

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

May 25, 2006

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means  
1106 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Dingell  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Thomas and Barton and Ranking Members Rangel and Dingell:

We write to request your full consideration of the need for passage of legislation in 2006 to address the Medicare outpatient therapy caps. In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, legislation to repeal the caps has gained the support of more than 250 Members of the United States House of Representatives and more than 40 organizations representing clinicians, patients and disease advocacy groups. Without Congressional action in 2006, the arbitrary therapy caps will return on January 1, 2007 and will result in restricted access to rehabilitation services and a shift in patients and costs to inpatient settings.

As you know, these caps were placed on outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology services as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Since this time, Congress has acted three times to place a moratorium on the therapy caps. These caps went back into effect on January 1, 2006. Fortunately, under your leadership, Congress passed legislation as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that provided beneficiaries with a clinically based exceptions process to this financial limitation on rehabilitation services under Medicare. While problems have arisen during the launch of the exceptions process, we believe that if those problems are rectified this process remains a viable option for ensuring access to necessary services in a fiscally responsible manner.

Since the Deficit Reduction Act only authorized the exceptions process for 2006, we respectfully request an extension of this exceptions process for a minimum of the 2007 calendar year. This will allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue to monitor the implementation of this policy and assist in the development of a long-term alternative to the therapy cap. We appreciate your consideration of this request to extend the exceptions process beyond 2006.

Sincerely,



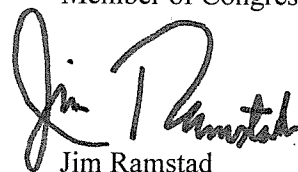
Phil English  
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad  
Member of Congress



Mark Souder  
Member of Congress



J.D. Hayworth  
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Gene Taylor  
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



John Tanner  
Member of Congress



Ron Paul  
Member of Congress



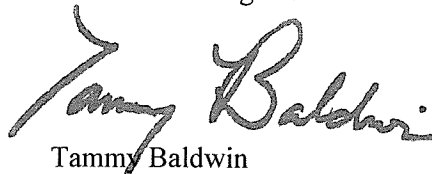
Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress



Charlie Norwood  
Member of Congress



Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress



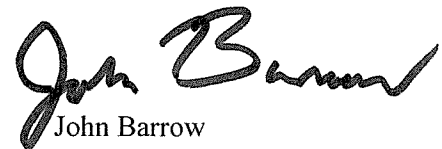
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



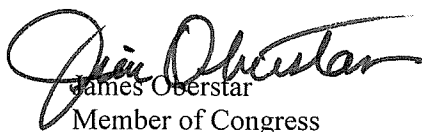
Bernard Sanders  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



John Barrow  
Member of Congress



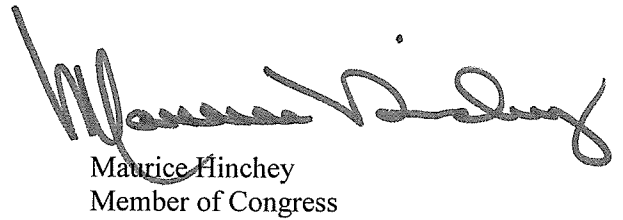
James Oberstar  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



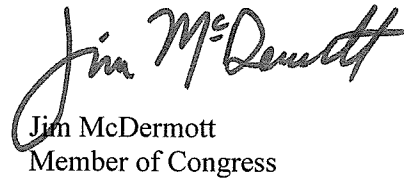
John Shimkus  
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Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress



Jim Moran  
Member of Congress



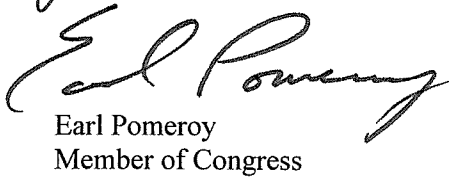
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



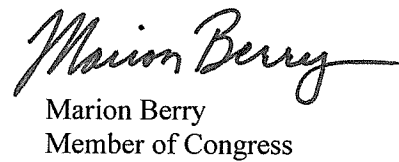
John Spratt  
Member of Congress



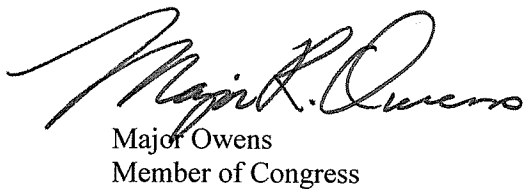
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



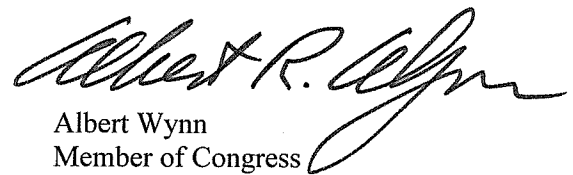
Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress



Marion Berry  
Member of Congress



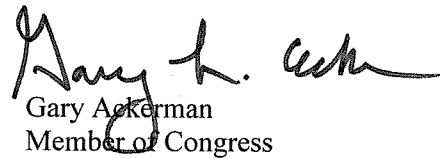
Major Owens  
Member of Congress



Albert Wynn  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



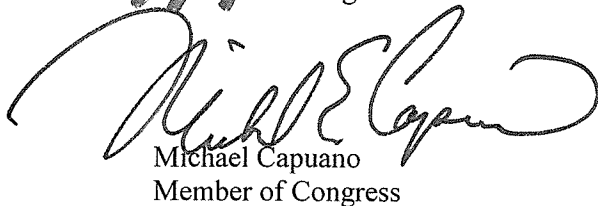
Gary Ackerman  
Member of Congress



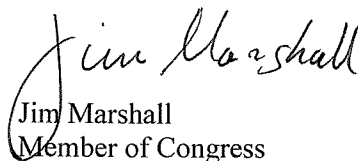
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



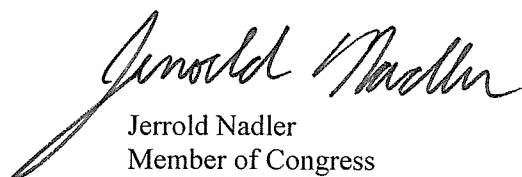
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



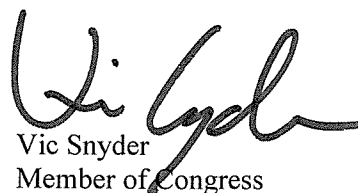
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



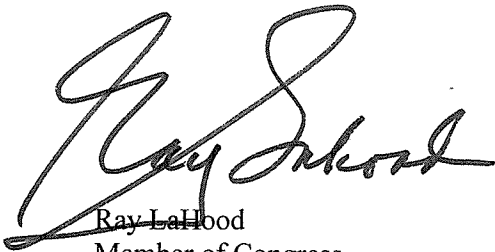
Jim Marshall  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



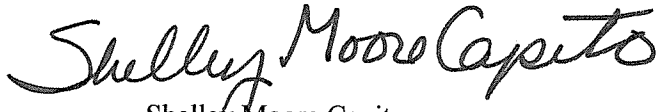
Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress



Ray LaHood  
Member of Congress



Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress




Jo Ann Emerson  
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Steve King  
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Gene Green  
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Jo Ann Davis  
Member of Congress




Cathy McMorris  
Member of Congress



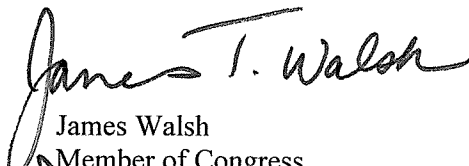
Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



Allyson J. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



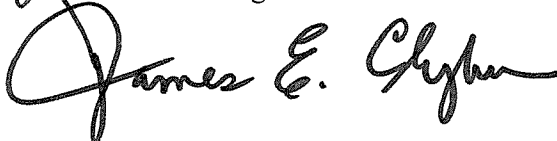
Tom Davis  
Member of Congress




James Walsh  
Member of Congress




Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



James Clyburn  
Member of Congress



Brad Miller  
Member of Congress



Howard Coble  
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Eliot Engel  
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Peter DeFazio  
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Mike Ross  
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Stephanie Herseth  
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Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

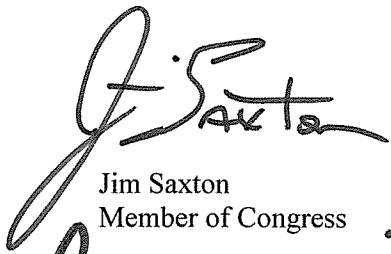
Joel Hefley  
Member of Congress

Mark Udall  
Member of Congress

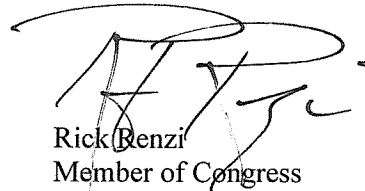
Lee Terry  
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen  
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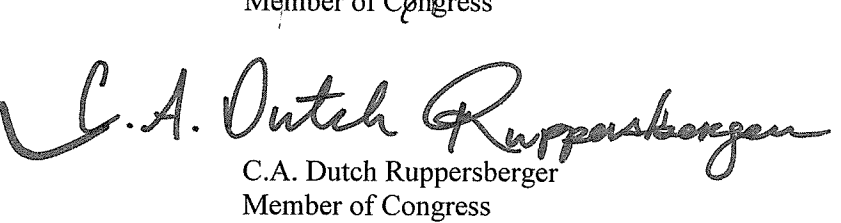
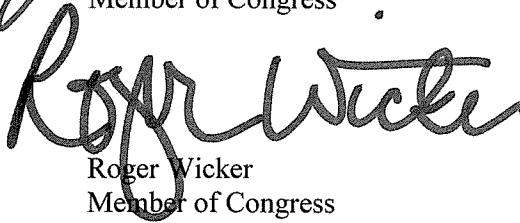
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



Jim Saxton  
Member of Congress

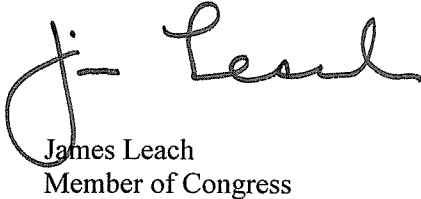


Rick Renzi  
Member of Congress

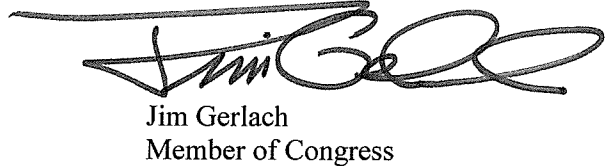


Roger Wicker  
Member of Congress

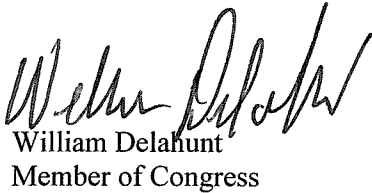
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



James Leach  
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress



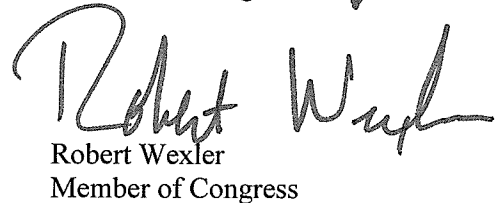
William Delahunt  
Member of Congress



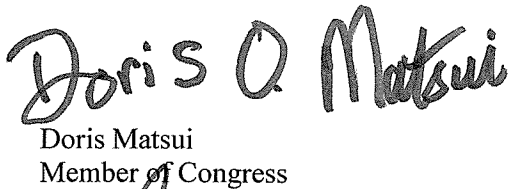
Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



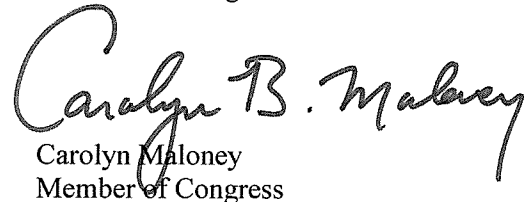
Charles Boustany  
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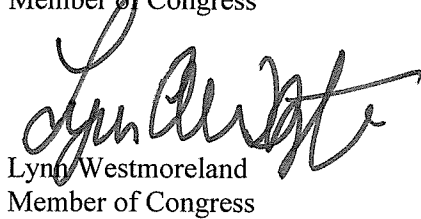
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



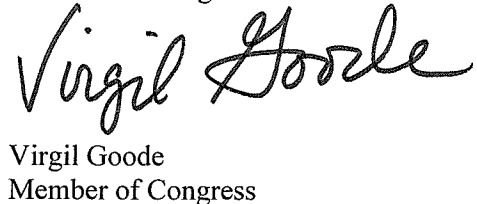
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



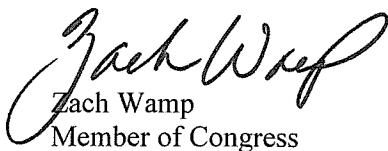
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



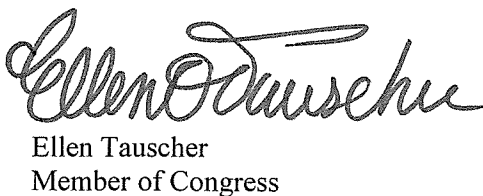
Virgil Goode  
Member of Congress



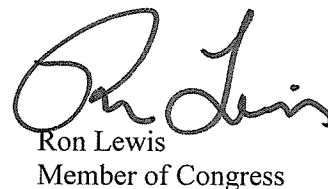
Zach Wamp  
Member of Congress




Rush Holt  
Member of Congress




Ellen Tauscher  
Member of Congress




Ron Lewis  
Member of Congress



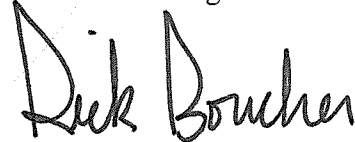
Steven La Tourette  
Member of Congress



Darlene Hooley  
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Michael McNulty  
Member of Congress




Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress



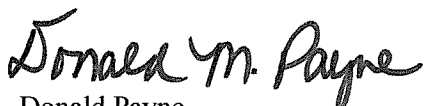
Katherine Harris  
Member of Congress



Tom Osborne  
Member of Congress




Don Sherwood  
Member of Congress



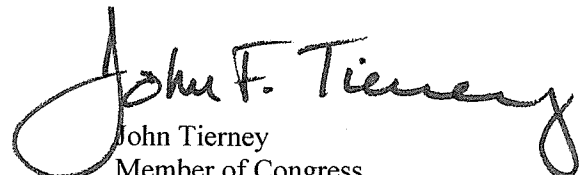
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress



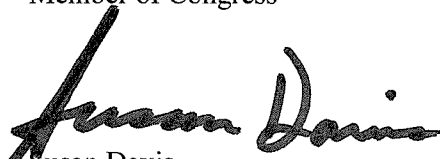
Ike Skelton  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



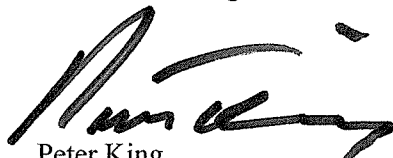
John Tierney  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



Mike Castle  
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Peter King  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



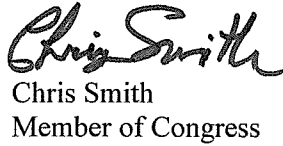
Frank LoBiondo  
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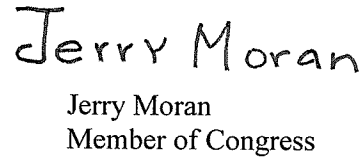


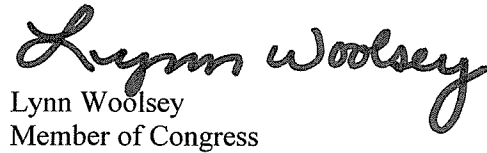
Sue Kelly  
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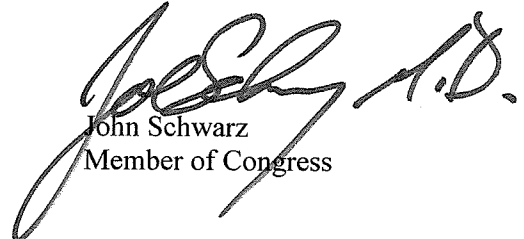
  
Carolyn McCarthy  
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Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Smith  
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Jerry Moran  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress

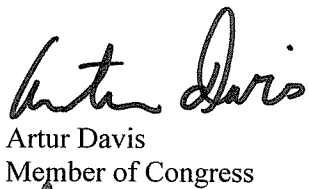
  
John Schwarz  
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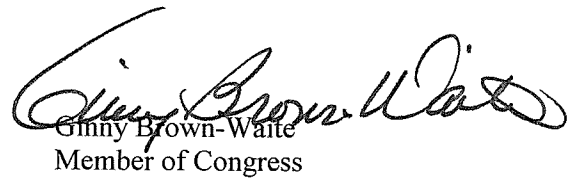
  
Bill Jefferson  
Member of Congress

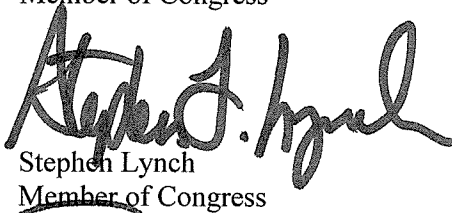
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Fortney Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

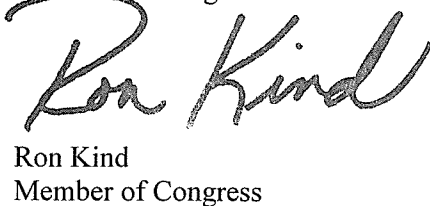
  
Xavier Becerra  
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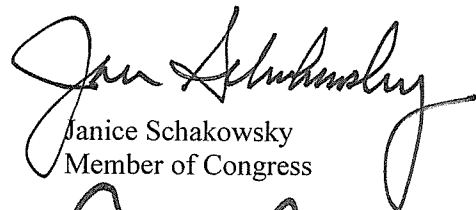
  
Artur Davis  
Member of Congress

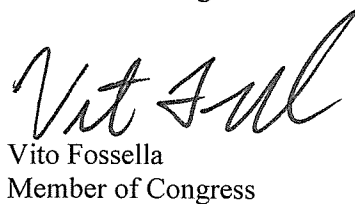
  
Ginny Brown-Waite  
Member of Congress

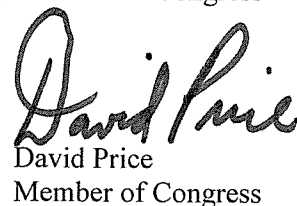
  
Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress

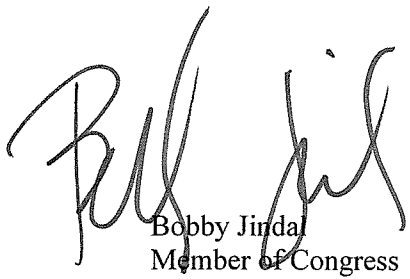
  
Judy Biggert  
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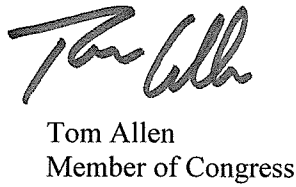
  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

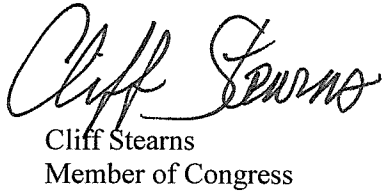
  
Janice Schakowsky  
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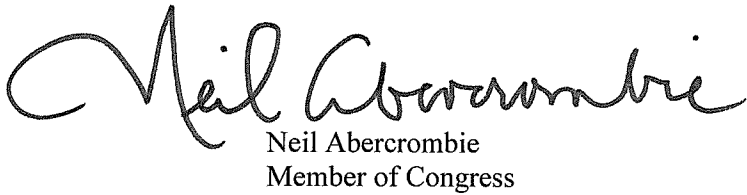
  
Vito Fossella  
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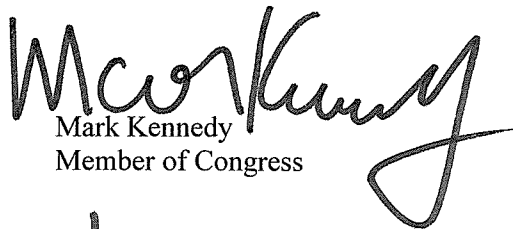
  
David Price  
Member of Congress

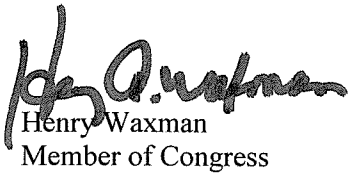
  
Bobby Jindal  
Member of Congress

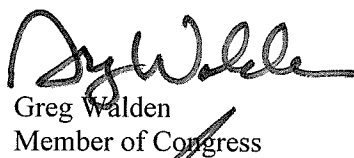
  
Tom Allen  
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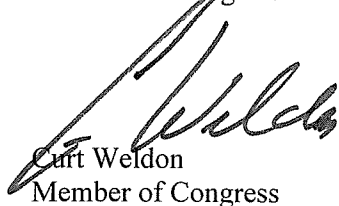
  
Cliff Stearns  
Member of Congress

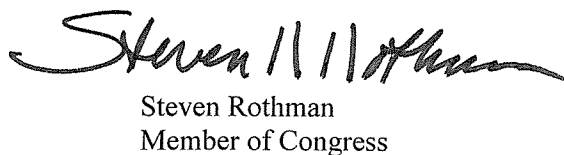
  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Kennedy  
Member of Congress

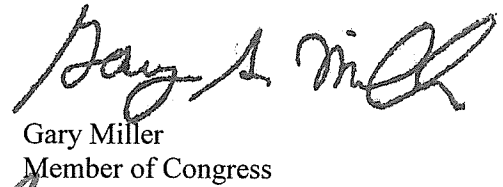
  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

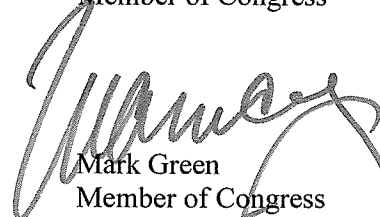
  
Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

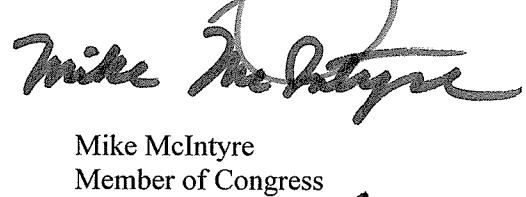
  
Curt Weldon  
Member of Congress

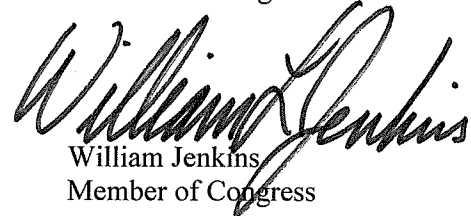
  
Steven Rothman  
Member of Congress

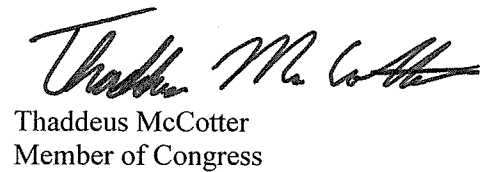
  
Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

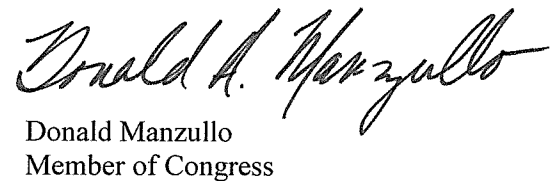
  
Gary Miller  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Green  
Member of Congress

  
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress

  
William Jenkins  
Member of Congress

  
Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress

  
Donald Manzullo  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress

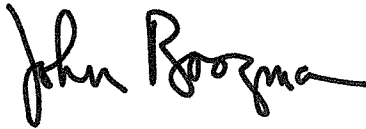
  
Nick Rahall  
Member of Congress



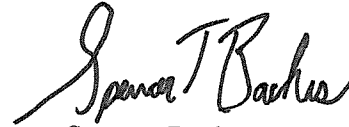
Martin Sabo  
Member of Congress



Tom Latham  
Member of Congress



John Boozman  
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress



David Wu  
Member of Congress



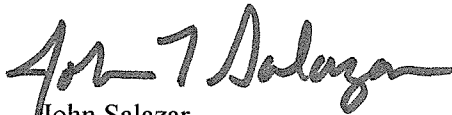
John Kline  
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Charlie Melancon  
Member of Congress



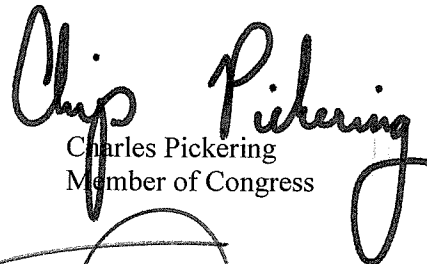
John Salazar  
Member of Congress



Rob Andrews  
Member of Congress



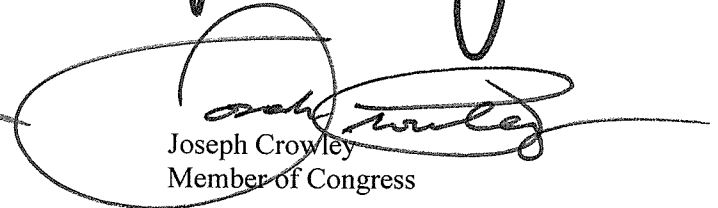
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress



Charles Pickering  
Member of Congress



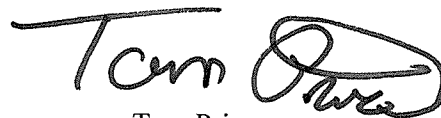
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



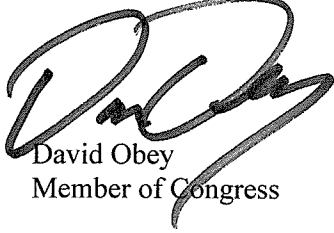
Tom Price  
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Mel Watt  
Member of Congress



David Obey  
Member of Congress



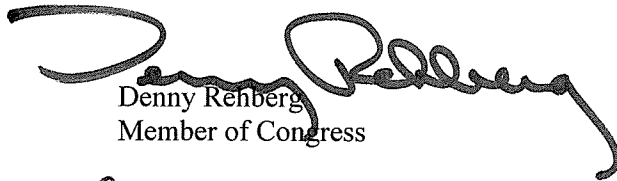
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



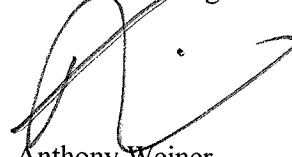
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Cynthia McKinney  
Member of Congress



Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress




Gil Gutknecht  
Member of Congress



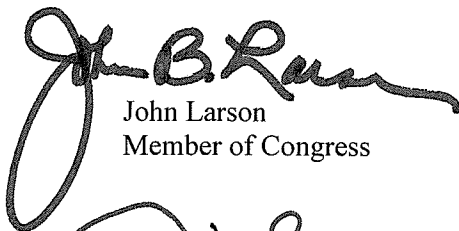
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Brian Baird  
Member of Congress



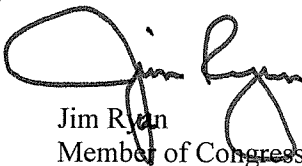
Melissa Hart  
Member of Congress



John Larson  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Jim Ryan  
Member of Congress

*Dennis J. Kucinich*

Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress