

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

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We urge you to support the highest amount possible for the Social Security Administration (SSA) administrative budget, with significant funding increases directed toward substantially raising customer service staffing levels to reduce the unacceptable, excessive delays now faced by Americans who are trying to access their earned benefits.

Social Security is a cornerstone of our nation's economic security. Almost all workers are contributing to Social Security and earning its benefits, and nearly one in 3 households include at least one person who receives Social Security. The income Social Security provides is vital for retirees, families who have lost a breadwinner, and workers who have experienced a career-ending injury or illness. It is impossible to overstate Social Security's importance to its approximately 70 million beneficiaries: for most older adults, its benefits provide their largest source of income.

Despite the strong level of public support for Social Security, years of underfunding during a time of rising need generated significant customer service challenges. Since 2010, the number of Social Security beneficiaries has increased by approximately 28 percent as the baby boom generation ages. Yet over the same period, SSA's administrative funding for basic operations fell by approximately 23 percent, after accounting for inflation. On top of this, the Trump Administration has created a crisis by inflicting the largest staffing cut in the agency's history, forcing out about 1 in 8 employees. More than half of these staffing losses have been to front-line customer service employees and other positions crucial to ensuring that people can access their earned Social Security benefits. To partially mitigate the damage, the Administration has reassigned employees to backfill vacancies in field offices, the national 1-800 number, and other areas – but with inadequate overall staffing, backstopping holes in one area inevitably leaves gaps in other services.

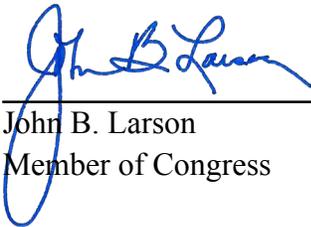
As a result, our constituents who are seeking Social Security benefits and services continue to report alarming delays and logjams. More than half of seniors and survivors who scheduled an appointment with an SSA field office to file an application for benefits waited more than a month until their appointment. More than 800,000 people are in a queue awaiting an initial decision on their application for disability benefits, and it will take SSA more than 6 months, on average, to make a decision – twice as long as in the past. These long waits can be particularly harmful for people of color, low-income applicants, and others who on average are less likely to have

savings or other resources to fall back on. Thousands are dying while waiting for a decision on whether they are eligible for disability benefits, and many more have endured years without income, in the process often exhausting their life savings and even losing their homes.

Social Security, an earned benefit, is one thing the American people should be able to count on. A multi-year effort of sustained funding increases with restoration of adequate agency staffing is urgently needed for SSA to bring customer service back to acceptable levels. For example, dedicated funding provided by Congress for several consecutive years helped SSA reduce delays in disability benefit hearing appeals.

Social Security is essential to American families. We urge you to support the highest amount possible for SSA in FY 2027, with significant funding increases directed toward ensuring the agency has the staffing and resources needed to deliver the benefits and services that Americans are counting on.

Sincerely,



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



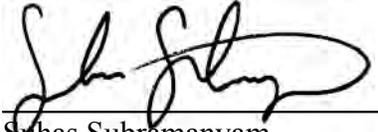
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



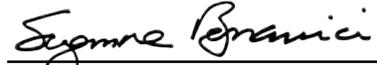
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



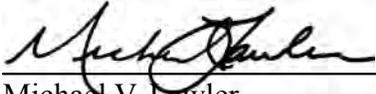
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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



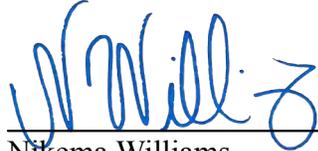
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



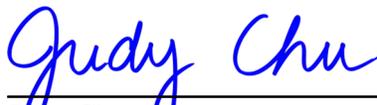
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



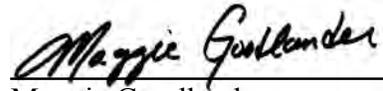
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



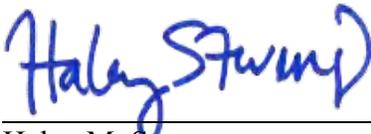
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



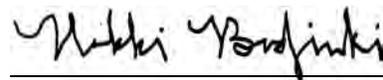
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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



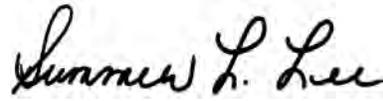
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



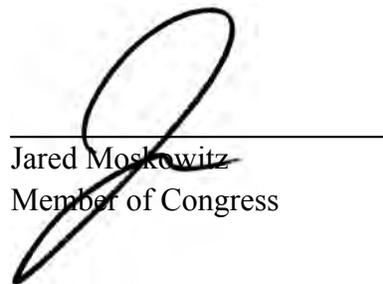
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



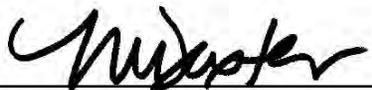
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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



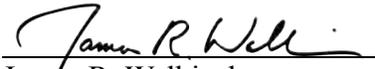
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



