

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill by including the highest level of funding possible for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps some of the neediest families in the country with their energy bills by providing them with vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the importance of energy security to the forefront of the national consciousness. Supplemental funding for utility assistance provided by recent emergency stimulus bills will help address arrearages for families struggling due to pandemic-related unemployment. However, these temporary supplemental funds will not address the ongoing energy needs of millions of eligible households still struggling with monthly expenses. Living at the lowest levels of poverty, recipients of these funds are forced to make choices every day between food, medicine, or utilities—choices that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Robust funding for LIHEAP in FY 2023 will ensure these low-income households do not once again fall through the cracks when the pandemic ends.

We also understand the discretionary budget challenges the Committee will be facing in FY 2023. However, LIHEAP is chronically underfunded. In recent years, the program has only had funds to serve one out of six eligible households. Even with supplemental emergency funds, the program will not be able to reach all households in need. Furthermore, the purchasing power of LIHEAP has been decreasing. While the average grant has remained at about \$550, the purchasing power of the grant has declined from about 65% of the cost of home heating to less than 50%, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and maximize funding to this program.

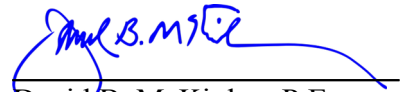
Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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




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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



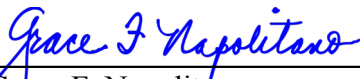
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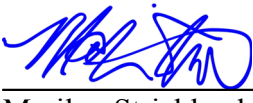
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress





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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress


  
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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress


  
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

  
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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress

  
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Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

  
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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



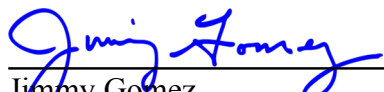
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress




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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress





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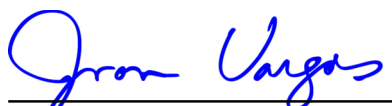
Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

  
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Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress

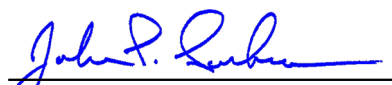
  
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Al Lawson  
Member of Congress


  
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress


  
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

  
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Kaiuli Kahele  
Member of Congress

  
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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

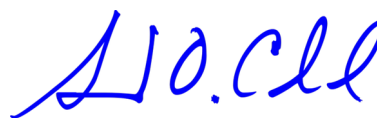
  
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
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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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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



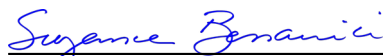
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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John Katko  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress  
, Communications and  
Technology



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Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



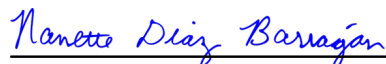
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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress





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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




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Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



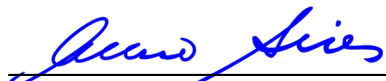
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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



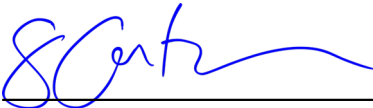
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



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Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



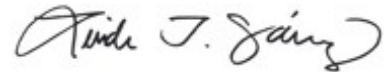
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Peter Meijer M.C.  
Member of Congress



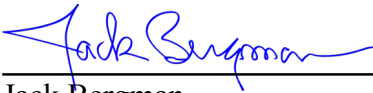
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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



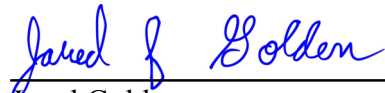
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



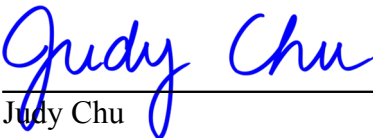
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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



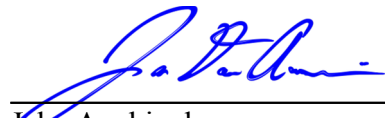
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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



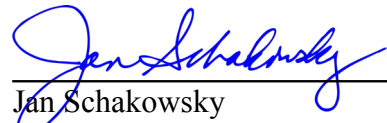
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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



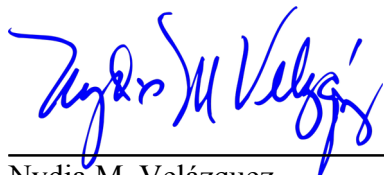
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Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress



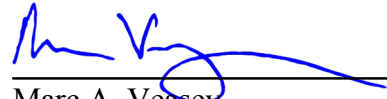
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



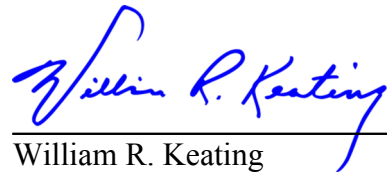
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



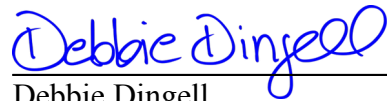
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



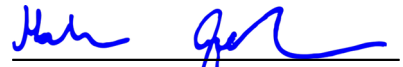
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



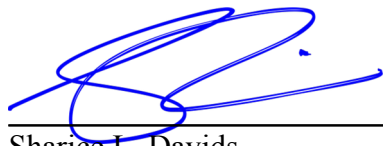
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



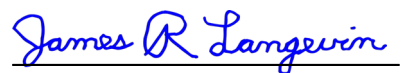
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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



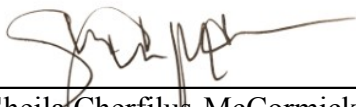
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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



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Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



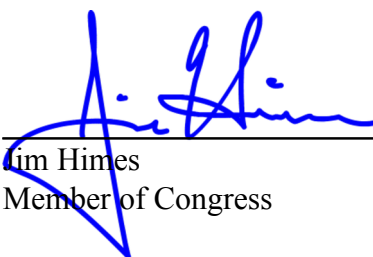
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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



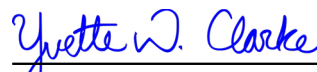
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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



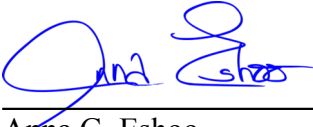
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



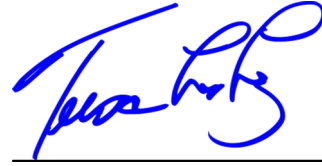
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



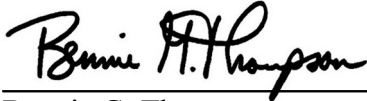
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



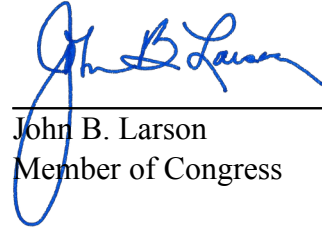
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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



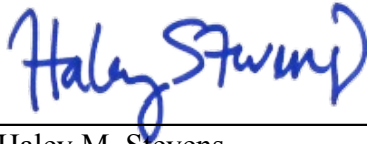
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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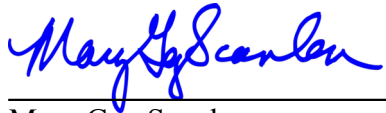
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress





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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress