

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

We write to ensure accountability in the aftermath of two horrible deaths over the past week in Texas and Maine. On Tuesday, July 7, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, the father of three U.S. citizens, and a 35-year resident of the United States, was driving to work when officers in an unmarked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) vehicle attempted to stop his van.¹ Reports indicate that Mr. Salgado Araujo was not even the actual target of ICE at the time; the ICE operation was targeting two Guatemalans, who were not among the men in the van.² ICE claims that Mr. Salgado Araujo “weaponized his vehicle” and an ICE agent shot him in response.³ Neither ICE nor the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have provided any evidence to substantiate this claim.⁴ On July 13, just 6 days later, ICE fatally shot a 25-year-old Colombian national, Johan Sebastian Guerrero, in the head multiple times, even though he was not part of a targeted enforcement action.⁵ DHS claims that Mr. Guerrero merely attempted to flee in a vehicle, and that an ICE officer shot him out of concern for “public safety.”⁶ DHS does not allege the officer feared for his safety. Video footage shows officers handcuffing Mr. Guerrero and throwing him on the street, even after shooting him in the head.

Both of these incidents have created enormous fear and outrage in the community, and raise serious questions about the safety of community members, regardless of immigration status. DHS agents have shot at least 22 people just since the start of President Donald Trump’s second term.⁷ Six of these shootings have been fatal, resulting in the death of U.S. citizens and individuals with no criminal records.⁸

¹ Dalia Faheid & Chris Boyette, *For 35 years, a Mexican father built homes in Houston. Then a morning drive ended in tragedy*, CNN (Jul. 9, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/09/us/lorenzo-salgado-araujo-houston-ice-shooting>.

² Edgar Sandoval & Hamed Aleaziz, *Mexican Man Killed by ICE in Houston Was Not the Target*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 9, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/09/us/witnesses-houston-ice-shooting.html>.

³ Greg Sargent, *Texas ICE Killing Darkens: Rep Says Witnesses Pressured to Self-Deport*, NEW REPUBLIC (Jul. 9, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/article/212900/texas-ice-killing-darkens-rep-says-witnesses-pressured-self-deport>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Staff, *Live Updates: Immigration Agent Shot Biddeford Man as He Fled ‘in the Direction of the Officers,’* PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, (July 13, 2026), <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/07/13/shooting-reported-in-biddeford-2/>; *Fatal Shootings in Maine and Houston Spark Demands for Transparency from ICE*, CNN, (July 13, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/13/us/live-news/maine-ice-shooting-houston-minnesota?t=1783975994087>.

⁶ Department of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (July 13, 2026), <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/2076798878595342620>.

⁷ Allison McCann *At Least 21 People Have Been Shot at by Federal Immigration Agents Since Last Year*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 8, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/08/us/immigration-agent-shootings-vehicles.html>.

⁸ *Id.*

In several of these cases, DHS and its component agencies made unsubstantiated allegations about individuals its agents have shot and even killed, including Renée Good, Alex Pretti, Ruben Ray Martinez, Marimar Martinez, and Julio Sosa-Celis. DHS claimed that the shooting victims were attacking law enforcement officers, attempting to “weaponize” their vehicles, and even called them domestic terrorists.⁹ In each case, evidence later emerged that contradicted these claims, showing that DHS representatives made false statements and DHS agents acted inappropriately, resulting in several cases against DHS’s victims to be dismissed with prejudice.¹⁰ As such, Trump’s DHS has lost the trust of the American people and can no longer be considered a reliable source of facts.¹¹

After shooting and killing Mr. Salgado Araujo, ICE agents took into custody the three other men who were in the van with him: his brother, Victor Hugo Salgado Araujo, and two employees, Jose Trinidad Rojas Pliego and Daniel Tirado Pantoja.¹² All three of these men have independently disputed ICE’s account and stated that Mr. Salgado Araujo did not try to ram any agents with the van.¹³ Now, reports are emerging that these men—eyewitnesses to the shooting who can provide essential evidence to investigators—have been placed in removal proceedings.¹⁴ This is completely unacceptable.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time ICE has attempted to deport homicide witnesses in its custody. After a coroner ruled Geraldo Lunas Campos’ death at the ICE detention facility Camp East Montana a homicide, his family had to get a court order to ensure ICE did not deport the detained witnesses to the crime.¹⁵ One witness was moved and deported before the court got a chance to rule.¹⁶ It is essential that the same miscarriage of justice does not occur here.

⁹ See, e.g. Matt Ford, *The Second Amendment Failed Alex Pretti*, NEW REPUBLIC (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/article/205981/second-amendment-failed-alex-pretti>; Roque Planas, *Video of an ICE shooting shattered the agency’s story. Will it usher in accountability?*, GUARDIAN (Apr. 11, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/11/ice-shooting-dhs-accountability-minneapolis>; Sophie Hurwitz, *ICE Keeps Using the Same Justification for Killing Drivers*, MOTHER JONES (Jul. 9, 2026), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/07/ice-houston-lorenzo-salgado-araujo-renee-good-killed/>.

¹⁰ See, e.g., Zoe Sottile, *ICE agent charged in shooting during Minneapolis immigration crackdown is arrested in Texas*, CNN (May 29, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/29/us/ice-agent-charged-minneapolis-arrested>; Chris Looft, et. al., *Video suggests DHS exaggerated claims about the shooting of Marimar Martinez: Visual analysis*, ABC (Feb. 12, 2026) <https://abcnews.com/US/video-suggests-dhs-exaggerated-claims-shooting-marimar-martinez/story?id=130077502>.

¹¹ See, e.g., Jude Joffe-Block, et. al., *DHS keeps making false claims about people. It’s part of a broader pattern*, NPR (Jan. 31, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/31/nx-s1-5690124/ice-alex-pretti-immigration-unproven-claims-dhs-enforcement-arrests>; Oliver Milman, *Lawyers for ICE gave false information to justify detaining thousands, filings reveal*, (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/mar/26/ice-lawyers-justify-detaining-on-false-information>.

¹² Sargent, *supra* note 2.

¹³ Hernández, *supra* note 8.

¹⁴ Arelis R. Hernández, *Migrants who saw man killed by ICE in Houston say he did not ram officers*, WASH. POST (Jul. 10, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/07/10/migrants-who-saw-man-killed-by-ice-houston-say-he-did-not-ram-officers/>

¹⁵ Jeff Abbott, *He witnessed a migrant death at an ICE detention center, then was deported*, EL PASO TIMES (Feb. 24, 2026), <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/immigration/2026/02/24/a-detainee-at-camp-east-montana-saw-guards-kill-an-immigrant-then-was-deported/88742190007/>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

We are calling for immediate independent investigations into both of these deaths, without interference. We are also calling on ICE to stop any removal proceedings against the witnesses to Mr. Salgado Araujo's killing for the duration of the investigation. Investigators must be given access to the testimony of Jose Trinidad Rojas Pliego, Daniel Tirado Pantoja, and Victor Hugo Salgado Araujo, and the witnesses should have no threat of retaliation or deportation to provide their testimony.

Similarly, DHS must not interfere with any investigations into the death of Mr. Guerrero. Far too many people, Americans and noncitizens alike, are dead as a result of DHS's reckless actions. There must be accountability and independent investigations.

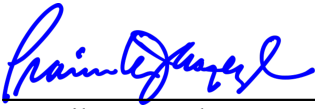
In order to ensure justice occurs in these cases, as well as ensuring that such incidents do not continue to happen, please provide answers to the following questions as soon as possible, but no later than July 30, 2026:

1. Will you commit to allowing all noncitizen witnesses to remain in the United States for the duration of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) and any state or local investigations into both of these deaths, so they may provide eyewitness testimony to investigators?
2. Will you commit to not interfering with any ongoing investigations, and to ensuring truly independent investigations into both of these cases, as well as completing investigations into the other ICE-related shootings that have occurred?
3. Will you commit to ensuring that all investigators, including those from the FBI, OIG, and any state and local offices have access to all witnesses and evidence related to both of these deaths?
4. Given the enormous amount of funding provided to ICE and CBP both last year and this year, will you commit to immediately providing body cameras to all ICE and CBP agents and ensuring that footage is made available in any ongoing investigations, including any footage of all victims of DHS-related fatal shootings?
5. Please provide a detailed breakdown, including providing copies of all training materials, on how much and what kind of training your officers undergo, as it relates to vehicle stops including when or how discharging weapons into vehicles is or is not permissible.

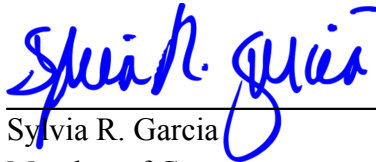
These fatal shootings by your agents demand real accountability and immediate action to ensure this violence does not continue. Failure to impose meaningful consequences sends a message to your Department that agents can act with impunity, risking public safety and people's lives. We call on you to take immediate corrective action.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



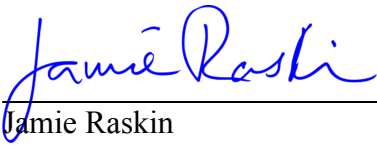
Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member
Immigration Integrity,
Security, and Enforcement
House Judiciary Committee



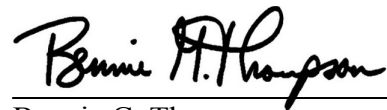
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



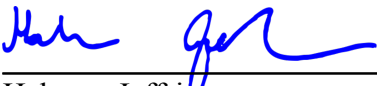
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the
Judiciary



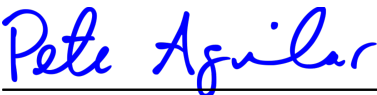
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



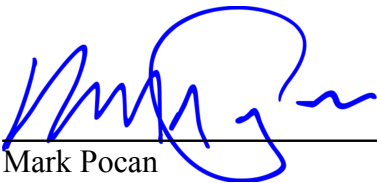
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



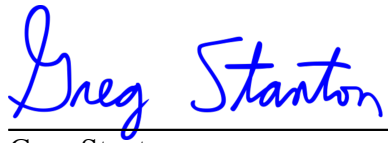
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



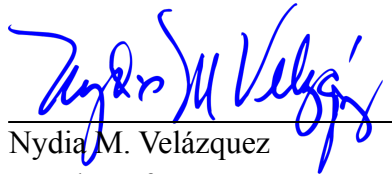
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



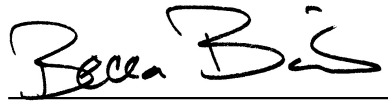
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



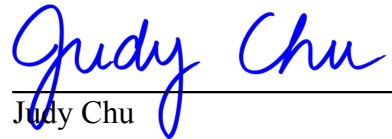
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



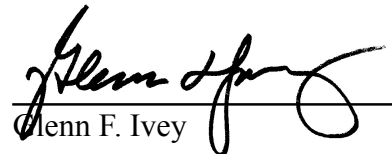
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



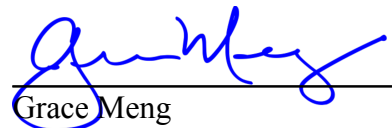
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



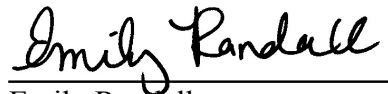
Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



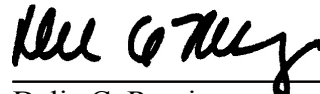
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



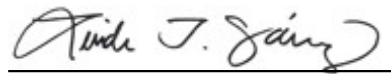
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



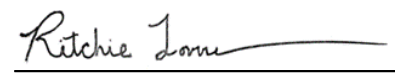
Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



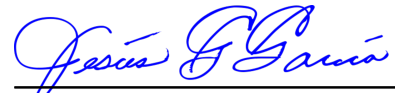
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



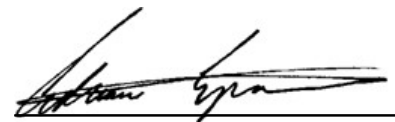
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



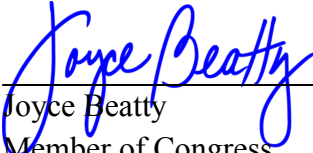
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



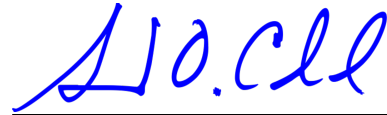
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



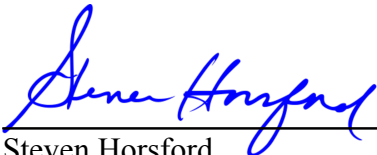
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



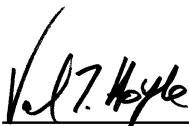
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



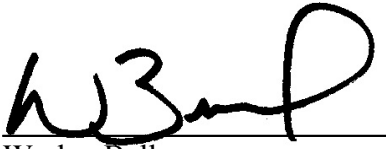
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



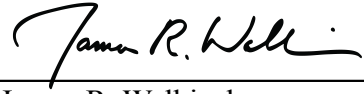
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



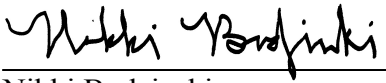
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



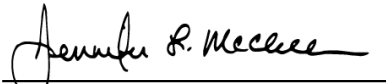
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



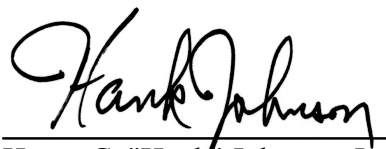
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



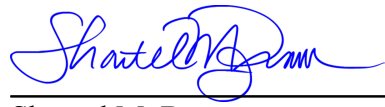
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



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



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



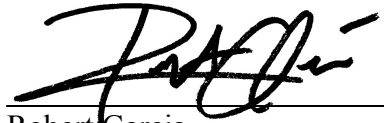
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



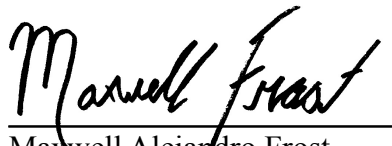
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



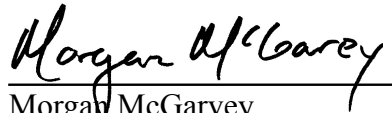
Robert Garcia
Ranking Member, Committee
on Oversight
and Government Reform



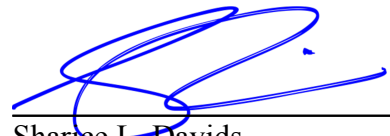
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



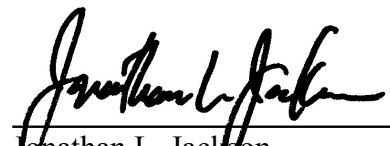
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



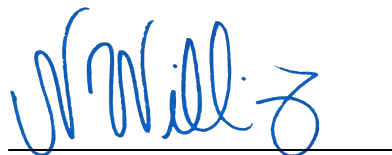
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



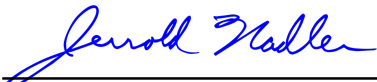
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



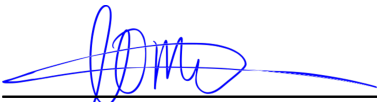
Dave Min
Member of Congress



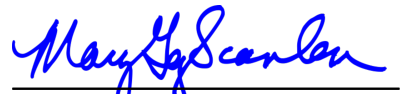
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



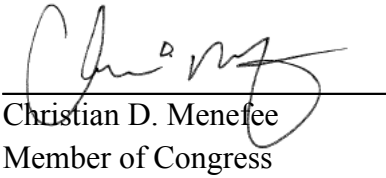
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



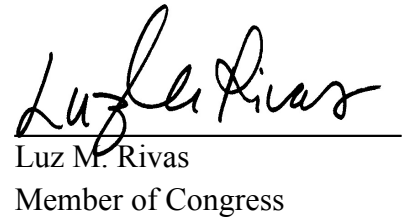
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



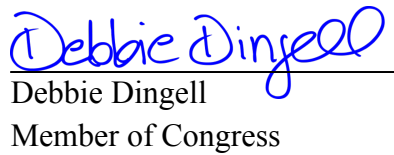
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



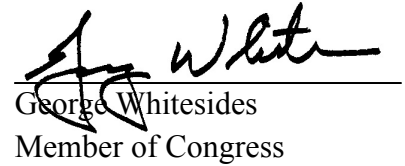
Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



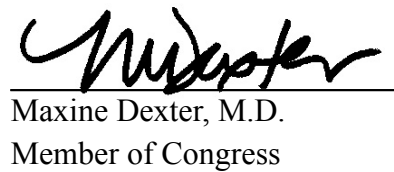
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



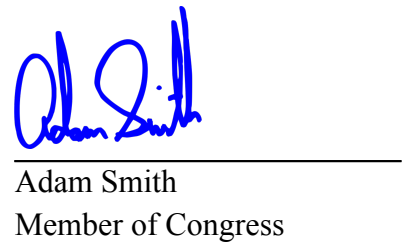
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



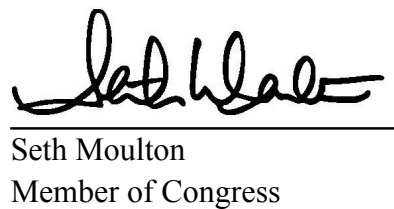
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



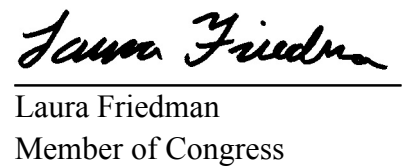
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



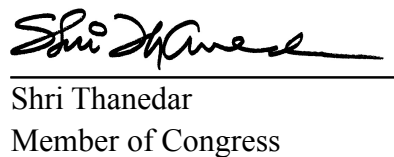
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



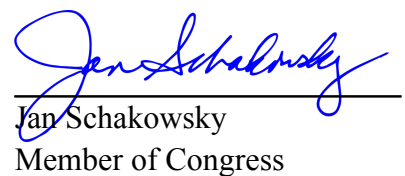
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



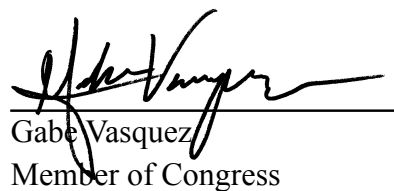
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



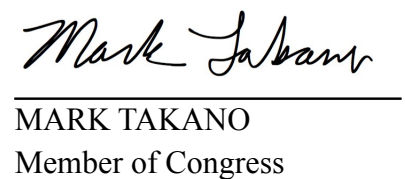
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



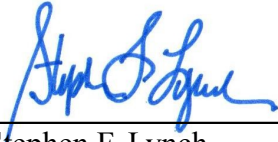
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



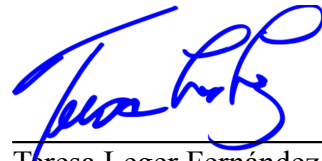
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



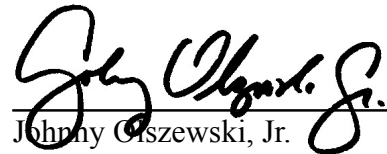
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



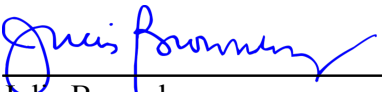
Johnny Oiszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



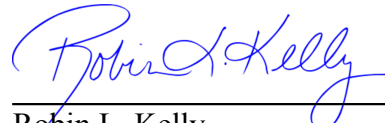
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



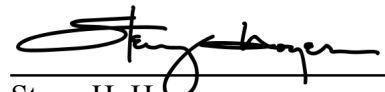
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



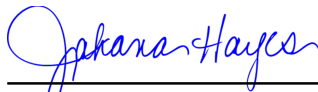
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



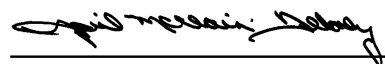
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



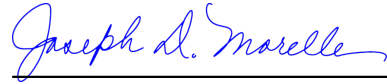
Al Green
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



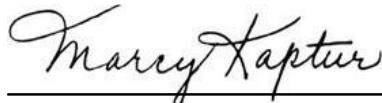
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



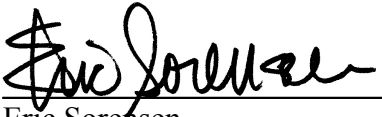
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



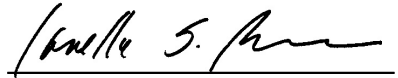
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



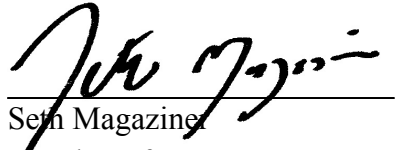
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



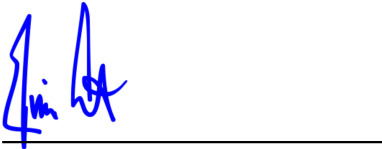
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



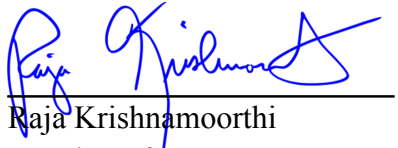
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



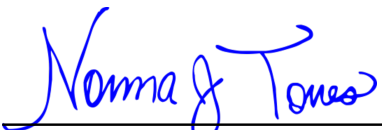
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



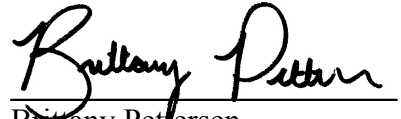
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



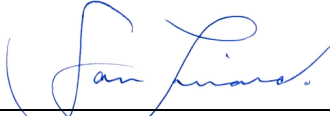
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



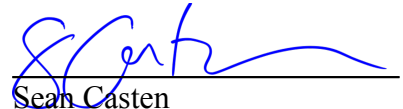
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



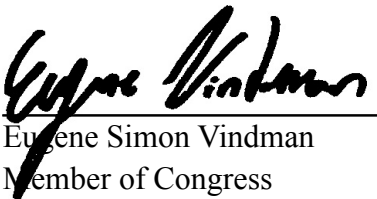
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



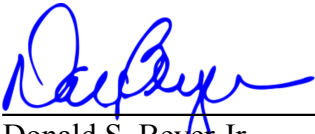
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



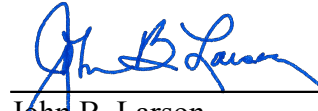
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



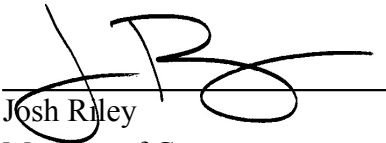
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



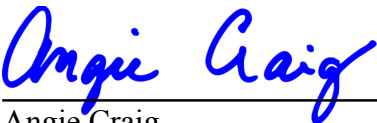
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



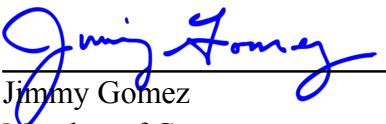
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



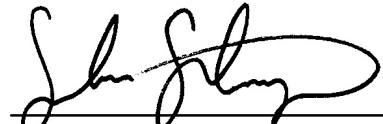
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



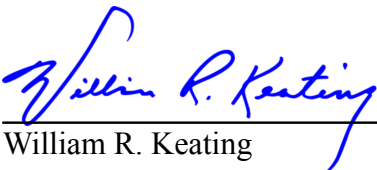
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



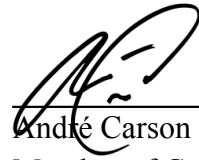
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



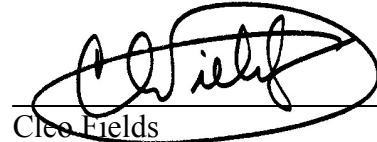
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



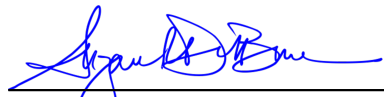
André Carson
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



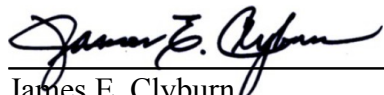
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



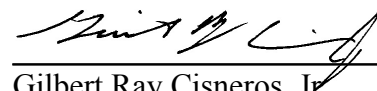
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



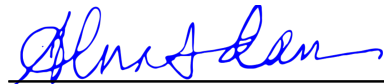
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



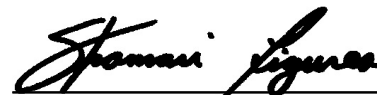
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



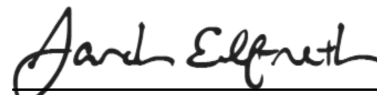
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



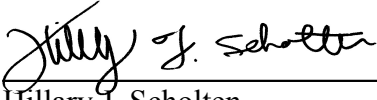
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



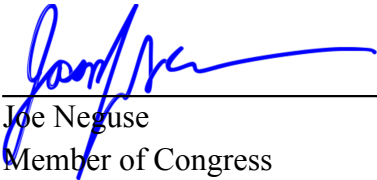
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



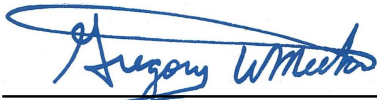
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



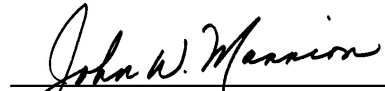
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



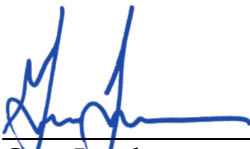
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



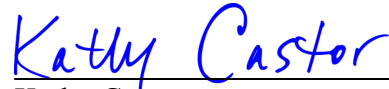
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



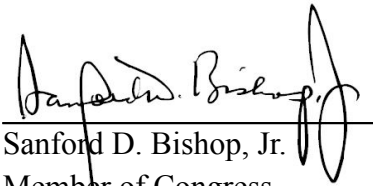
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

CC:

Dr. Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
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Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528