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James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



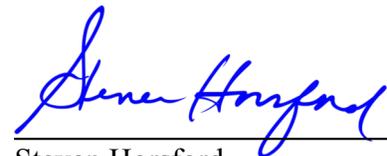
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



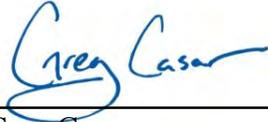
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



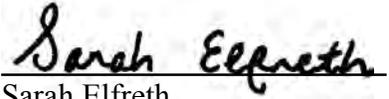
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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



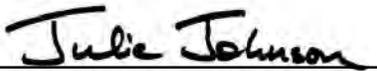
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



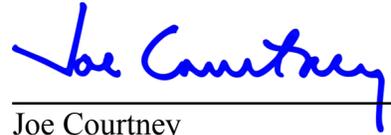
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



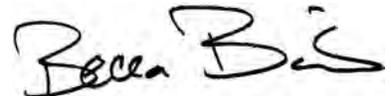
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



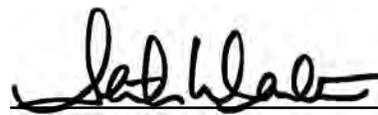
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



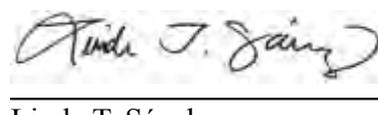
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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



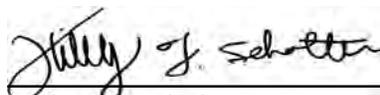
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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



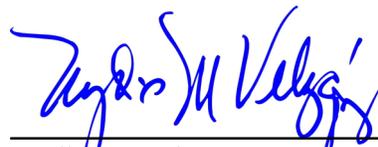
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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



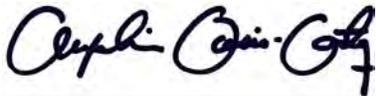
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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



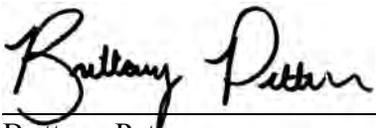
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



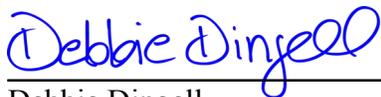
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



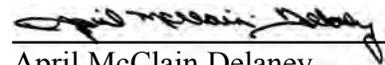
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



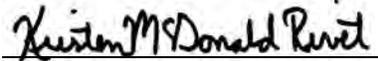
Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



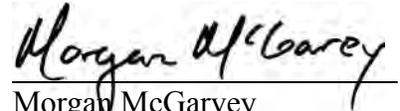
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



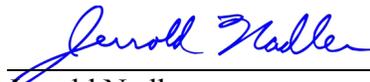
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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



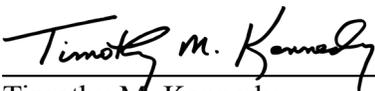
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



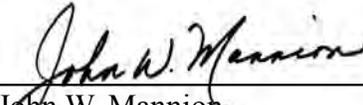
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



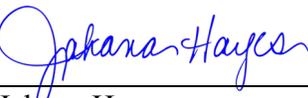
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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



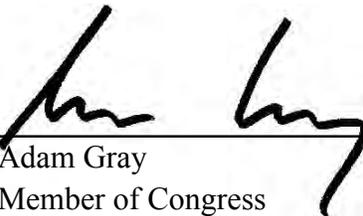
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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



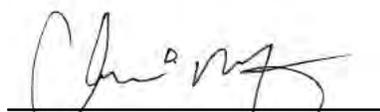
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



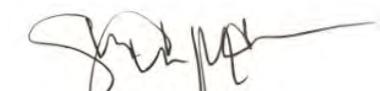
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Christian D. Menefee  
Member of Congress



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



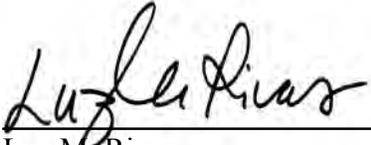
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



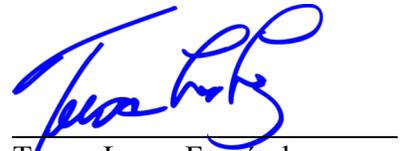
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



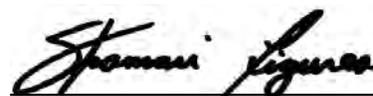
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



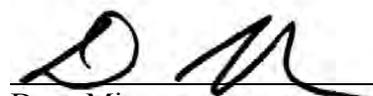
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Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



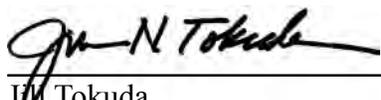
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



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JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



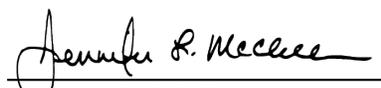
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress