

**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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <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,

  
TONY CÁRDENAS  
Member of Congress

  
BRETT GUTHRIE  
Member of Congress

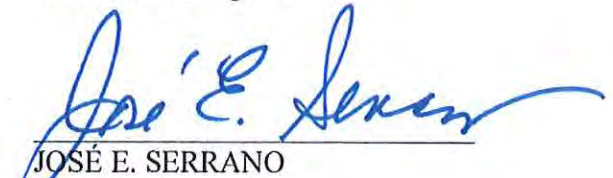
  
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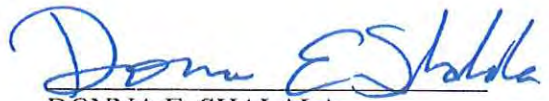
  
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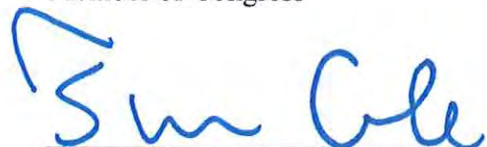
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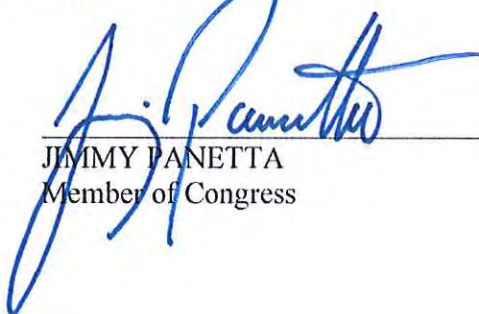
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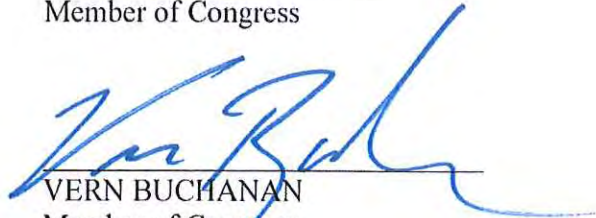
  
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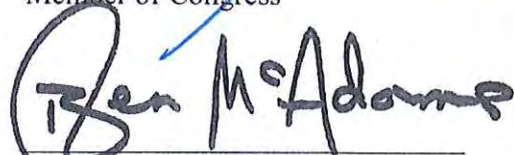
  
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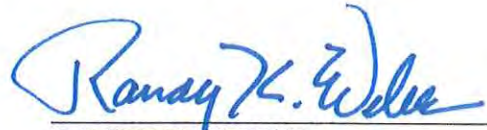
  
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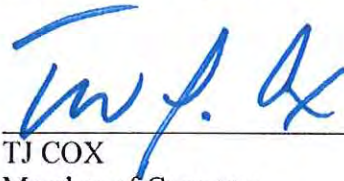
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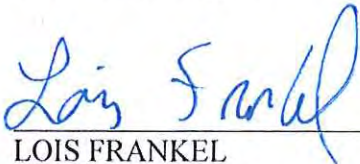
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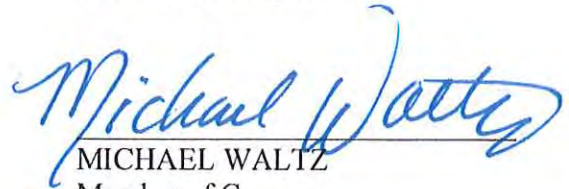
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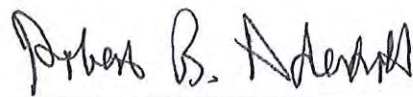
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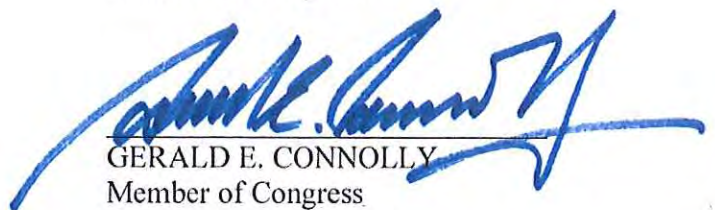
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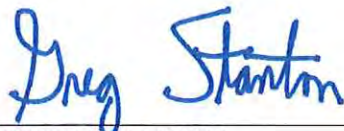
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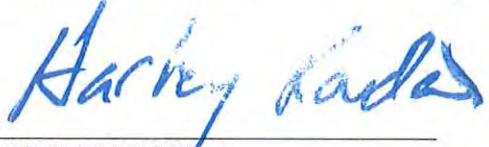




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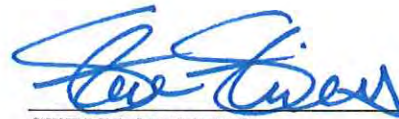
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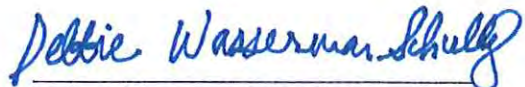
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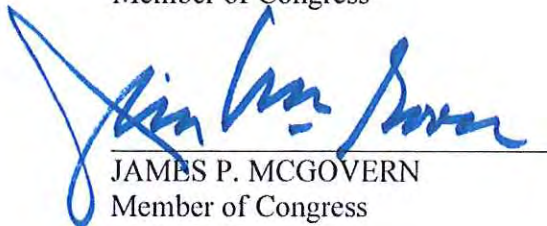
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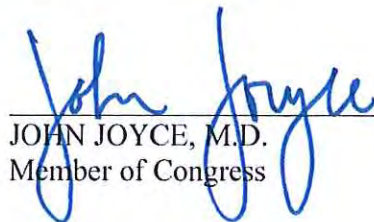
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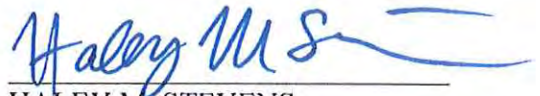
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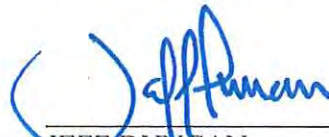
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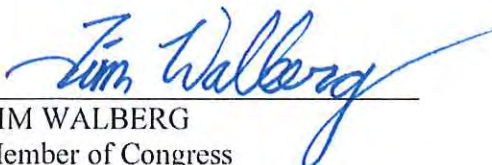
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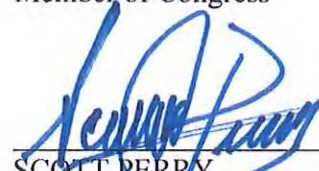
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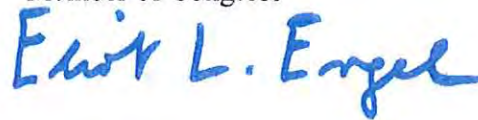
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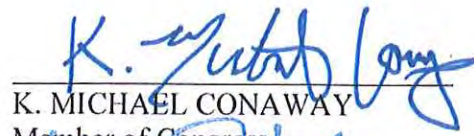
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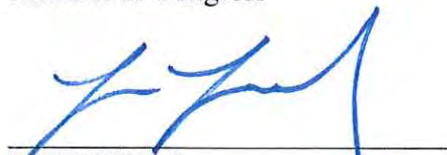
  
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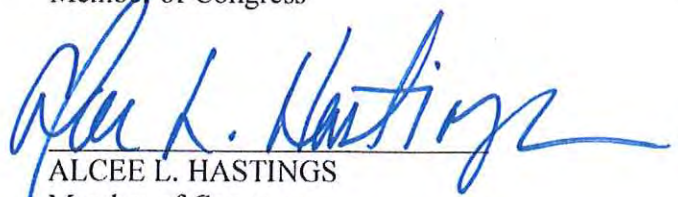
  
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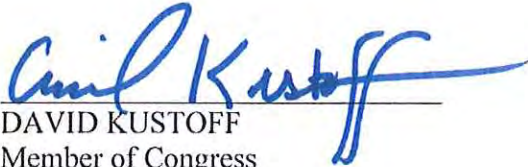
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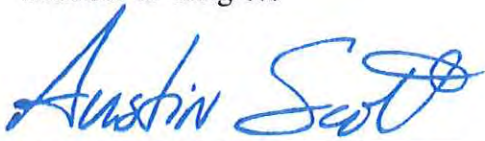
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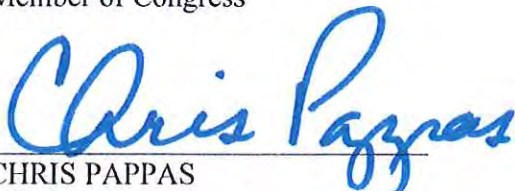
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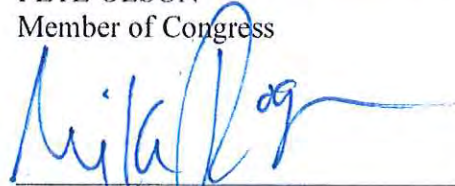
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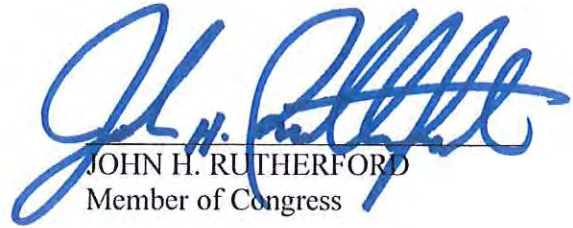


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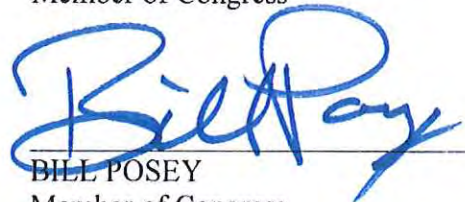
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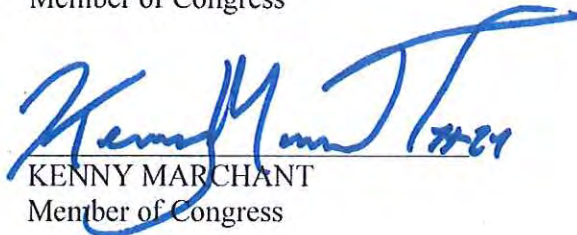
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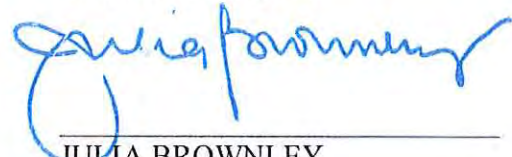
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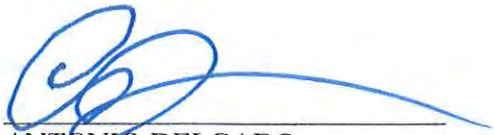
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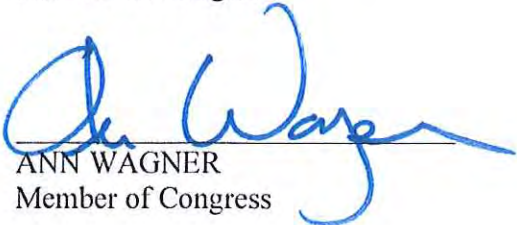
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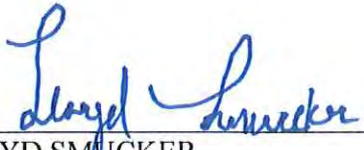


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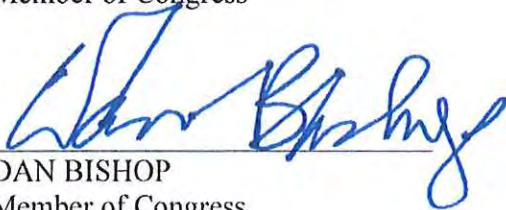
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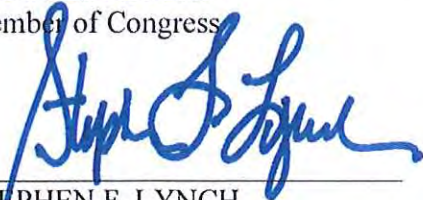
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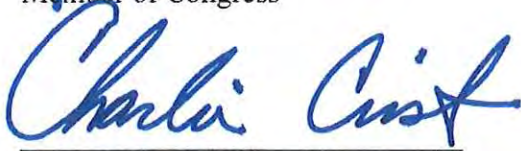
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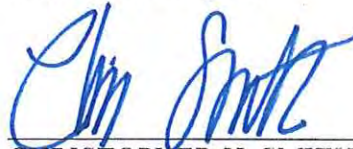
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JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
Member of Congress



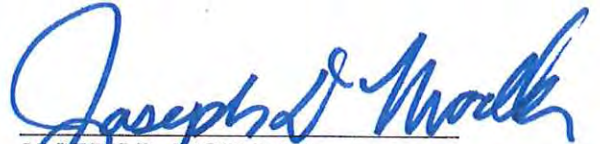
TOM REED  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL GUEST  
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress



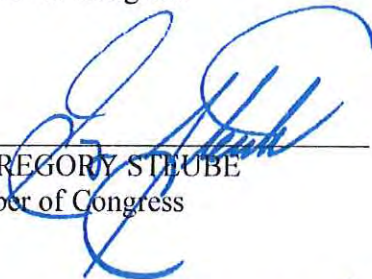
JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Member of Congress



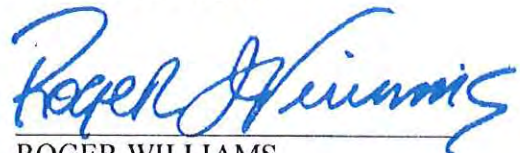
ANGIE CRAIG  
Member of Congress



NORMA J. TORRES  
Member of Congress



W. GREGORY STUBE  
Member of Congress



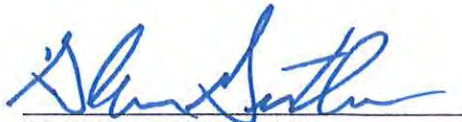
ROGER WILLIAMS  
Member of Congress



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


  
BARRY LOUDERMILK  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress


  
MARC VEASEY  
Member of Congress


  
PETE STAUBER  
Member of Congress

  
SALUD O. CARBAJAL  
Member of Congress

  
PAUL MITCHELL  
Member of Congress

  
LANCE GOODEN  
Member of Congress

  
LIZ CHENEY  
Member of Congress

  
ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES COMER  
Member of Congress

  
PETE AGUILAR  
Member of Congress

  
JIM JORDAN  
Member of Congress



TREY HOLLINGSWORTH  
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



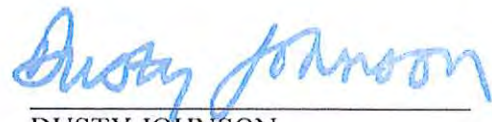
GREG PENCE  
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress



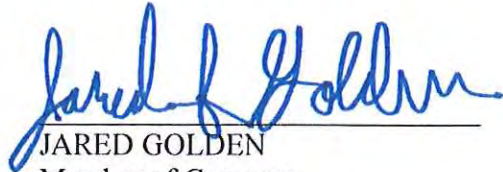
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress



DUSTY JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



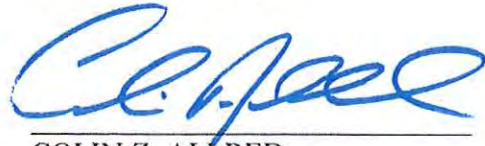
MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress



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



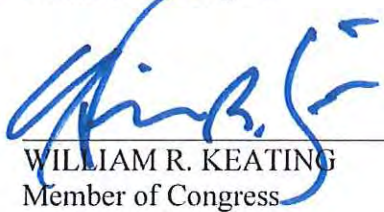
RON ESTES  
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



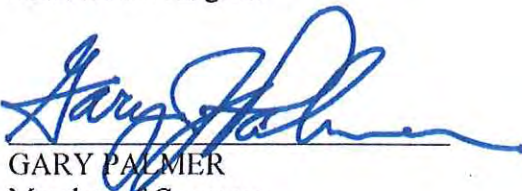
TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress



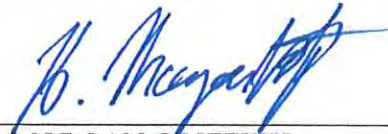
WARREN DAVIDSON  
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress



GARY PALMER  
Member of Congress




H. MORGAN GRIFFITH  
Member of Congress



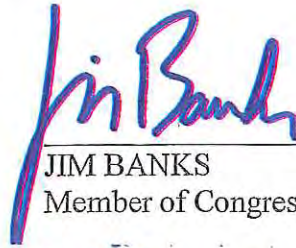
ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER  
Member of Congress



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



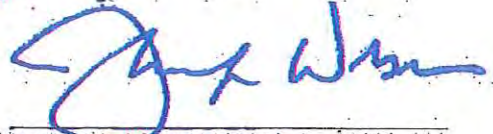
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress



JIM BANKS  
Member of Congress



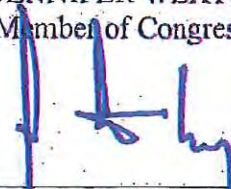
MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress



JENNIFER WEXTON  
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress



TRENT KELLY  
Member of Congress



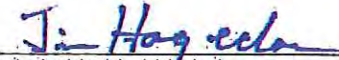
DENVER RIGGLEMAN  
Member of Congress



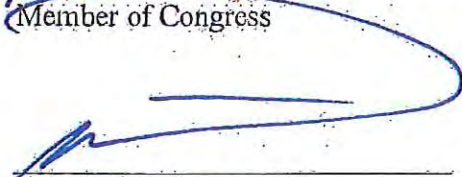
ROBIN L. KELLY  
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress



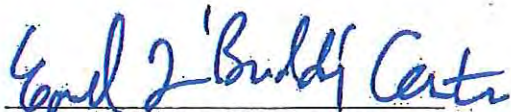
JIM HAGEDORN  
Member of Congress



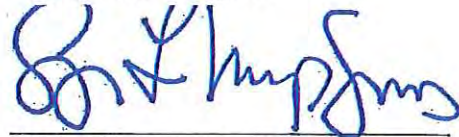
SCOTT DESJARLAIS  
Member of Congress



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.  
Member of Congress



EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER  
Member of Congress



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





BILL FLORES  
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress



JOHN ROSE  
Member of Congress



VERONICA ESCOBAR  
Member of Congress



HAKEEM JEFFRIES  
Member of Congress



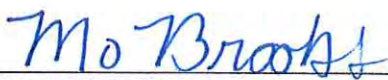
KEVIN HERN  
Member of Congress



XOCHITL TORRES SMALL  
Member of Congress



AL LAWSON  
Member of Congress



MO BROOKS  
Member of Congress



MIKE LEVIN  
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY  
Member of Congress



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




ELAINE G. LURIA  
Member of Congress



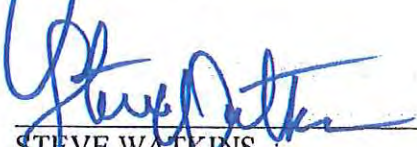
JOHN R. CURTIS  
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress



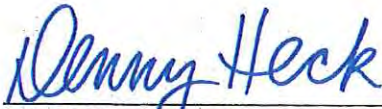
VIRGINIA FOXX  
Member of Congress



STEVE WATKINS  
Member of Congress



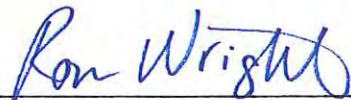
KATHERINE CLARK  
Member of Congress



DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



CHRIS STEWART  
Member of Congress



RON WRIGHT  
Member of Congress