

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2026

The Honorable Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Dear Administrator Oz:

We write to express our profound concern regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) interim final rule titled "*Medicaid Community Engagement Requirement for Certain Individuals*." This interim rule will create an undue burden for beneficiaries with serious health care needs and put people at risk of losing coverage, while also creating significant implementation challenges for states. Therefore, we urge CMS to revise this rule, and until such changes are made, call on CMS to authorize states to delay implementation.

Pursuant to P.L. 119-21, the interim final rule requires beneficiaries to document at least 80 hours per month of "qualifying activities." However, the rule also creates a new definition of "medical frailty" that goes well beyond the plain statutory language, adding a requirement that a medical condition must significantly impair a person's ability to comply with the work requirement in order to qualify them for an exemption. This new requirement does not adequately consider the complex nature of illnesses like cancer or any number of serious illnesses or chronic conditions, which can exhibit periodic or intermittent symptoms.

Furthermore, this rule will require beneficiaries to frequently prove and verify their exemptions in order to maintain coverage, which will cause confusion, create bureaucratic burdens for patients seeking care, and, as a result, will lock patients out of life saving treatments.

Forcing vulnerable patients to exhaustively document their symptoms simply to maintain access to basic healthcare is both imprudent and inconsistent with Federal law. Diagnoses such as an aggressive cancer require patients to receive care as soon as possible, and as you know, any delays to treatment put patients at heightened risk. These and other rapidly progressing conditions become significantly less amenable to treatment in their later stages, meaning a patient's current capacity to work does not reflect the urgency of their medical needs.

Further, this rule will create significant administrative and financial changes for states as it departs significantly from preliminary guidance that your agency provided to states as they rushed to prepare to implement this new requirement. States relied on CMS's feedback to develop screening tools, code lists, and internal policies to implement a medically frail exemption tied to having certain medical conditions. However, the change of the definition in the rule – requiring states to make a subjective decision about an individual's inability to comply with the work requirements – will require states to make significant changes to their implementation plans at this late date.

While there is no way to prevent some eligible people from losing coverage due to the flawed nature of the underlying policy, which in and of itself exacts draconian cuts to healthcare programs and strips access to affordable care for millions of Americans, CMS has an obligation to implement the law in question as written. And, as noted, the new rule appears to be inconsistent with the plain language of H.R. 1, adding a new, restrictive standard that will add to the number of people losing coverage. Indeed, the evidence clearly

demonstrates that creating more documentation requirements and adding complexity to the enrollment process will have a devastating effect.

Therefore, in sum, we urge CMS to reconsider its interim rule to protect people with serious medical needs. CMS should also delay implementation of the new work requirements pending these changes. We look forward to your response.

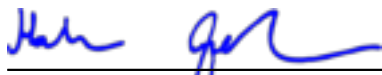
Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



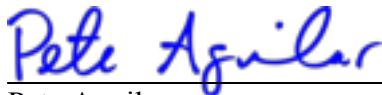
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



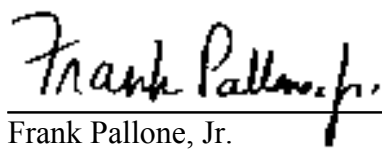
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



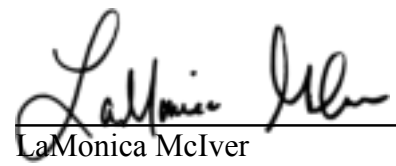
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



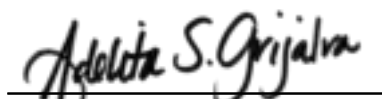
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



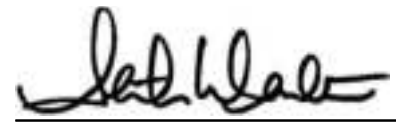
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



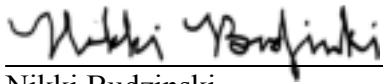
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



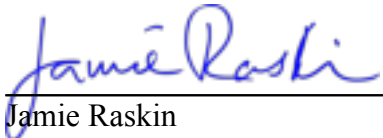
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



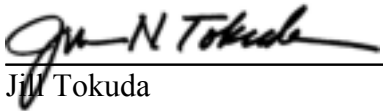
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



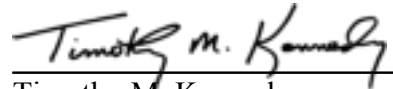
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



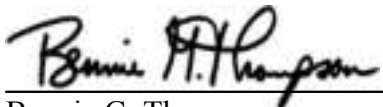
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



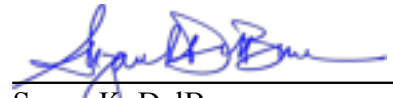
Jil Tokuda
Member of Congress



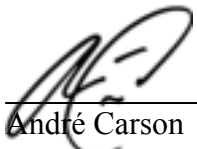
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



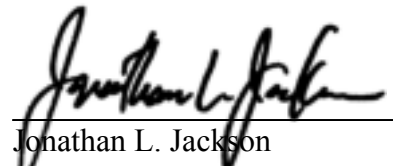
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



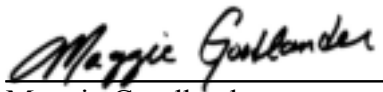
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



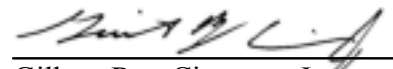
André Carson
Member of Congress



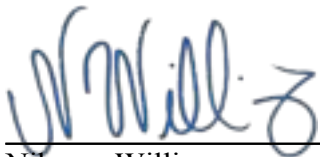
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



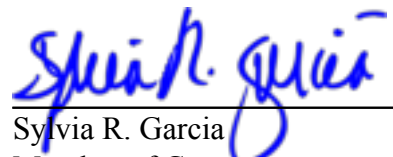
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



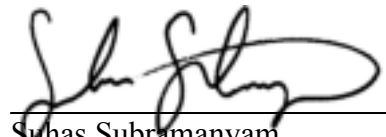
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



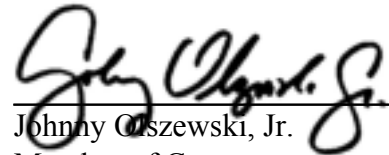
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Johnny Guszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



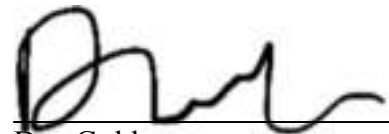
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



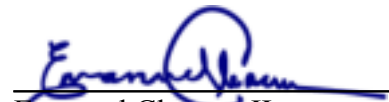
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
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Melanie Stansbury
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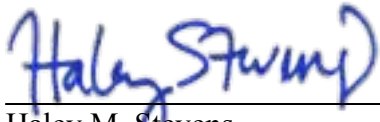
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



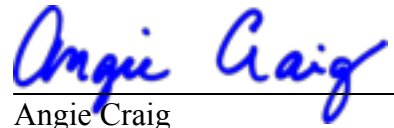
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



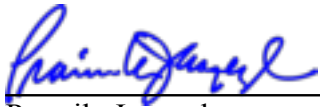
Veronica Escobar
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Haley M. Stevens
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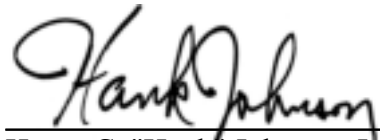
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



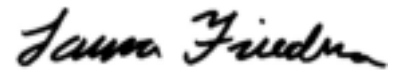
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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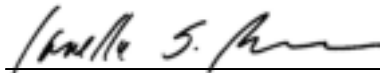
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



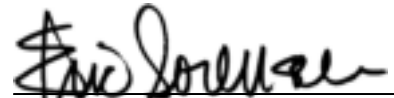
Lois Frankel
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Emily Randall
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Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
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Chris Pappas
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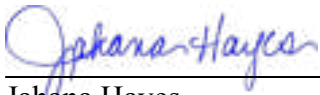
Derek T. Tran
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Danny K. Davis
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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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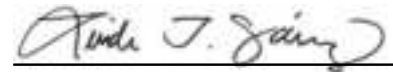
Marilyn Strickland
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Andrea Salinas
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Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



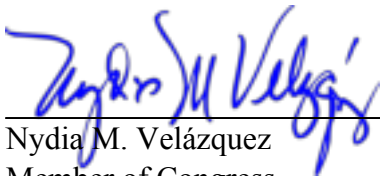
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



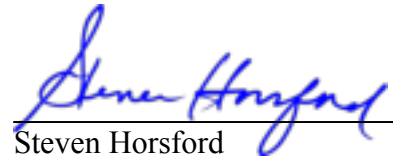
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



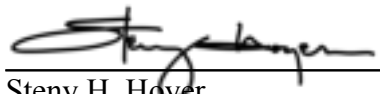
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



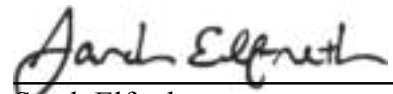
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



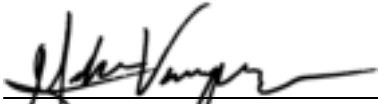
Sarah Elfreth
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



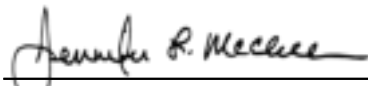
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



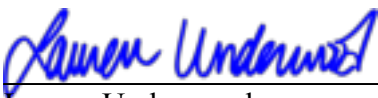
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



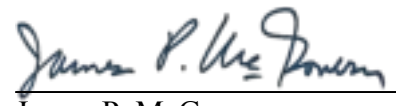
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



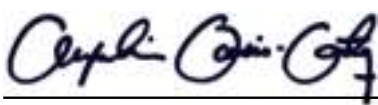
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



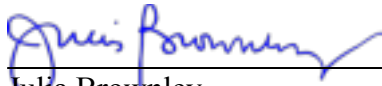
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



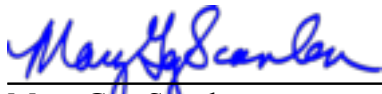
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



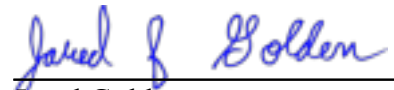
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



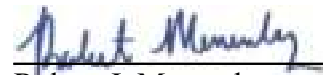
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



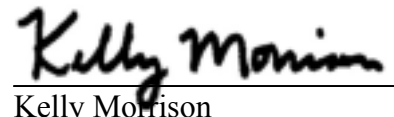
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



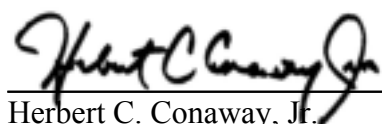
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



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



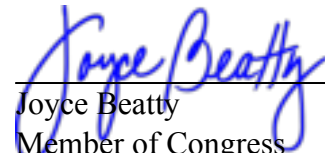
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



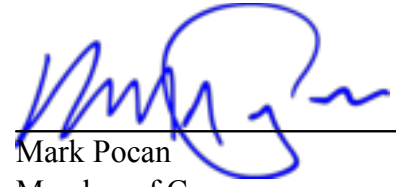
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



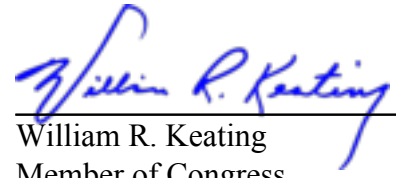
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



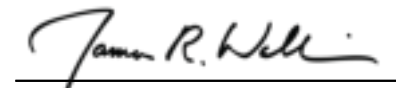
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



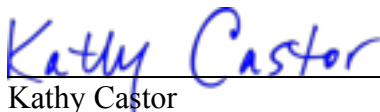
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



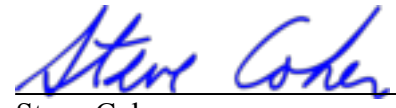
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



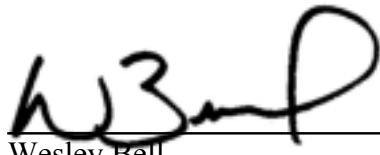
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



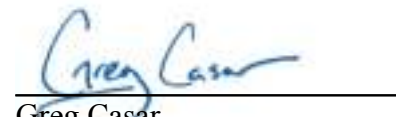
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



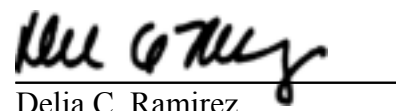
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



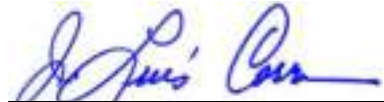
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



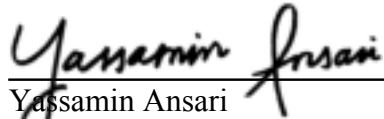
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



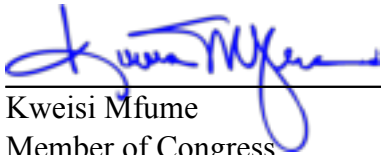
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



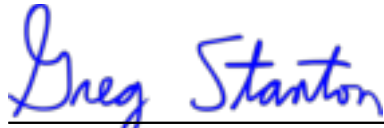
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



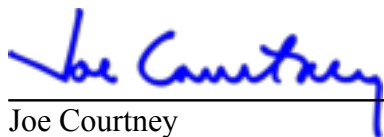
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



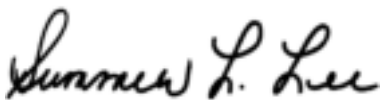
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



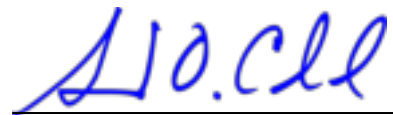
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



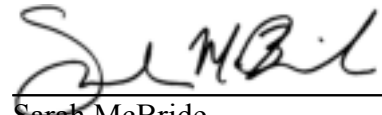
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



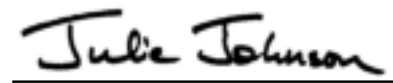
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



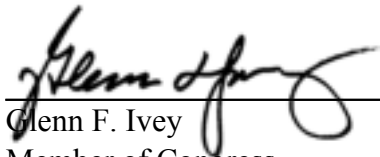
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



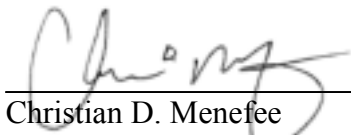
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



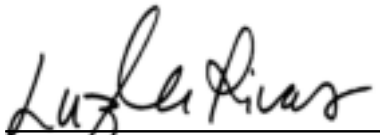
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



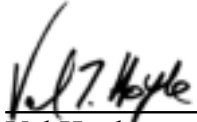
Ed Case
Member of Congress



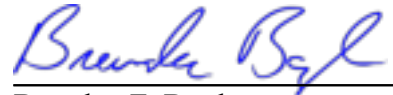
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



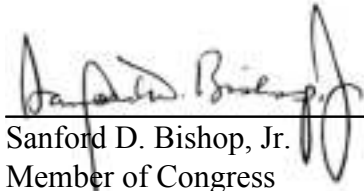
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



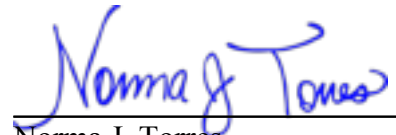
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



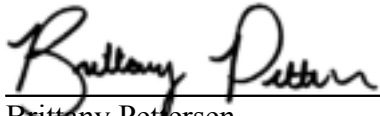
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



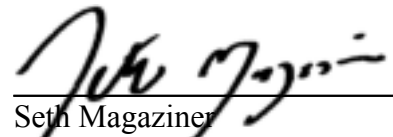
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



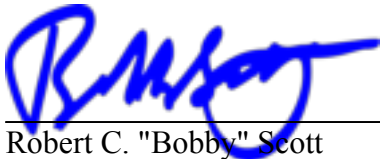
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



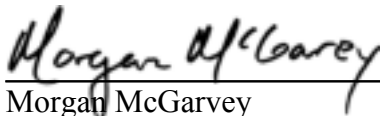
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



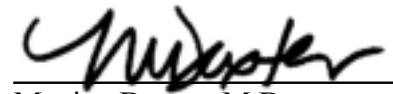
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



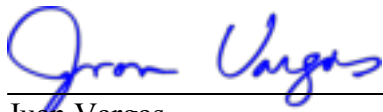
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



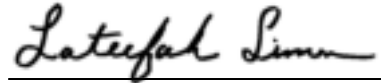
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



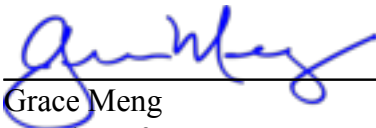
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



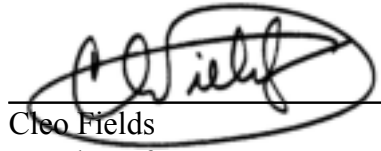
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



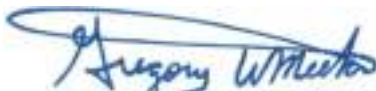
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



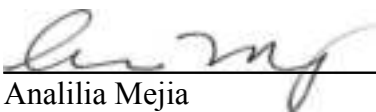
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



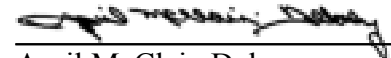
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



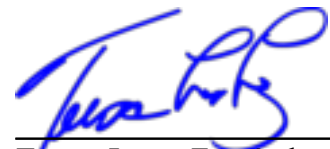
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



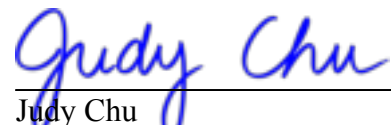
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



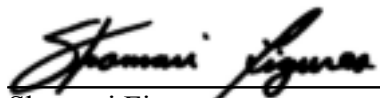
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



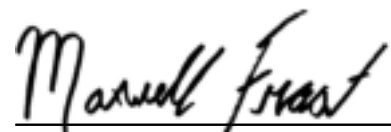
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



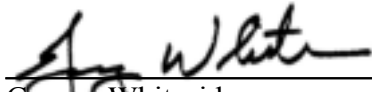
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



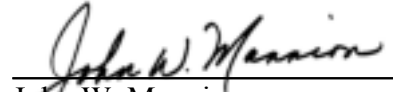
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



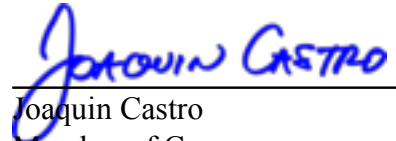
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



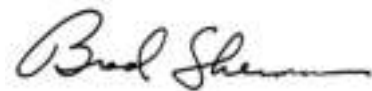
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



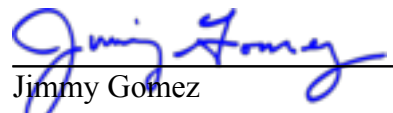
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



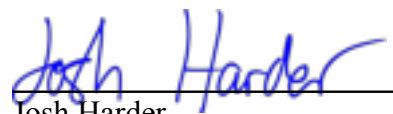
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



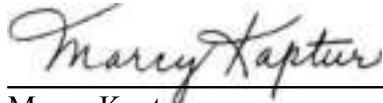
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



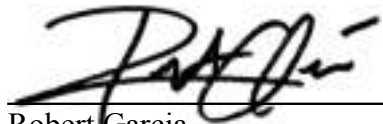
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



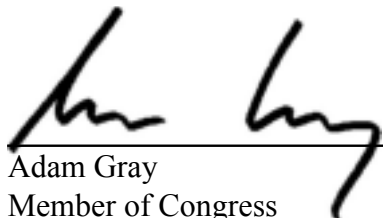
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



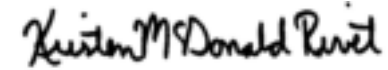
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



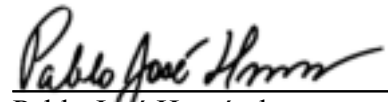
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



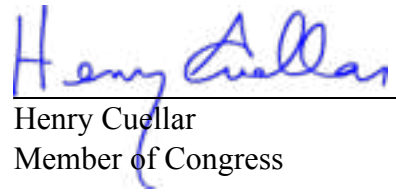
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



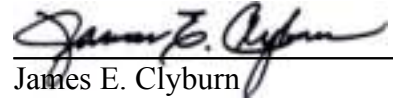
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



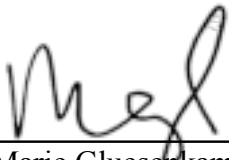
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



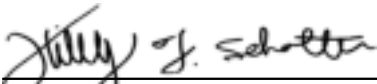
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



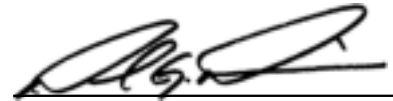
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



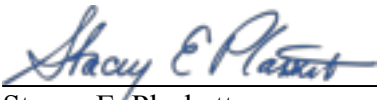
Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress