

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2020

Seema Verma, MPH
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write to express strong bipartisan support for the Medicare Advantage program, which 40 percent of eligible Medicare beneficiaries, more than 22 million people, choose to enroll in.¹ We appreciate your ongoing commitment to preserving and strengthening the Medicare Advantage program for current and future Medicare beneficiaries. As the Administration considers updates to the program for plan year 2021, we urge you to ensure that the Medicare Advantage program will continue to offer affordable, high-quality, patient-centered coverage options for the diverse populations the program serves, including beneficiaries with End Stage Renal Disease who for the first time will be able to choose a Medicare Advantage plan.

Millions of seniors depend on Medicare Advantage plans to provide comprehensive, affordable health care as they age. In 2020, average premiums are expected to decline by 14 percent to their lowest point in the last 13 years while enrollment is projected to increase to more than 24 million.² Further, the average number of plan choices has continued to increase; in 2020, 93 percent of individuals on Medicare have access to a Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage for no additional premium.³

Medicare Advantage offers affordable, high-quality care coordination, disease management programs, out-of-pocket spending limits, access to community-based programs, additional supplemental benefits such as vision and dental coverage, and often prescription drug coverage for no additional premium. The program also serves vulnerable and underserved populations that have special needs and chronic conditions and provides supports for seniors at critical times of their life. Moreover, as a result of greater flexibility in plan benefit offerings, next year nearly 14 million enrollees will have access to additional telehealth benefits, and an estimated 2.6 million beneficiaries will have access to more supplemental benefits, including adult day care services and in-home support services to help them manage their health. In addition, up to 1.2 million enrollees

¹ <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/ReportsTrustFunds/Downloads/TR2019.pdf>

² <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-drives-down-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-premiums-seniors>

³ <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/medicare-advantage-2020-spotlight-first-look/>

will have access to new benefits that address social barriers to accessing care such as food assistance, transportation, and home modifications.

For plan year 2021, we urge the Administration to continue its efforts to promote flexibility and innovation, incentivize quality improvements, and support value-based arrangements with health care providers. It will be important to ensure that any substantive changes to the Medicare Advantage program provide plan sponsors with sufficient time for thorough evaluation, and implementation. We also encourage the Administration to build on the enhanced supplemental benefits that were offered this plan year by providing additional flexibility, such as expanding telehealth services for underserved and rural communities, to help drive the next generation of innovative approaches in Medicare to improve health outcomes, while also maintaining robust beneficiary protections.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to further strengthen the Medicare Advantage program and ensure millions of seniors have access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage choices.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress



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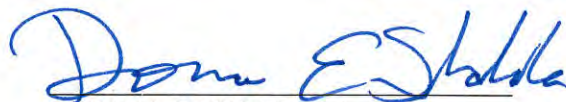
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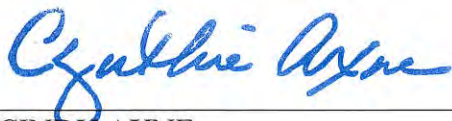
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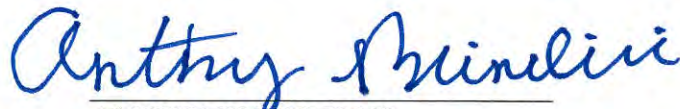
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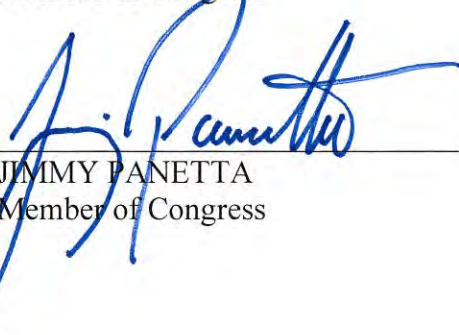
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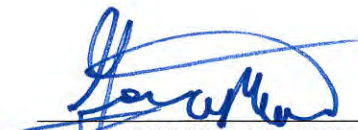
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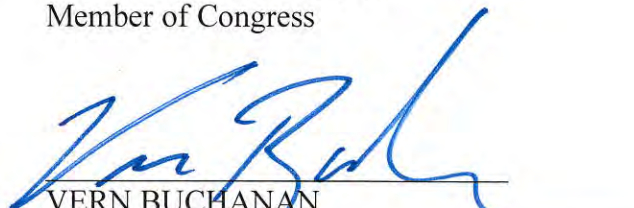
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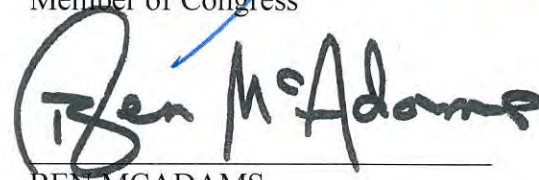
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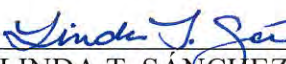

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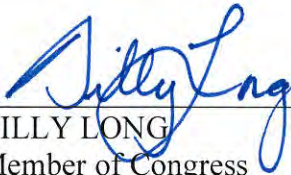
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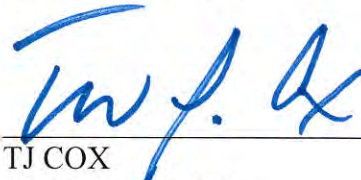
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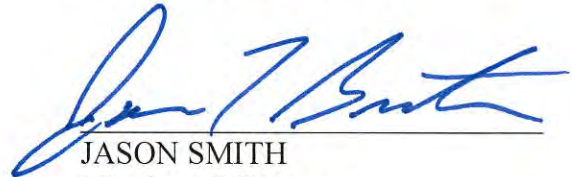
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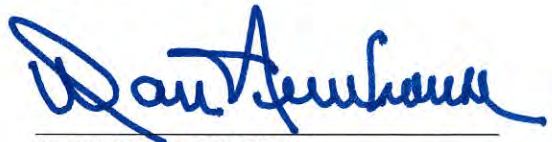
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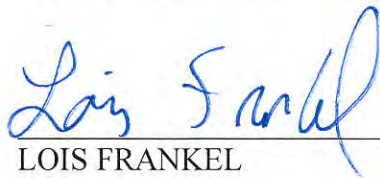
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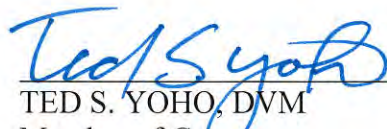
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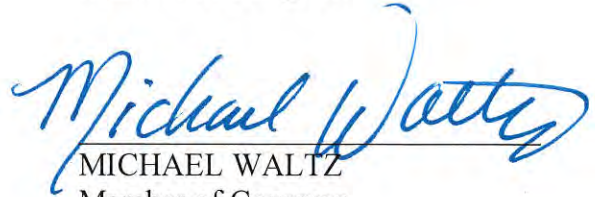
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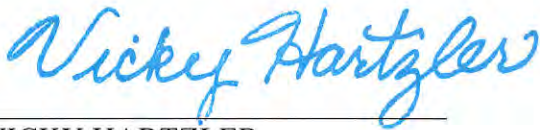
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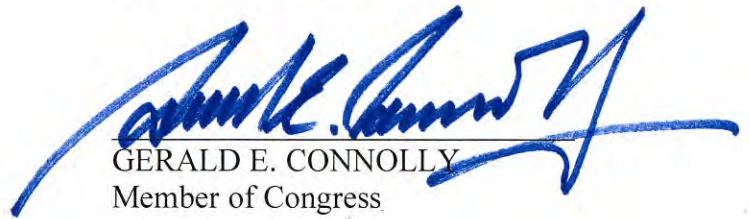
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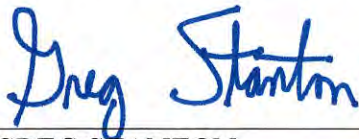
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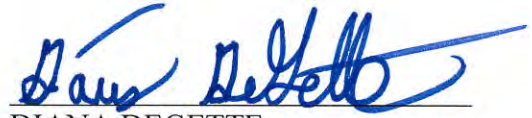
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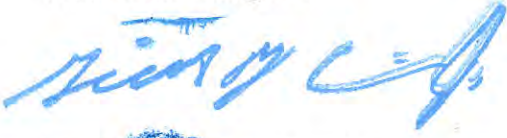
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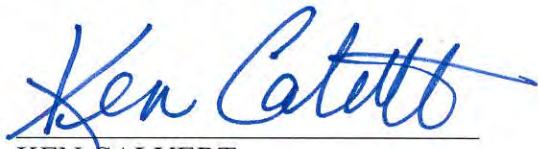
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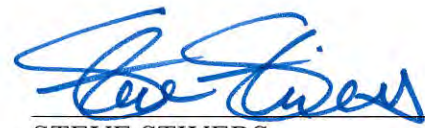
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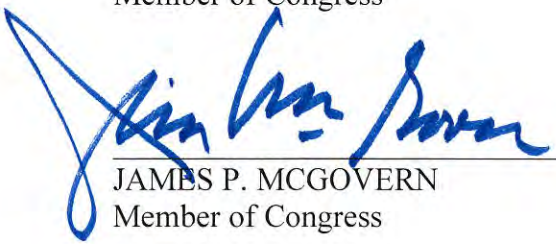
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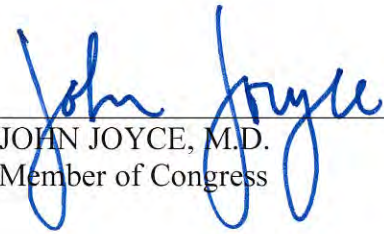
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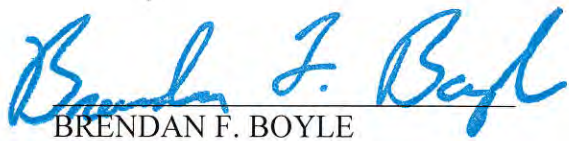
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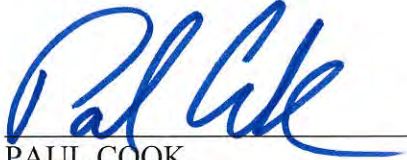
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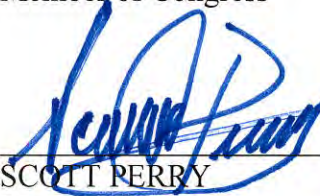
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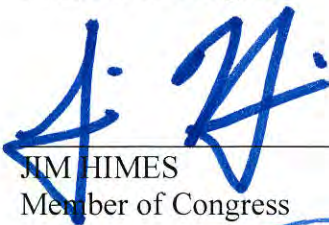
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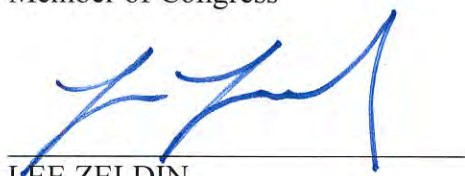

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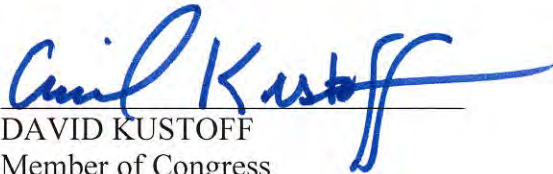
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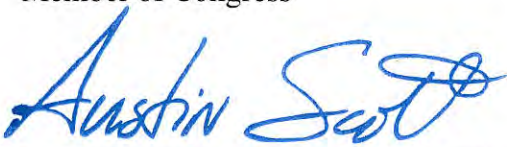
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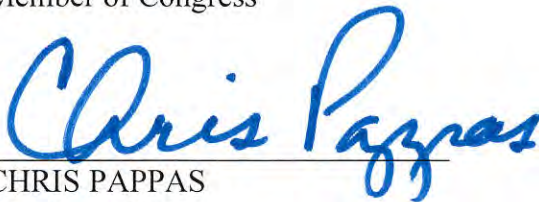
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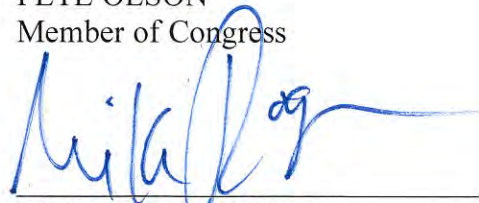
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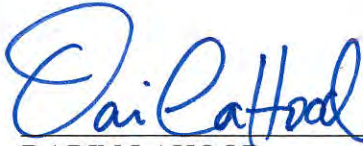
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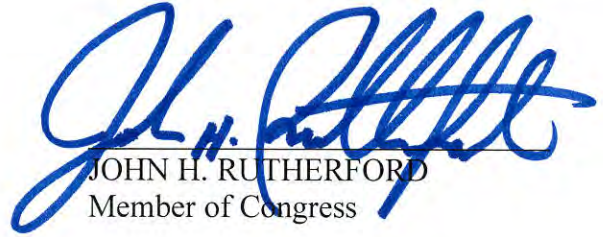
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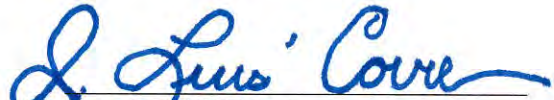
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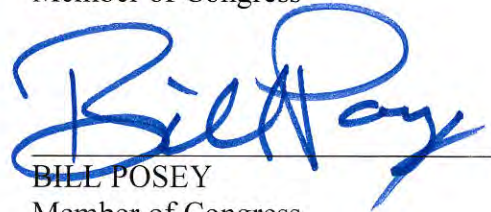
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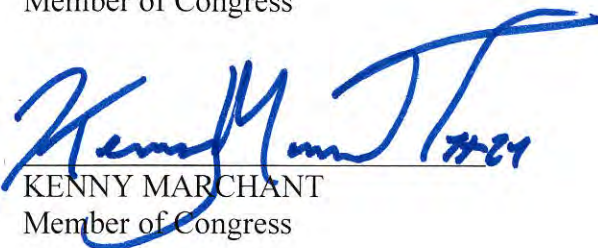
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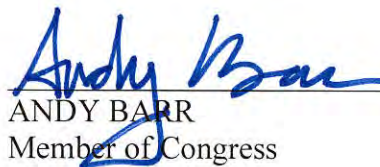
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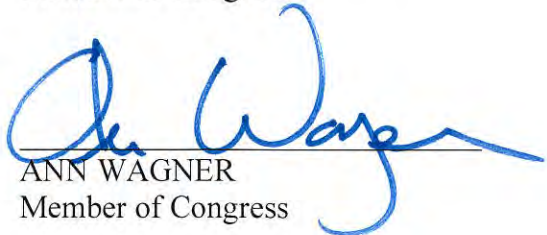
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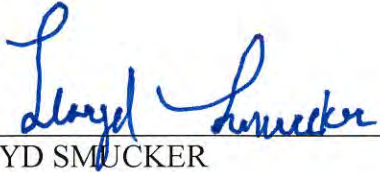
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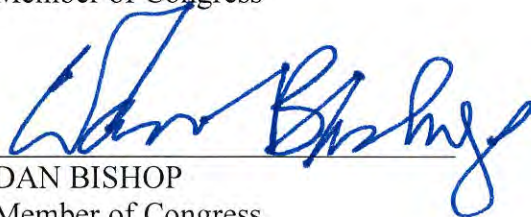
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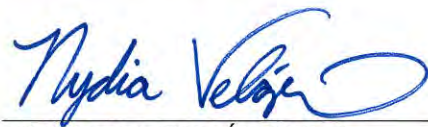
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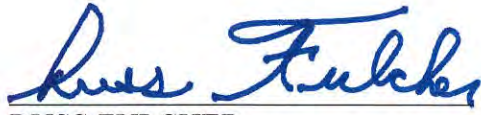
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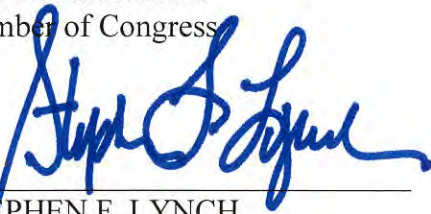
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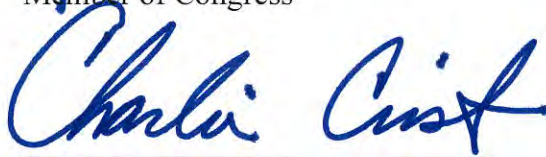
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CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress



CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress



DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress



LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.
Member of Congress




CAROL D. MILLER
Member of Congress


BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress



ALEX X. MOONEY
Member of Congress


JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress


TOM REED
Member of Congress

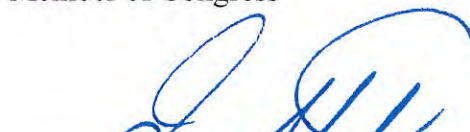

MICHAEL GUEST
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress


ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress


NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress


W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress


ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress


SUSAN W. BROOKS
Member of Congress


GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



MIKE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

Ed Case

ED CASE
Member of Congress



JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress



MATT GAETZ
Member of Congress



KIM SCHRIER, M.D.
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

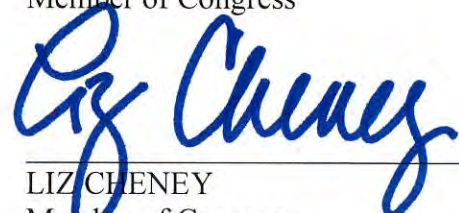

YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress


PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress

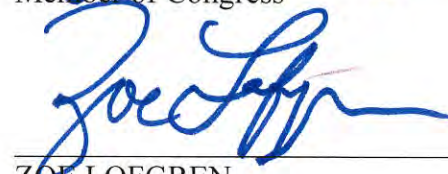

BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress


LANCE GOODEN
Member of Congress


JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress


LIZ CHENEY
Member of Congress


GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

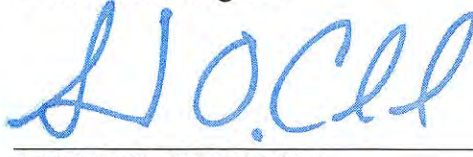

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress


MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress


JAMES COMER
Member of Congress


PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress


PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress


SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress


JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress



TREY HOLLINGSWORTH
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



GREG PENCE
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress



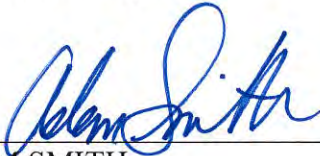
DUSTY JOHNSON
Member of Congress



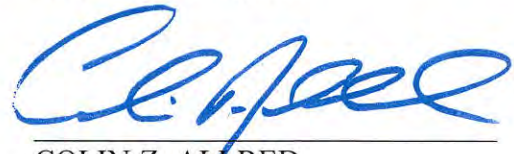
MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



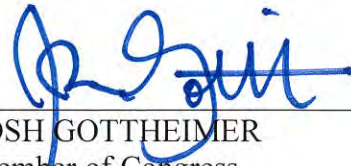
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



COLIN Z. ALLRED
Member of Congress



ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



STEVEN M. PALAZZO
Member of Congress



DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

LUCY MCBATH
Member of Congress

RON ESTES
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress

WARREN DAVIDSON
Member of Congress

MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

GARY PALMER
Member of Congress

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

NEAL P. DUNN, M.D.
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

JIM BANKS
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton

JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress

Mark Desaulnier

MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez

VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly

TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress

Denver Riggleman

DENVER RIGGLEMAN
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn

JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress

Scott Desjarlais

SCOTT DESJARLAIS
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.

GREGORY F. MURPHY, M.D.
Member of Congress



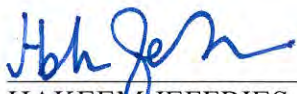
BILL FLORES
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



JOHN ROSE
Member of Congress



HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Member of Congress



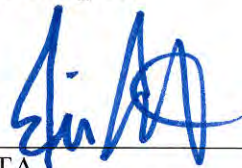
MO BROOKS
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress



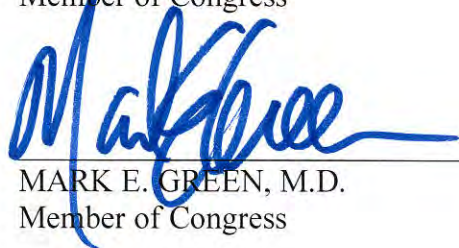
KEVIN HERN
Member of Congress



AL LAWSON
Member of Congress



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



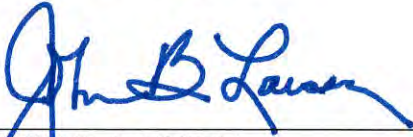
MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Member of Congress



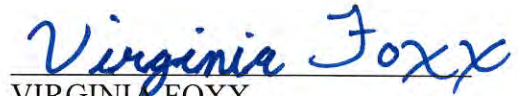
ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress



JOHN R. CURTIS
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



VIRGINIA FOXX
Member of Congress



STEVE WATKINS
Member of Congress



KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress



DENNY HECK
Member of Congress



CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress