

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2019

His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

As Republicans and Democrats, we are united in our concern about the continuing, serious violations of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 and the resulting threat our ally Israel faces on its northern border.

As you know, UNSCR 1701 called upon the Lebanese Government to extend its sovereignty over all of Lebanon and to disarm “all armed groups in Lebanon, so that...there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than that of the Lebanese State.” The resolution also increased the size and mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to help Lebanon secure its border, prevent the unauthorized importation of arms and promote a zone north of the Israel-Lebanon border, “...free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL...”

After 13 years, Lebanon’s attempts to implement this resolution have been unsuccessful. Instead, under the nose of UNIFIL and the international community, Hezbollah has built a murderous capability aimed at Israel’s civilian population. In the thirteen years since the unanimous passage of the Security Council resolution, Hezbollah, with the assistance of Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, has amassed a deadly arsenal of about 150,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel. Iran is currently exacerbating this threat by transferring precision guided munitions to Hezbollah and building munitions factories in Lebanon for the benefit of the internationally-recognized terrorist organization. Hezbollah’s leader, Hassan Nasrallah, regularly threatens the people of Israel and, as recently as last month, Hezbollah launched a missile attack on northern Israel.

Hezbollah has also spent tens of millions of dollars to develop an underground attack capability. Last year, Israel exposed six terror tunnels that crossed from southern Lebanon into Israel. Hezbollah built these tunnels to enable armed Hezbollah terrorists to enter Israeli towns to kidnap and kill civilians.

The United Nations Security Council spoke out clearly and unanimously by passing UNSCR 1701. In doing so, the international community committed itself to Lebanese sovereignty and Israeli security. Hezbollah’s military build-up threatens both. We believe Beirut must address the Hezbollah challenge on an urgent basis. Continued failure to do so weakens Lebanon’s

relationship with the international community and increases the threats to the Lebanese People and Israel's security.

We also urge you, Mr. Secretary, to assist Lebanon's Prime Minister and President to finally reclaim Lebanese sovereignty and implement all the terms of UNSCR 1701, including allowing UNIFIL to fulfill its mandate in southern Lebanon. At the same time, we request that you insist that UNIFIL fully implement its mandate despite pressure from Hezbollah. UNIFIL should accurately report on Hezbollah violations of UNSCR 1701 and work with the Government of Lebanon to remove Hezbollah's weapons from the south.

It should be evident to all that Israel faces a growing threat from Hezbollah's missile arsenal. No country can tolerate a terrorist organization on its border acquiring the capability to endanger its population. Israel has the right to defend itself and will have the full bipartisan support of the United States if it must act to protect its citizens.

Furthermore, in light of recent events, we recognize major steps will have to be taken by Lebanon's political leadership to address deep popular concerns about economic instability, governance, and corruption. We therefore urge the UN to continue efforts to ensure the government of Lebanon remains independent and fully sovereign.

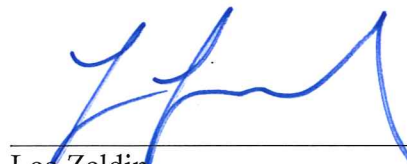
We urge you, Mr. Secretary, to lead an international effort to limit Hezbollah's capabilities and to avoid the devastating but avoidable outcome of which you have previously warned. We fear significant civilian costs in Lebanon if Israel must act to defend its citizens because Hezbollah has positioned its massive arsenal in civilian areas – turning much of Lebanon's population into human shields. Hezbollah will bear the responsibility for that, as will the Government of Lebanon and the international community.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this and other issues with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



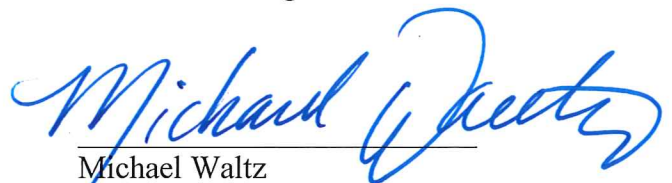
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



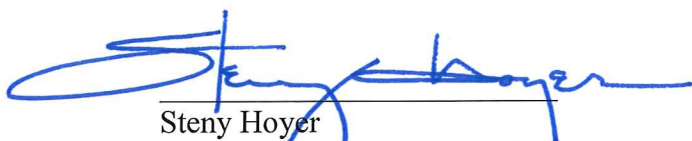
Lee Zeldin
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Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
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Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



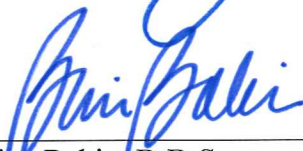
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
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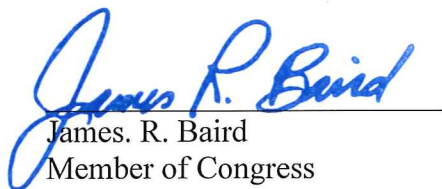
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



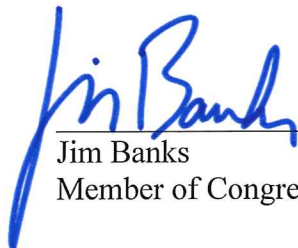
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Minority Whip



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



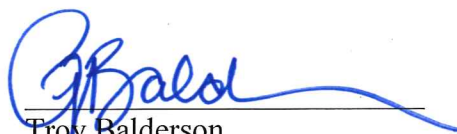
Colin Allred
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Cindy Axne
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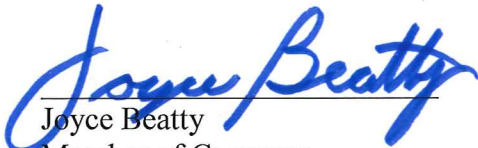
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
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Andy Barr
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Joyce Beatty
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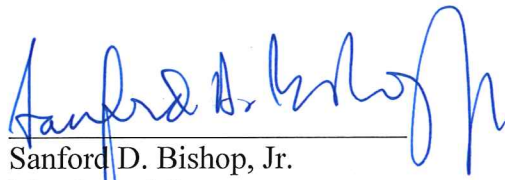

Ami Bera
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Jack Bergman
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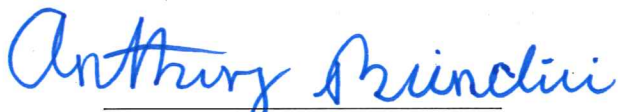

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

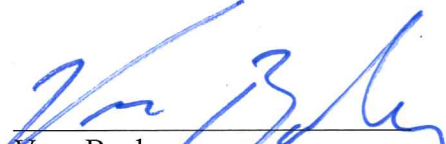

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
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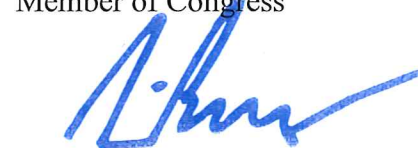

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

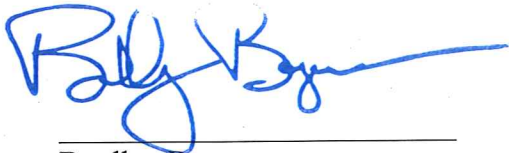

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress


Vern Buchanan
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Ken Buck
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Ted Budd
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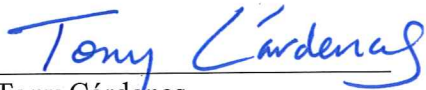

Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
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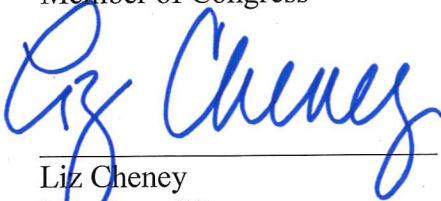
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
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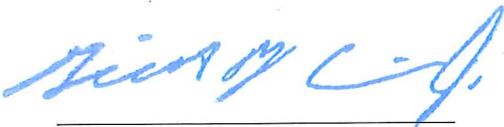
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



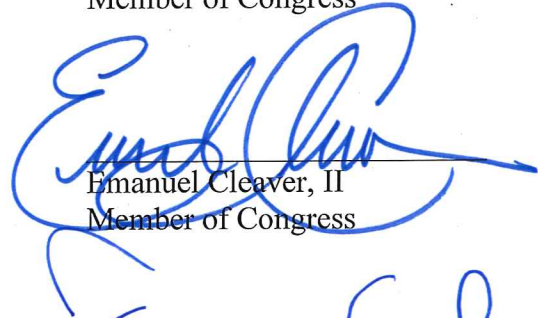
Liz Cheney
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David N. Cicilline
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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
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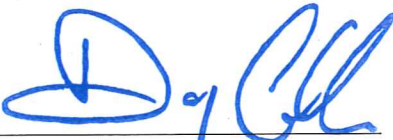
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Ben Cline
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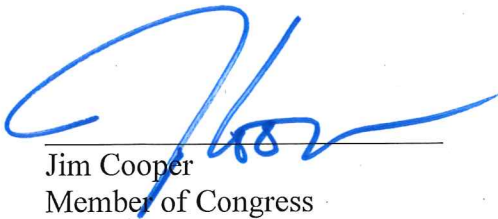
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



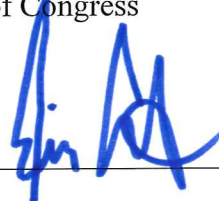
Doug Collins
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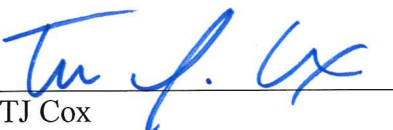
K. Michael Conaway
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Jim Cooper
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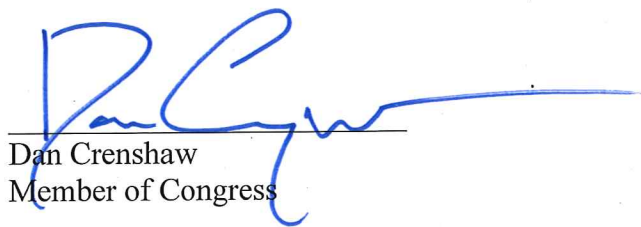
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



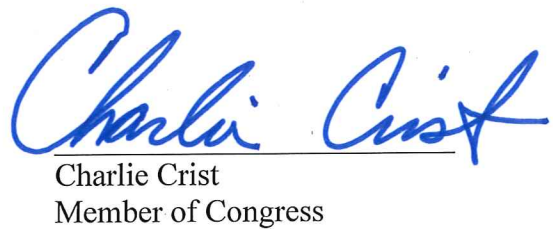
TJ Cox
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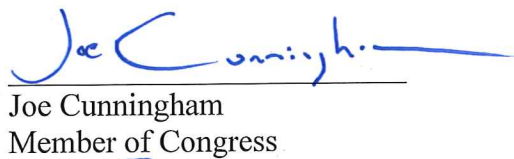
Angie Craig
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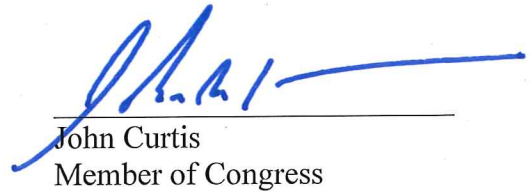
Dan Crenshaw
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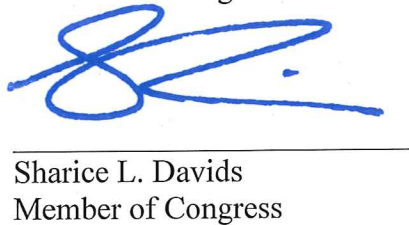
Charlie Crist
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Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress



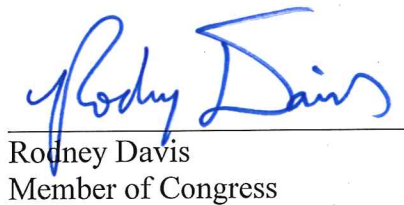
John Curtis
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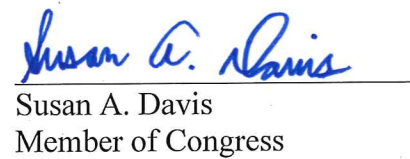
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



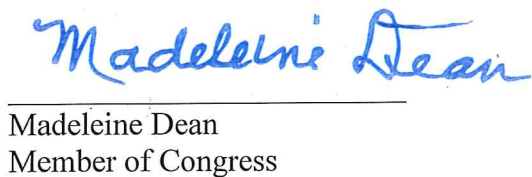
Warren Davidson
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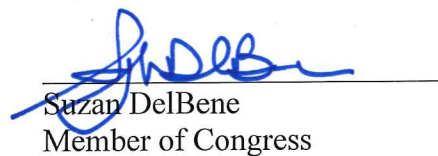
Rodney Davis
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Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



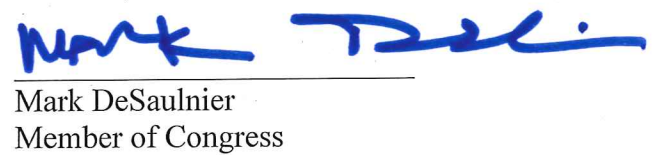
Madeleine Dean
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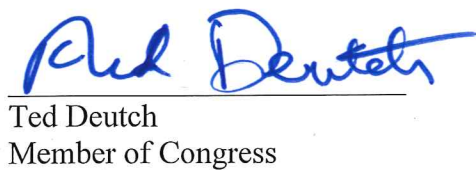
Suzan DelBene
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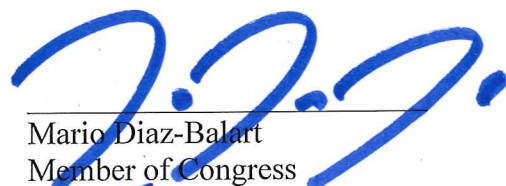
Antonio Delgado
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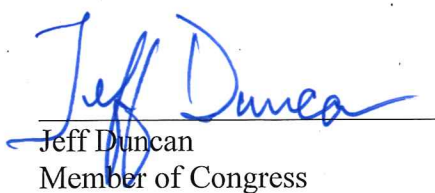
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



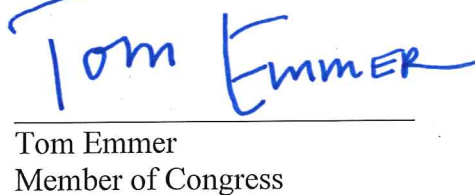
Ted Deutch
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Mario Diaz-Balart
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Jeff Duncan
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Tom Emmer
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Veronica Escobar
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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress



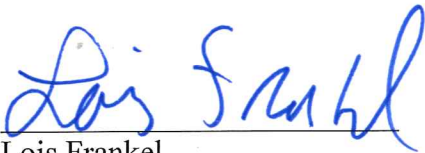
Brian Fitzpatrick
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Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



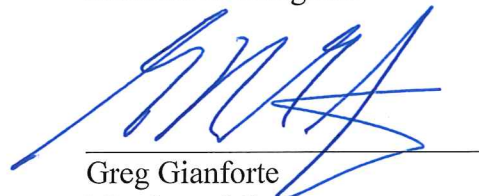
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



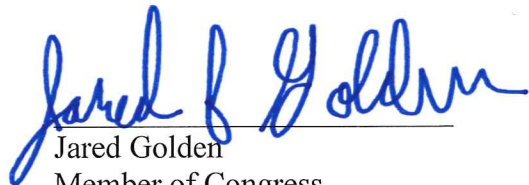
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress




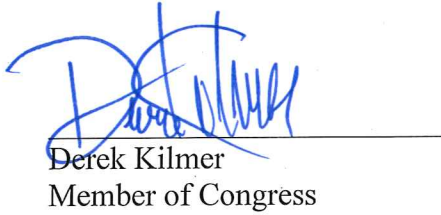
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

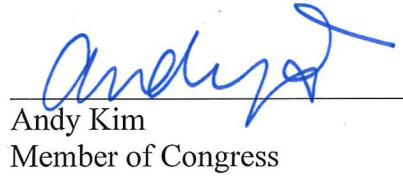


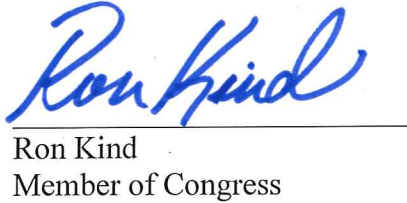
Jared Golden
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Andy Kim
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress

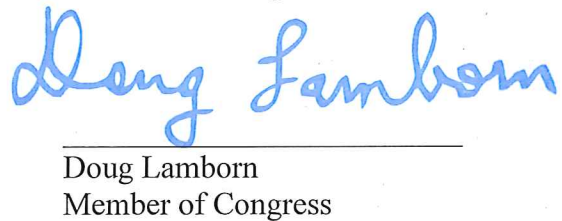

Steve King
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

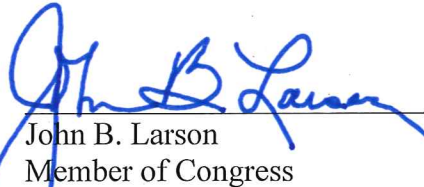

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


David Kustoff
Member of Congress

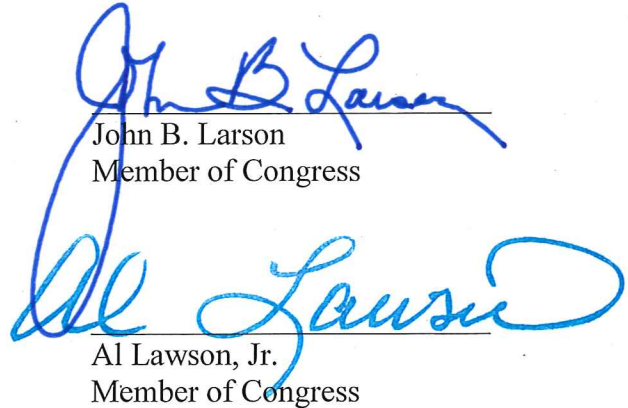

Doug LaMalfa
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Doug Lamborn
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James R. Langevin
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John B. Larson
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Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress


Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



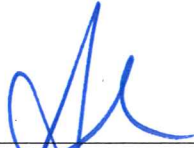
Jimmy Gomez
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Lance Gooden
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Josh Gottheimer
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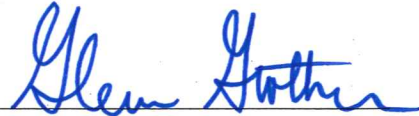
Garret Graves
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Mark E. Green, M.D.
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H. Morgan Griffith
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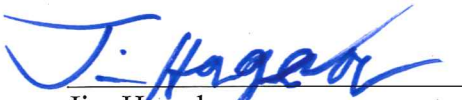
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



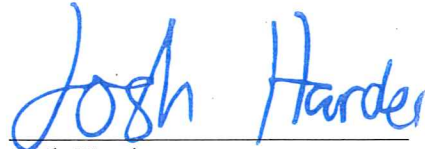
Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
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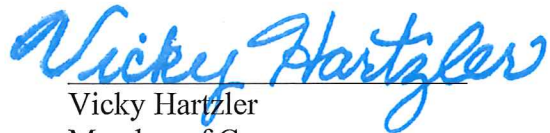
Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



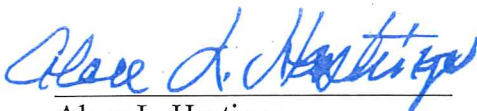
Josh Harder
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Andy Harris, M.D.
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Vicky Hartzler
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Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




Kevin Hern
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Jaime Herrera Beutler

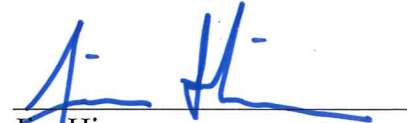
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins

Member of Congress


Clay Higgins

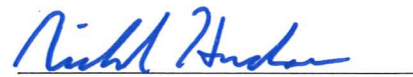
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Jim Himes

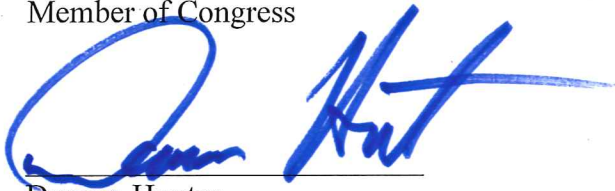
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Trey Hollingsworth

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Richard Hudson

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Duncan Hunter

Member of Congress


Will Hurd

Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries

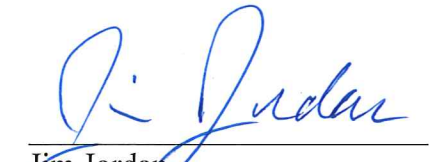
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Mike Johnson

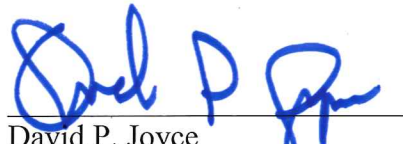
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Bill Johnson

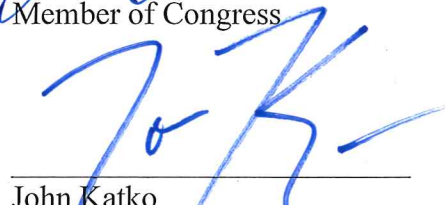
Member of Congress


Jim Jordan

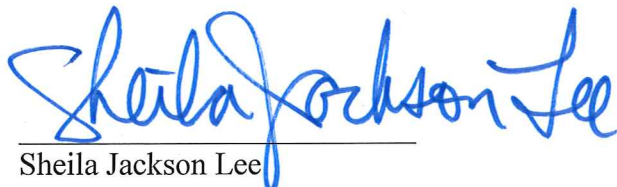
Member of Congress


David P. Joyce

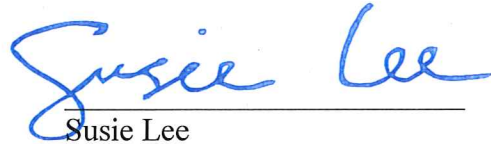
Member of Congress


John Katko

Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



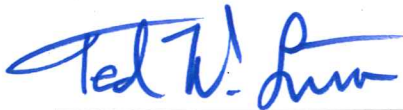
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



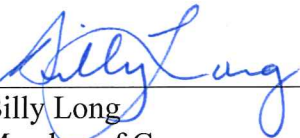
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



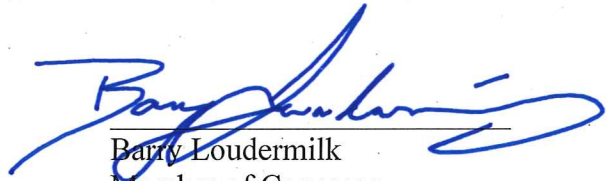
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



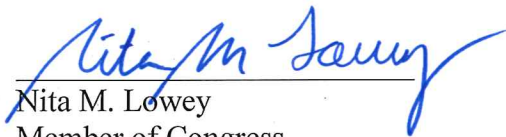
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



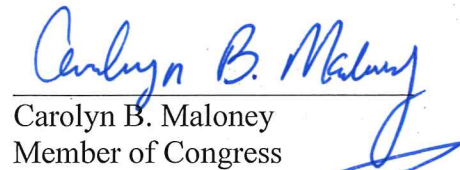
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



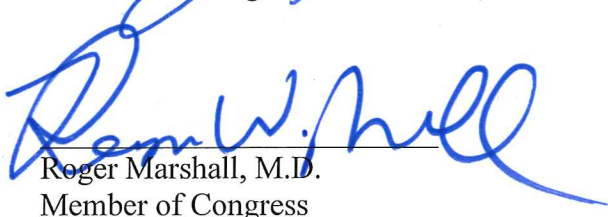
Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



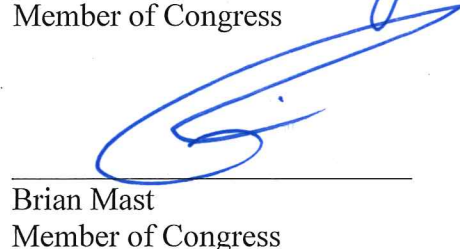
Blaine Luetkemeyer
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Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



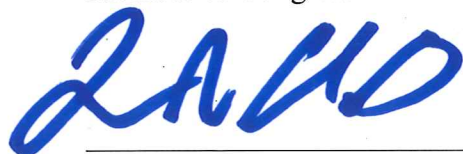
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



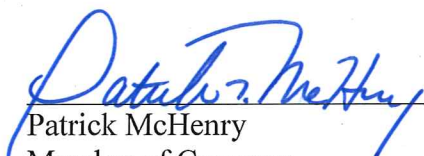
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



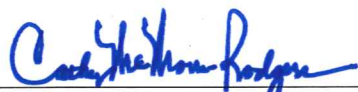
Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



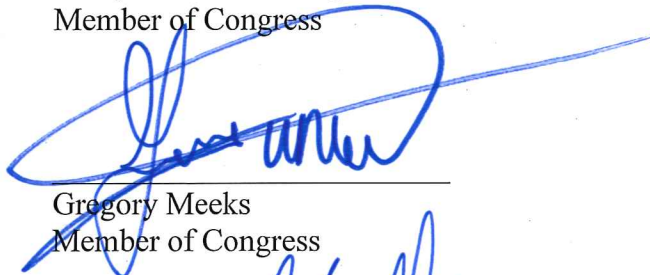
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



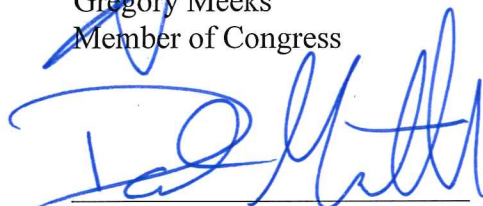
Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



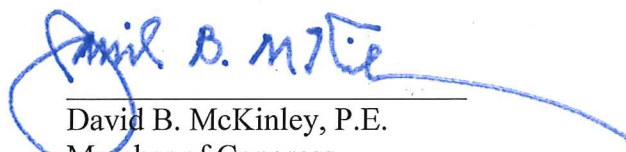
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



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



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



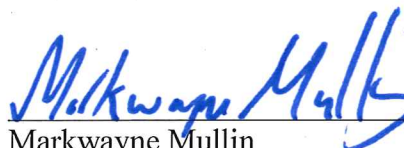
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress




Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

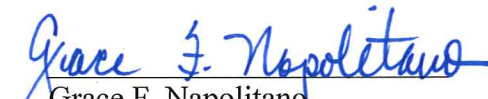


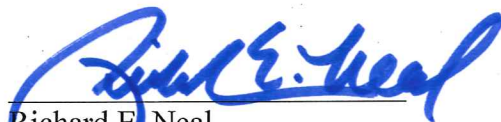
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

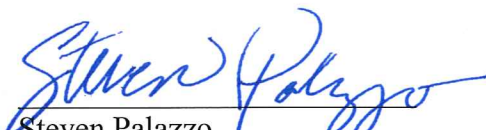

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

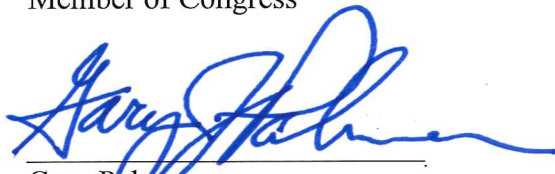

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

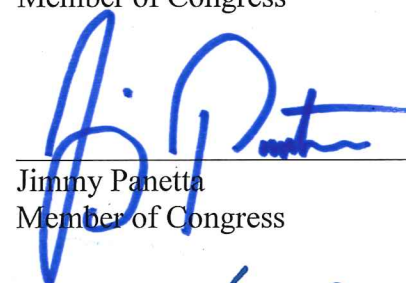

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress


Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

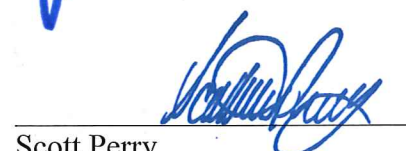

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Gary Palmer
Member of Congress


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

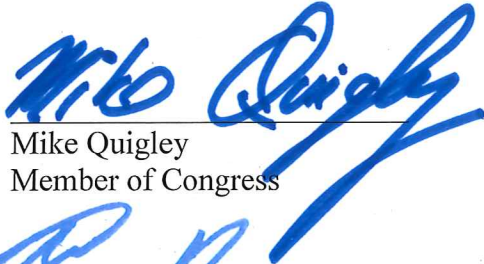

Scott Perry
Member of Congress



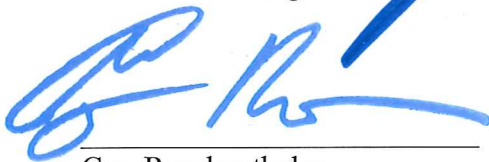
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Denver L. Riggleman, III
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



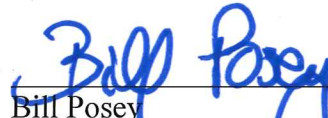
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



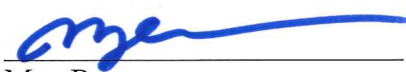
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress



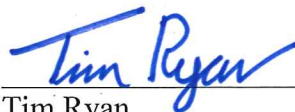
David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress





C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress





Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

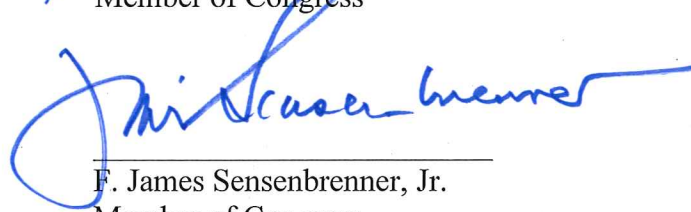

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress


F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

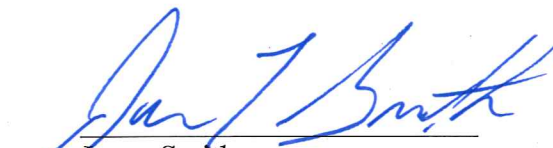

Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

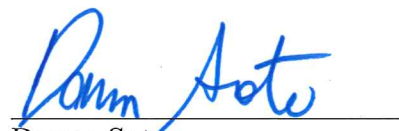

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

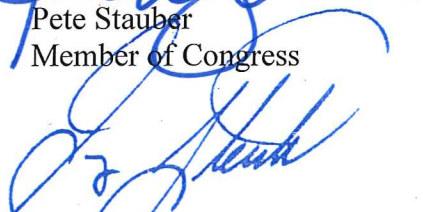

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress

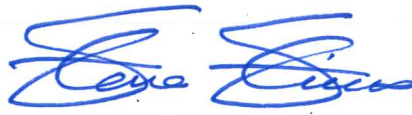

Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress


Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

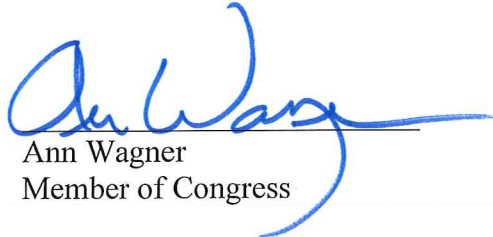

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

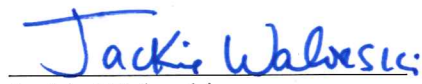

Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

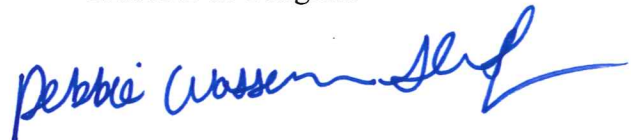

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

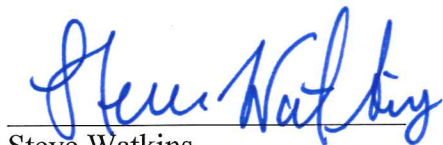

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress

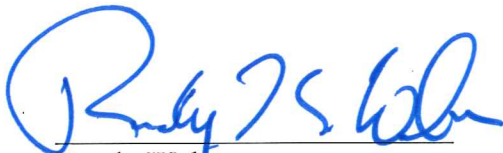

Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

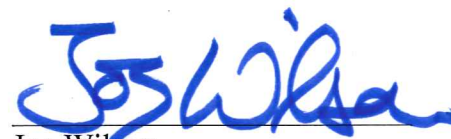

Steve Watkins
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

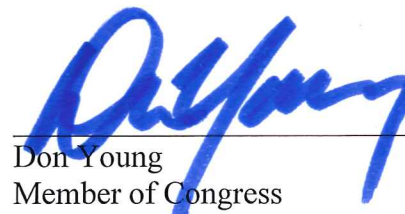

Randy Weber
Member of Congress


Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress


Roger Williams
Member of Congress


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Steve Womack
Member of Congress

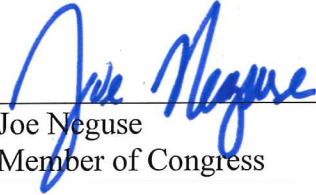

Don Young
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress