

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2013

Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We write to express our concerns about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently proposed rule on the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System.

The new bundled payment system for dialysis has been a remarkable success in payment reform. However, as written, the new proposed rule would have a devastating impact on Medicare beneficiaries who desperately depend on dialysis treatments just to stay alive.

The proposed cut in payments in the pending rule constitute a 12% or a \$30 reduction of what would otherwise be \$246 prospective payment for dialysis. A cut of this magnitude to an industry that, according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, has just 3-4% Medicare margins, could result in closure of dialysis facilities and a reversal of many recent gains that have been made in improving quality of care and mortality for dialysis patients.

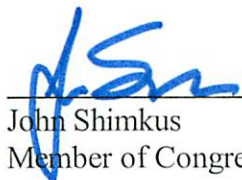
It is our concern that CMS has not considered its full statutory obligations in developing this proposal; it is critical to take analyze the costs of providing dialysis care. As you are aware, CMS has an obligation to link the payment rate to facility costs or other economic and equitable factors. As you move toward finalizing the rule, we hope that the Agency will consider the full impact of the proposed changes in order to ensure that the final payment amount is not less than the cost of providing care.

Again, the new bundled payment system for dialysis shows the great strides we have made, and can make again. We should not let the next rule negatively impact beneficiaries who rely on these critical services. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

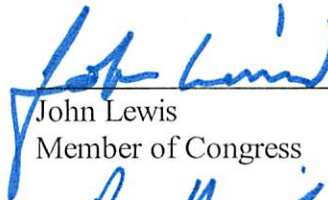
Sincerely,



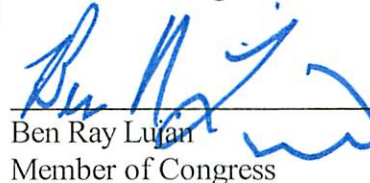
Diane Black
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
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John Lewis
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Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Tom Price
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress



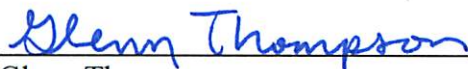
Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



James Langevin
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



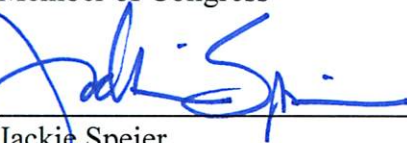
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



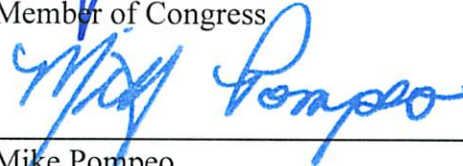
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



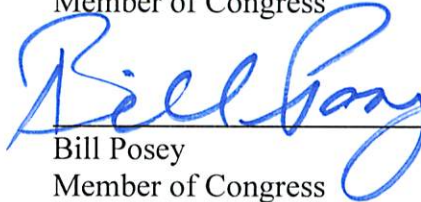
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



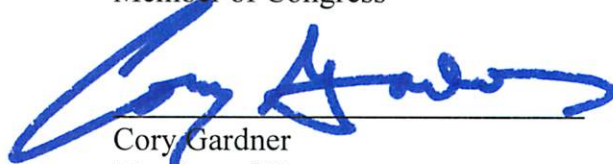
Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
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Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



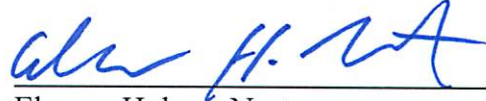
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



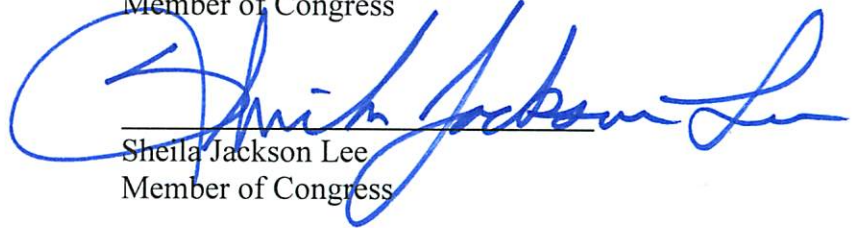
Mike Rogers
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Danny Davis
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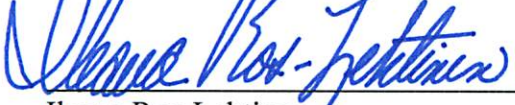
Sheila Jackson Lee
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Greg Walden
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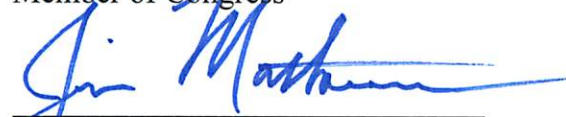
John Barrow
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



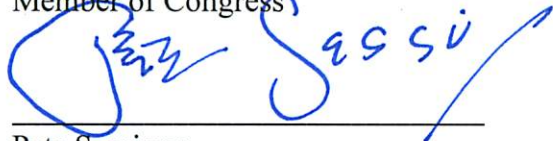
Richard Neal
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Jim Matheson
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Joe Wilson
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Pete Sessions
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Elijah Cummings
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John Tierney
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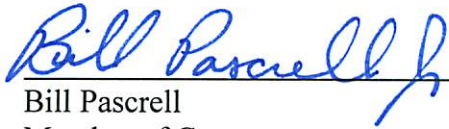
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



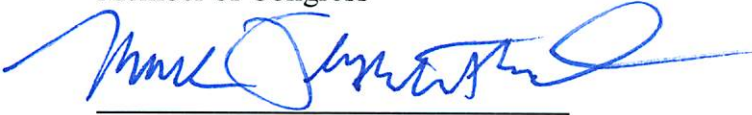
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



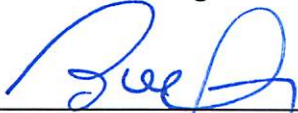
Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Bill Young
Member of Congress



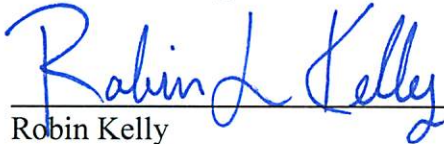
Scott Peters
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Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



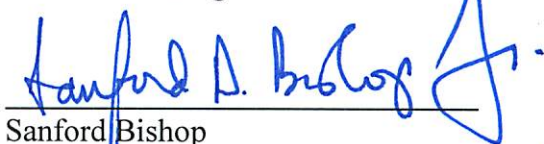
Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



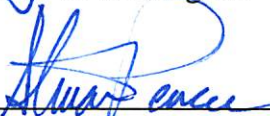
Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



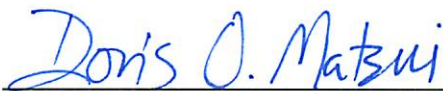
Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



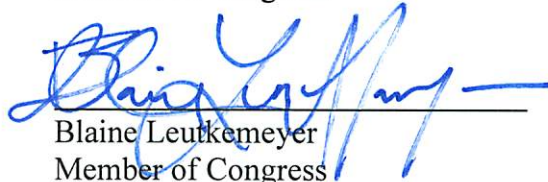
Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
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Doris Matsui
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Blaine Leutkemeyer
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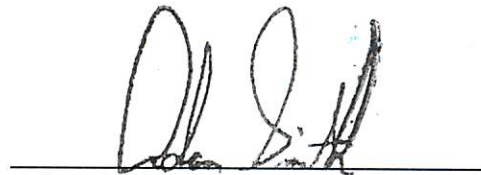


Madeleine Bordallo
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Jim Gerlach
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Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
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Lee Terry
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Barbara Lee
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Ken Calvert
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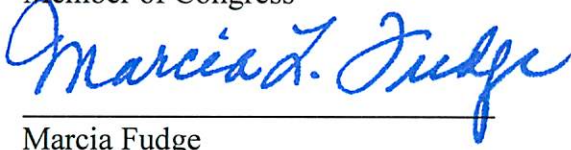

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

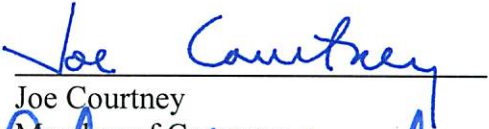

Don Young
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

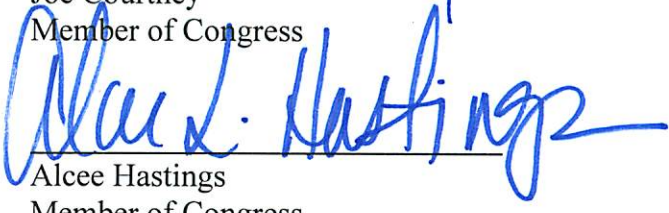

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

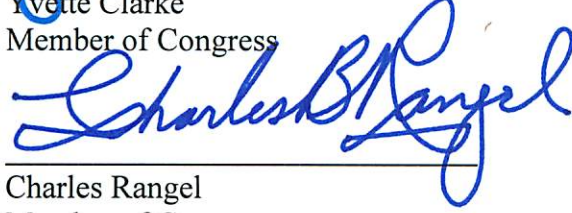

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

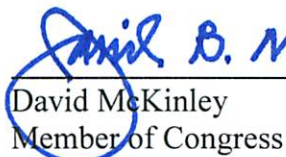

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
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David McKinley
Member of Congress


Tom Cotton
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Renee Ellmers
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Alan Grayson
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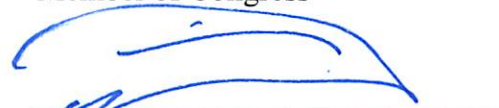

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
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Eric Swalwell
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Phil Roe
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Tom Marino
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Scott DesJarlais
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Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Martha Roby
Member of Congress

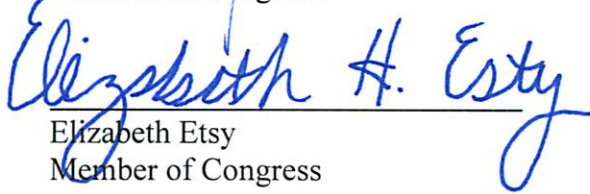

Pete Gallego
Member of Congress

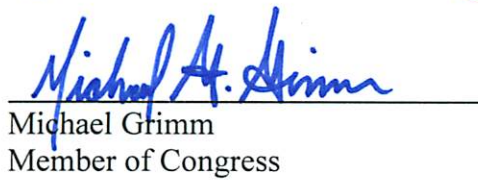

James McGovern
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

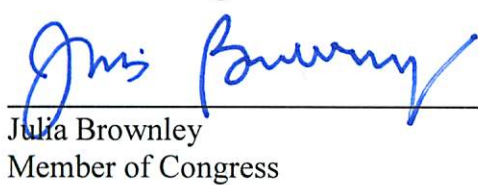

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress


Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

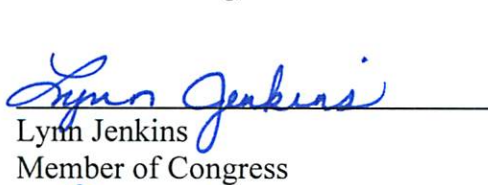

Elizabeth Etsy
Member of Congress

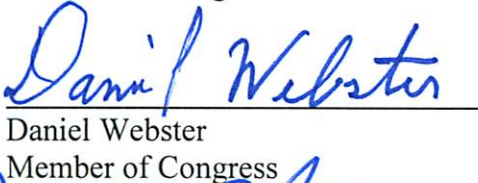

Michael Grimm
Member of Congress

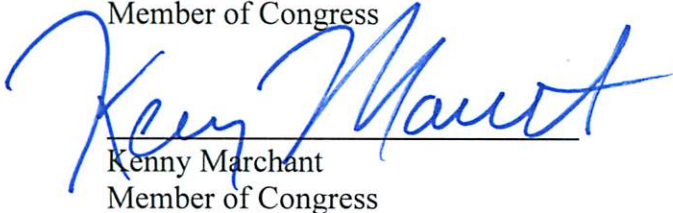

Todd Young
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress


Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress


Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

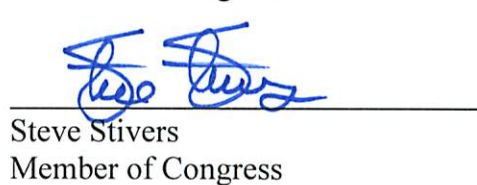

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress


Luke Messer
Member of Congress

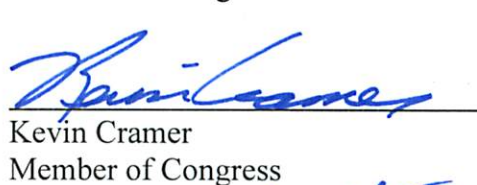

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress


David Valadao
Member of Congress

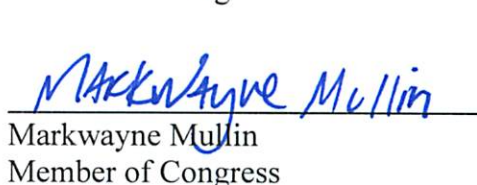

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress


Steve Stivers
Member of Congress


Theodore Deutch
Member of Congress


Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress


Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress


Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



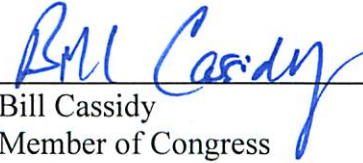
Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



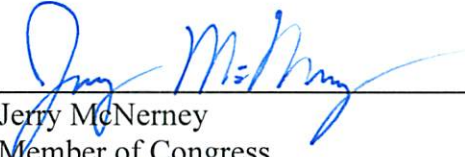
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



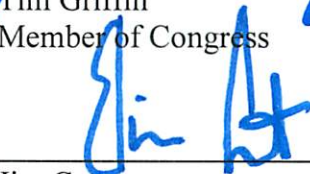
Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



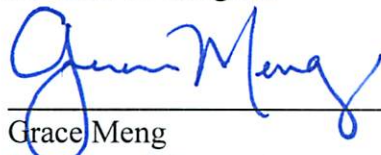
Tim Griffin
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Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



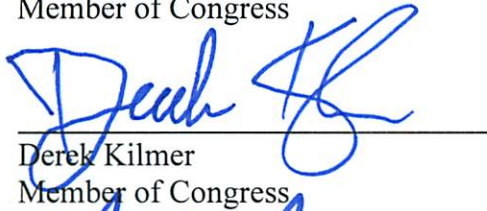
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

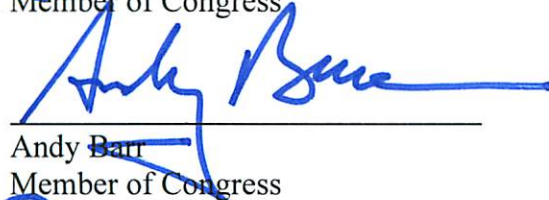

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

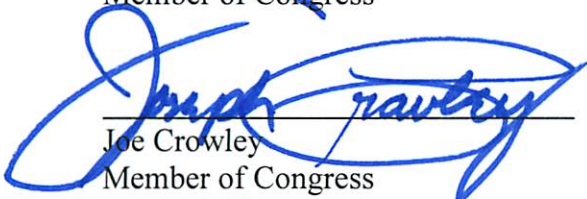

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

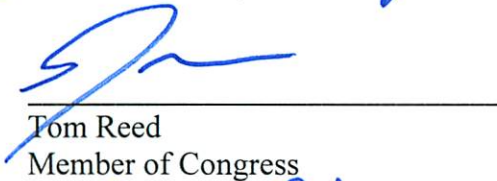

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

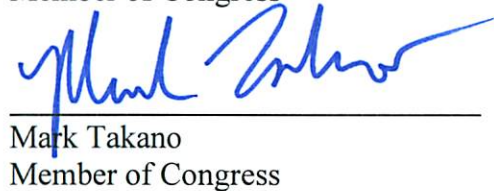

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Andy Barr
Member of Congress


Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

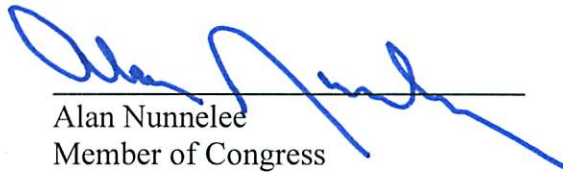

Tom Reed
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress

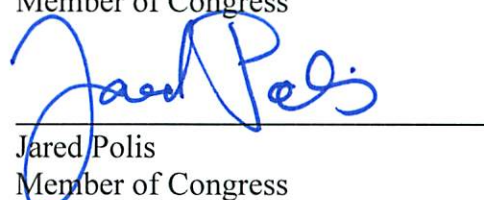

Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress

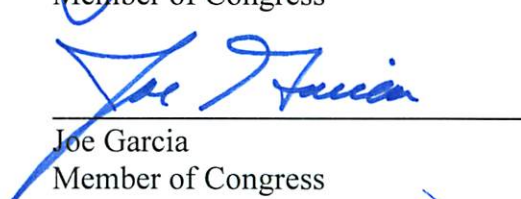

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

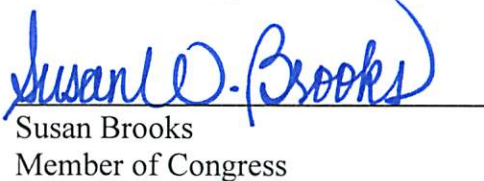

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

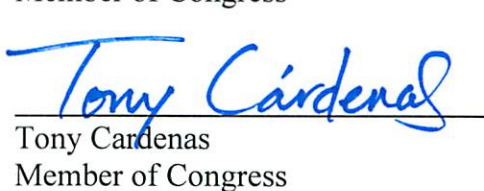

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

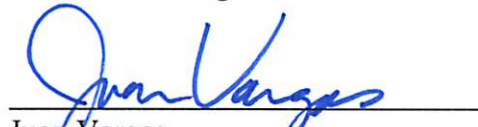

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Donna Christensen
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress


Jeff Denham
Member of Congress

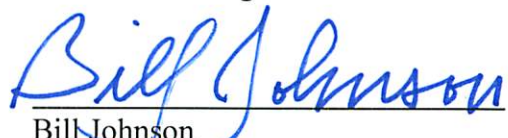

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


David Joyce
Member of Congress


Gary Peters
Member of Congress


Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Richard Nugent
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



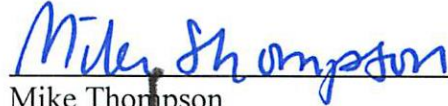
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



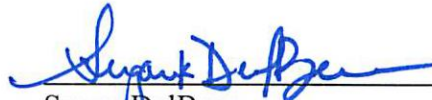
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



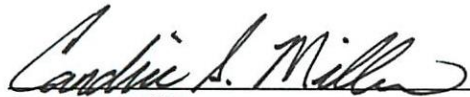
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



Brad Schneider
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Candice Miller
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta

Robert Latta
Member of Congress

Charlie Dent

Charlie Dent
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson

Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Scott Perry

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

William R. Keating

William Keating
Member of Congress

Ted Poe

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

Andre Carson

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress