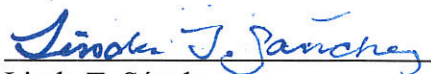
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Harley Rouda  
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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



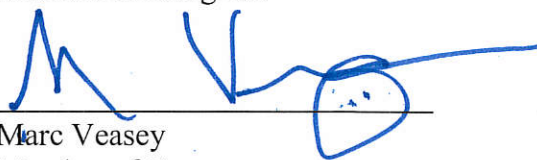
Linda T. Sánchez  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
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Marcia Fudge  
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Marc Veasey  
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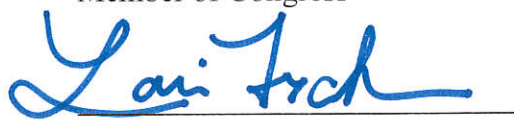
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Madeleine Dean  
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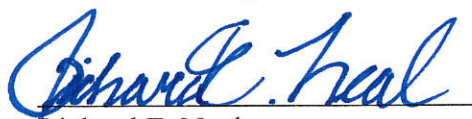
  
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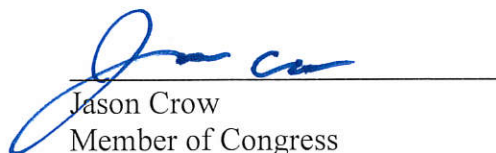
  
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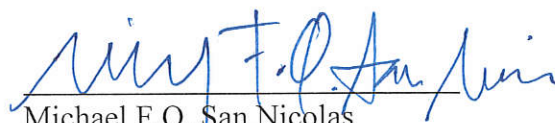
  
Ben Ray Lujan  
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
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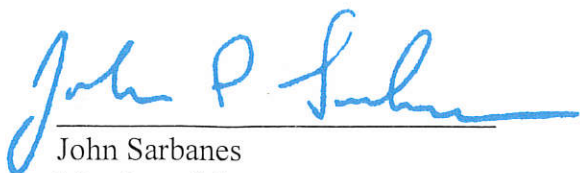
  
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
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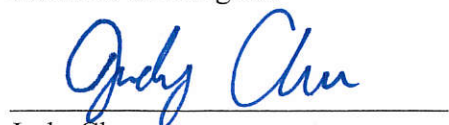
  
Doris Matsui  
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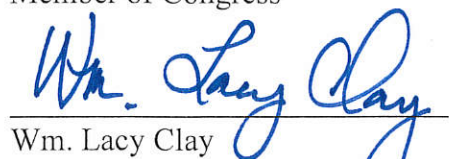
  
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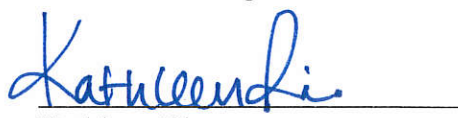
  
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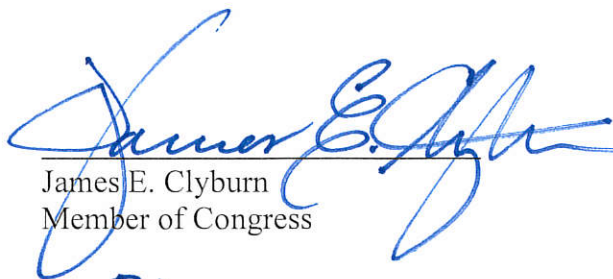
  
Kathleen Rice  
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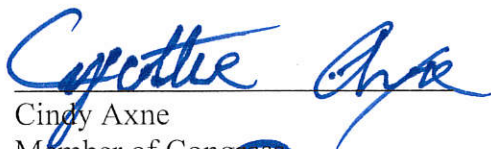
  
Brian Higgins  
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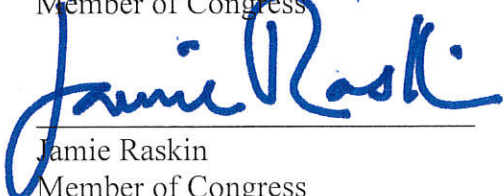
James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress

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Daniel T. Kildee  
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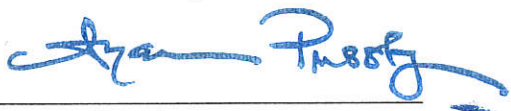
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



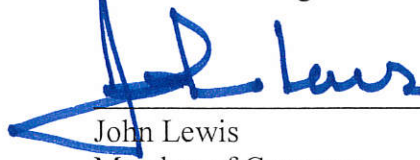
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



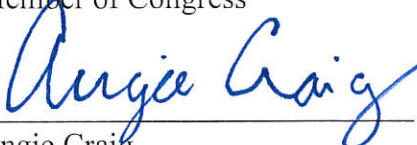
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
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David Trone  
Member of Congress



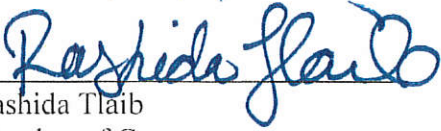
Joe Neguse  
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Angie Craig  
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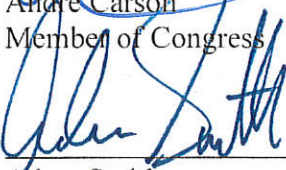
Cheri Bustos  
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



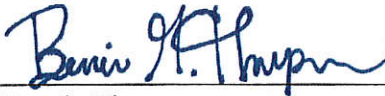
Adam Smith  
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William R. Keating  
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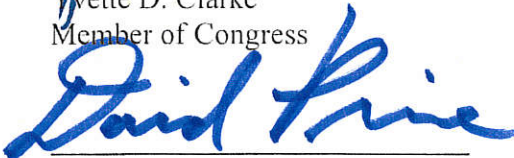
Dina Titus  
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Bennie Thompson  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



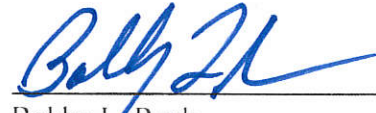
David Price  
Member of Congress



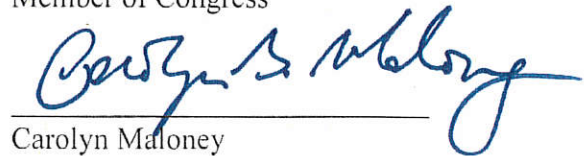
Jimmy Gomez  
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Bobby L. Rush  
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Carolyn Maloney  
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Bill Pascrell  
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Jackie Speier  
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Barbara Lee  
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G. K. Butterfield  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Denver Lee Riggleman III  
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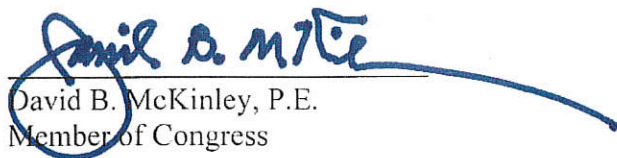
Aumua Amata C. Radewagen  
Member of Congress



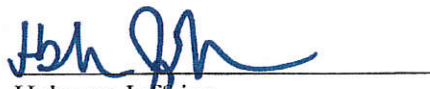
Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



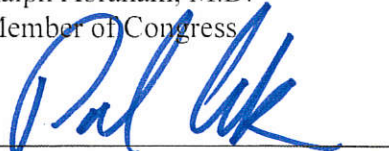
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



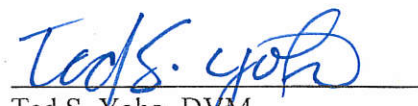
Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

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Brian Fitzpatrick	Sean Casten	Harley Rouda	Anna G. Eshoo
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Susan W. Brooks	Cedric Richmond	Joyce Beatty	John Lewis
Debbie Dingell	Jefferson Van Drew	Gregory W. Meeks	Cindy Axne
Fred Upton	Mike Doyle	Linda T. Sánchez	Ted Lieu
Mary Gay Scanlon	Antonio Delgado	Suzan DelBene	Jamie Raskin
Michael McCaul	Donald S. Beyer, Jr.	Sean Patrick Maloney	Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Earl Blumenauer	Brendan F. Boyle	Emanuel Cleaver	Nanette Diaz Barragán
Anthony Gonzalez	Jared Golden	Marcia Fudge	J. Luis Correa
Seth Moulton	Ed Perlmutter	Al Green	Ayanna Pressley
Don Bacon	Deb Haaland	Marc Veasey	Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ruben Gallego	Dean Phillips	Alcee L. Hastings	Mikie Sherrill
Rodney Davis	Steven Horsford	Bill Foster	David Trone
Dave Loebsack	Tulsi Gabbard	Jan Schakowsky	Conor Lamb
Jennifer González-Colón	Ron Kind	Paul Tonko	Joe Neguse
Susan Davis	Darren Soto	Abby Finkenauer	Ihan Omar
Pete Stauber	Pramila Jayapal	Steve Watkins	Angie Craig
Jennifer Wexton	Raul M. Grijalva	Madeleine Dean	Cheri Bustos
Michael Guest	Lucy McBath	Kim Schrier, M.D.	Jimmy Gomez
Anthony Brown	Max Rose	Jim Himes	Rashida Tlaib
Peter King	Adriano Espaillat	Jason Crow	James R. Langevin
Salud Carbajal	Ami Bera	Lizzie Fletcher	André Carson
Roger Marshall	Kathy Castor	Sharice Davids	Bobby L. Rush
Susan Wild	Karen Bass	Lori Trahan	Adam Smith
Tom Emmer	Sheila Jackson Lee	Michael F.Q. San Nicolas	Carolyn Maloney
Jim Cooper	Frank Pallone, Jr.	Stephanie Murphy	William R. Keating
Elise Stefanik	Diana DeGette	Lucille Roybal-Allard	Bill Pascrell
Donald Payne, Jr.	Jerrold Nadler	Stephen Lynch	Dina Titus
Glenn Thompson	Rick Larsen	Terri Sewell	Jackie Speier
Vicente Gonzalez	Peter DeFazio	Richard E. Neal	Bennie Thompson
Guy Reschenthaler	Eleanor Holmes Norton	Doris Matsui	Barbara Lee
Thomas Suozzi	Raja Krishnamoorthi	Ben Ray Lujan	Yvette D. Clarke
Michael Turner	Colin Allred	Joe Courtney	G. K. Butterfield
David Scott	Zoe Lofgren	John Sarbanes	David Price
Filemon Vela	John Larson	Stacey E. Plaskett	Eddie Bernice Johnson
Tom Malinowski	Veronica Escobar	Sanford Bishop	Tom O'Halleran
Greg Walden	Danny K. Davis	Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan	Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Alan Lowenthal	Chellie Pingree	Rosa Delauro	Denver Lee Riggelman III
Steve Stivers	Elijah Cummings	Robin Kelly	Paul Cook
A. Donald McEachin	Peter Welch	Judy Chu	Aumua Amata C. Radewagen
Adam Kinzinger	Maxine Waters	Eliot L. Engel	Darin LaHood
Jimmy Panetta	Suzanne Bonamici	Wm. Lacy Clay	Carol D. Miller
John Katko	David Cicilline	Kathleen Rice	Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Val Demings	Gerald E. Connolly	Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.	Mark Meadows
Ro Khanna	Henry C. "Hank" Johnson	Donald Norcross	Blaine Luetkemeyer
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	Joaquin Castro	Tony Cardenas	David B. McKinley, P.E.
Ann McLane Kuster	Juan Vargas	Frederica Wilson	Ann Wagner
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell	Gwen Moore	Ted Deutch	Hakeem Jeffries
Rick Crawford	Julia Brownley	Denny Heck	Alex X. Mooney
John Yarmuth	Jerry McNerney	Mike Quigley	
James P. McGovern	Albio Sires	Brian Higgins	