

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2019

The Honorable 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 39.2 percent of eligible Medicare beneficiaries, more than 22 million people, choose to enroll in. 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 2020, we urge you to ensure that the Medicare Advantage program will continue to offer affordable, high-quality, patient-centered coverage options.

Millions of seniors depend on Medicare Advantage plans to provide comprehensive, affordable health care as they age. The success of the Medicare Advantage program is demonstrated by survey findings showing that more than 90 percent of beneficiaries report high satisfaction with their coverage.¹ In 2019, average premiums decreased by an estimated 6 percent while enrollment is projected to increase by almost 12 percent.² Further, the average number of plan choices has increased.

Medicare Advantage offers 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. Moreover, due to recent changes included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, an estimated 1.5 million beneficiaries will have access to expanded supplemental benefits such as adult day care services and in-home and caregiver support services. Other new flexibilities will foster greater competition and reduce costs for beneficiaries and taxpayers.

For plan year 2020, we urge the Administration to continue its efforts to promote flexibility and innovation, support value-based arrangements with health care providers, and 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

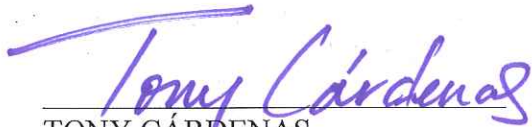
¹ 2016, March 23. National Poll Results. *Morning Consult*. <http://medicarechoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/National-poll-results-.pdf>

² 2018, September 28. Medicare Advantage Premiums Continue to Decline While Plan Choices and Benefits Increase. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/medicare-advantage-premiums-continue-decline-while-plan-choices-and-benefits-increase-2019>

flexibility 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



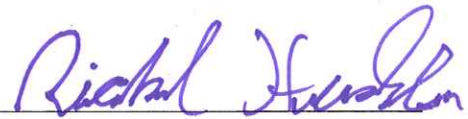
EARL BLUMENAUER
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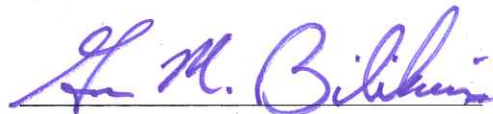
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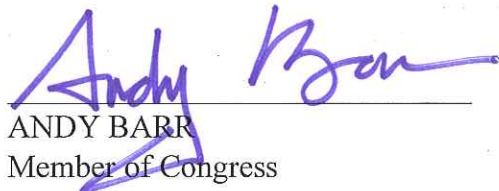
GUS M. BILIRAKIS
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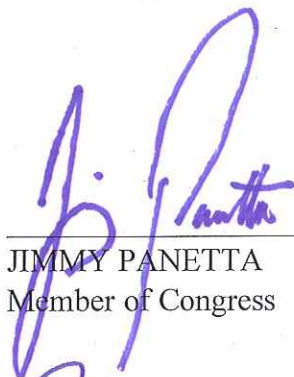
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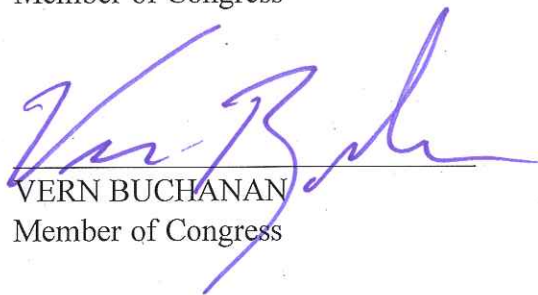
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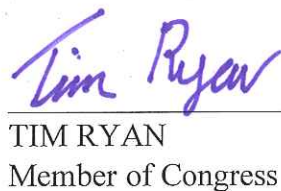
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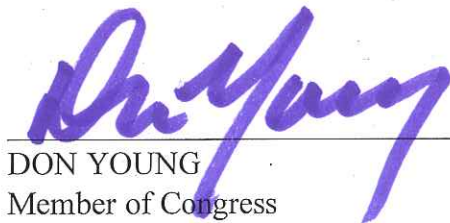
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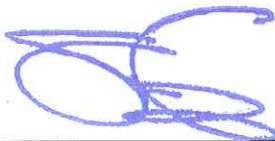
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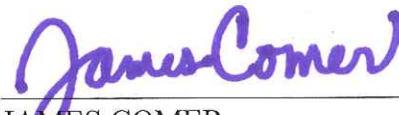
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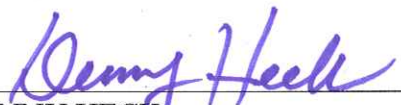

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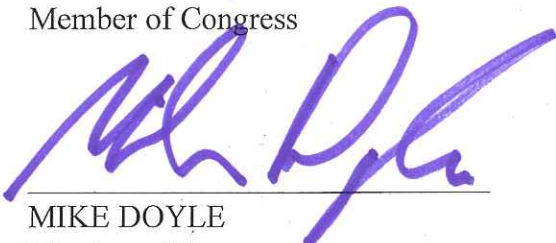

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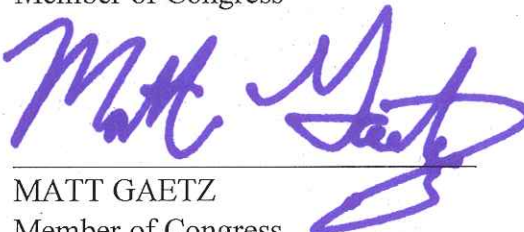

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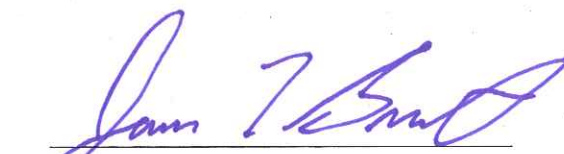

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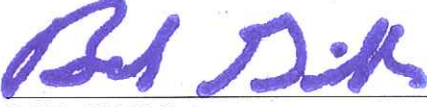

VAL BUTLER DEMINGS
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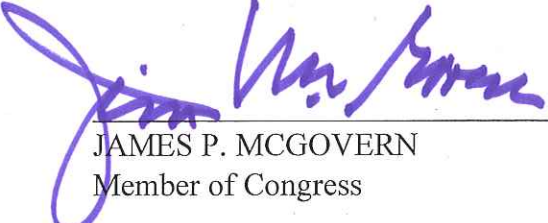

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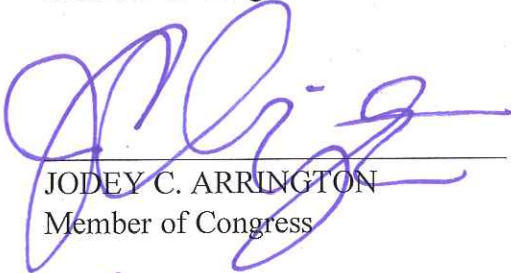

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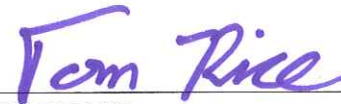
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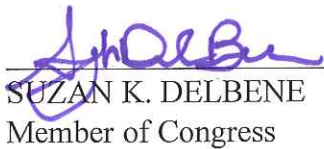
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
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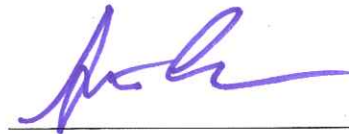
FRANCIS ROONEY
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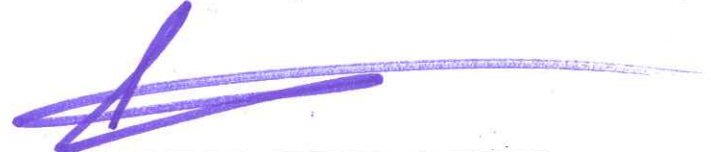
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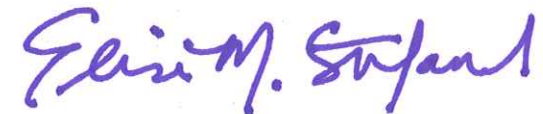
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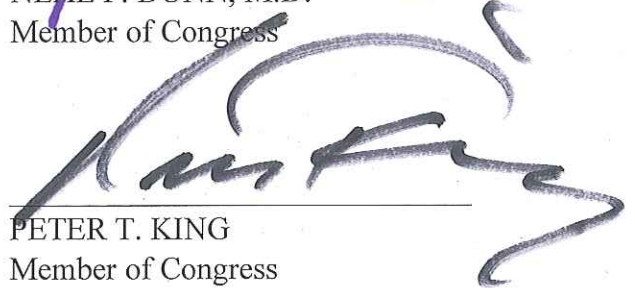
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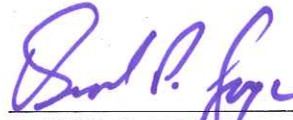
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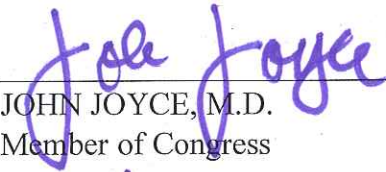
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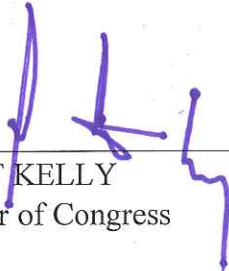
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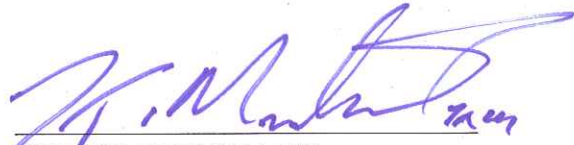
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CHUCK FLEISCHMANN
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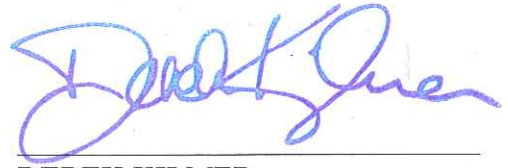
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TED BUDD
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Member of Congress



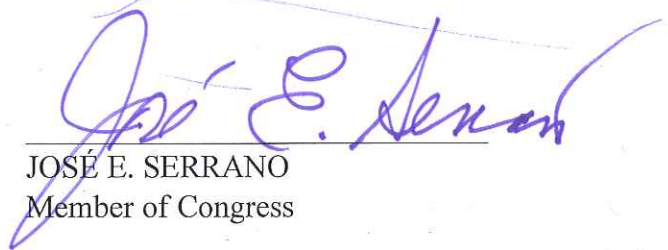
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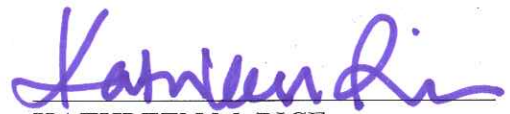
AUSTIN SCOTT
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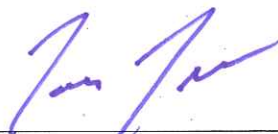
KATHLEEN M. RICE
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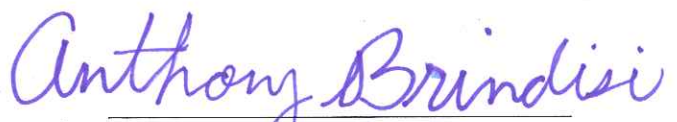
FRANK D. LUCAS
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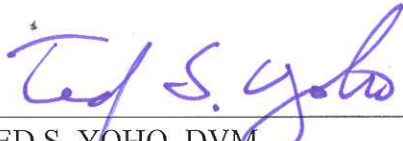
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JOHN KATKO
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ANTHONY BRINDISI
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TED S. YOHO, DVM
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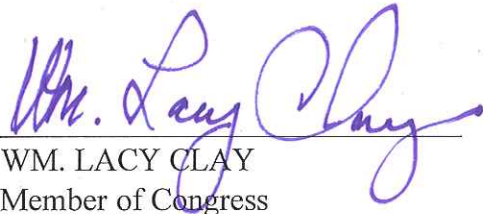
BETTY MCCOLLUM
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WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



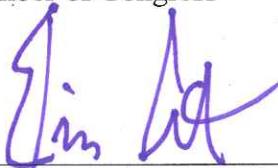
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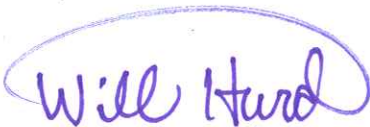
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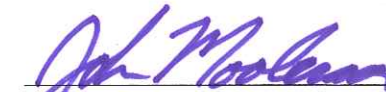
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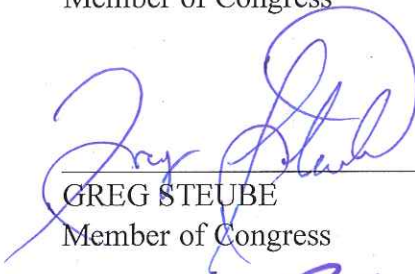
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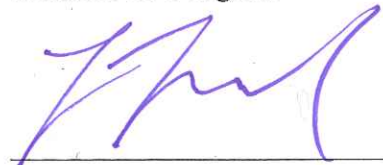
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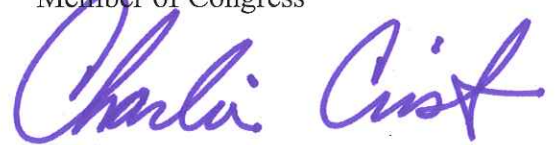
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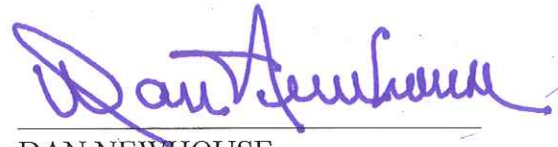
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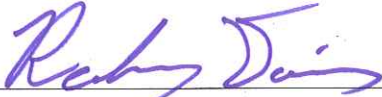
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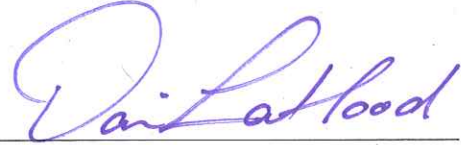
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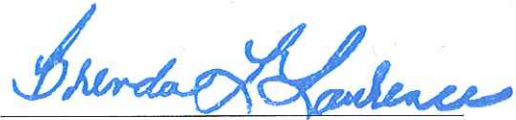
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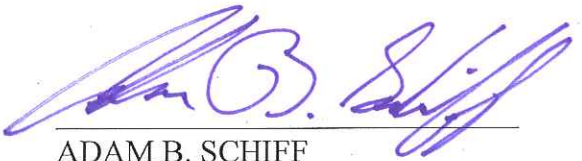
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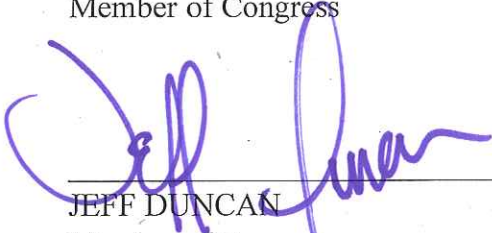
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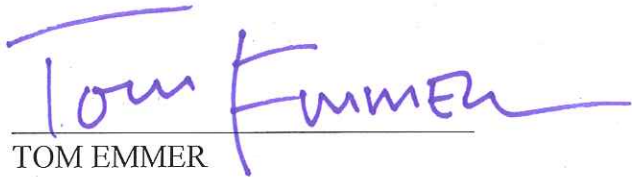
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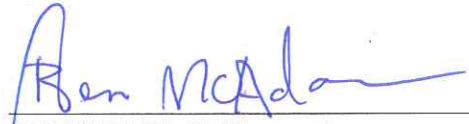
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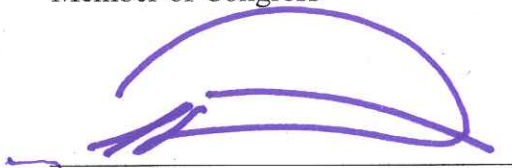
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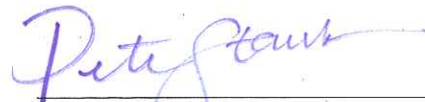
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BEN MCADAMS
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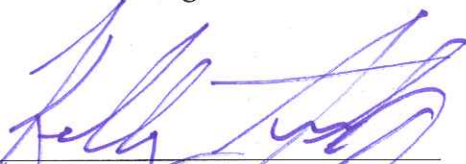
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SUSAN WILD
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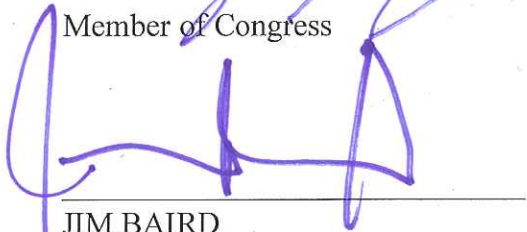
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KELLY ARMSTRONG
Member of Congress



GILBERT R. CISNEROS JR.
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JIM BAIRD
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ADRIAN SMITH
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CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



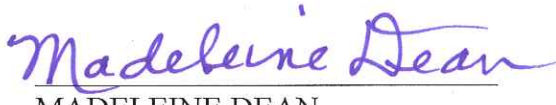
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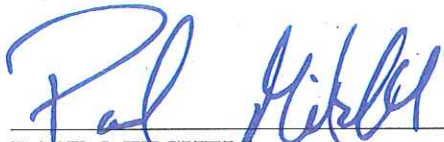

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RALPH NORMAN
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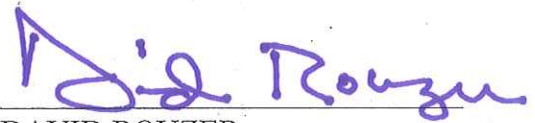

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ANGIE CRAIG
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PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



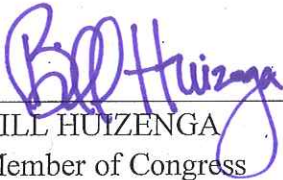
DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



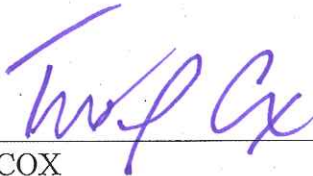
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



TJ COX
Member of Congress



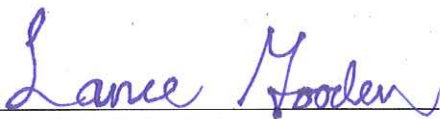
MICHAEL CLOUD
Member of Congress



ROSS SPANO
Member of Congress



A. DREW FERGUSON, IV DMD
Member of Congress



LANCE GOODEN
Member of Congress



RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress



MICHAEL GUEST
Member of Congress



ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



BRAD WENSTRUP
Member of Congress



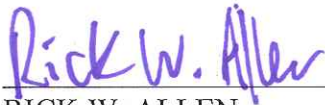
MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress



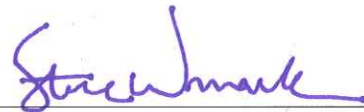
SCOTT TIPTON
Member of Congress



JIM BANKS
Member of Congress



RICK W. ALLEN
Member of Congress



STEVE WOMACK
Member of Congress



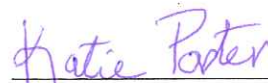
GREG GIANFORTE
Member of Congress



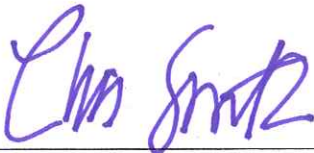
DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



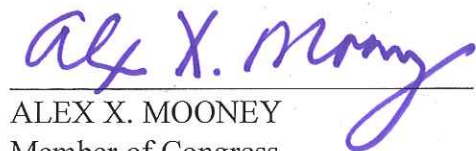
CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress



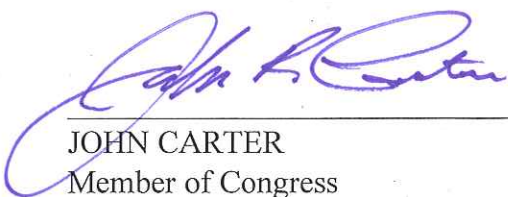
KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



ALEX X. MOONEY
Member of Congress



JOHN CARTER
Member of Congress



JOHN W. ROSE
Member of Congress



DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress



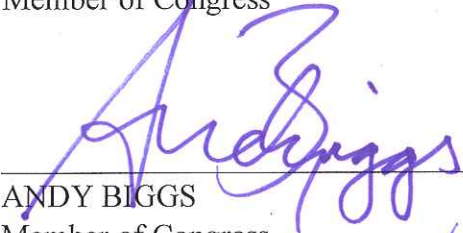
CAROL D. MILLER
Member of Congress



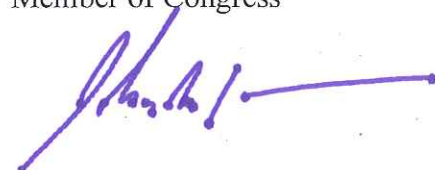
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



ANDY BIGGS
Member of Congress



JOHN CURTIS
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



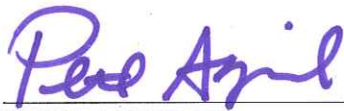
LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress



JODY HICE
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress



ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress



DONNA SHALALA
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



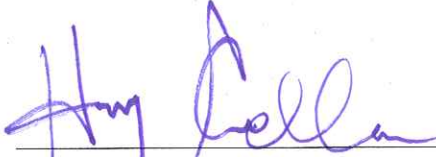
DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress



MARC A. VEASEY
Member of Congress



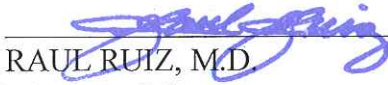
HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress



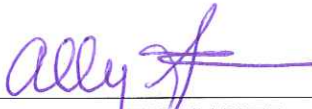
DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress



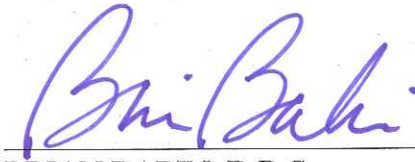
ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress



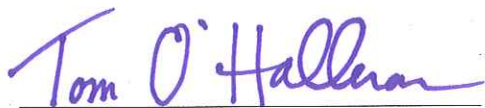
BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



SAM GRAVES
Member of Congress




DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress



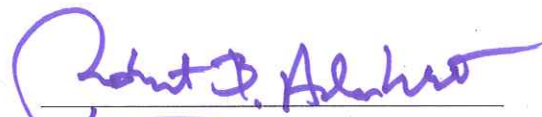
TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN
Member of Congress



ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress



ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress



CLAY HIGGINS
Member of Congress



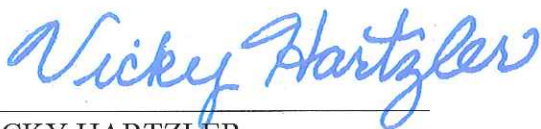
BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



KIM SCHRIER, M.D.
Member of Congress



JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress



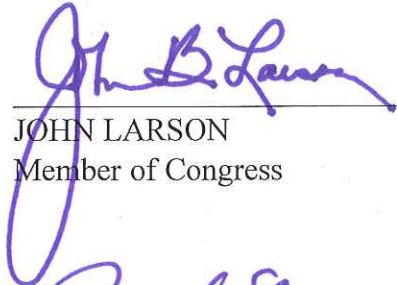
MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress



SUSIE LEE
Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



ED CASE
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



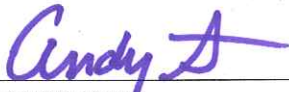
MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



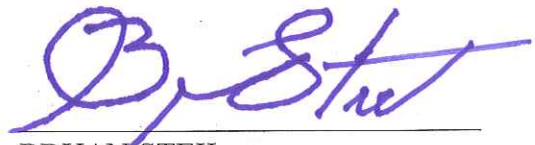
ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



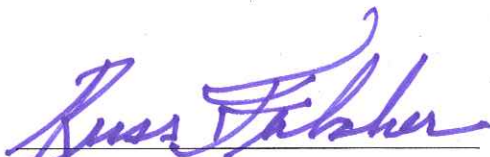
TOM REED
Member of Congress



ANDY KIM
Member of Congress



BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress



RUSS FULCHER
Member of Congress



MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress



JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress



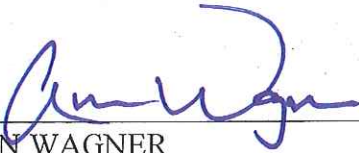
RON WRIGHT
Member of Congress




TIM BURCHETT
Member of Congress



CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress



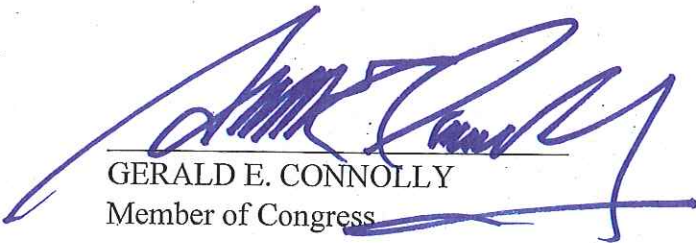
STEVE KING
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



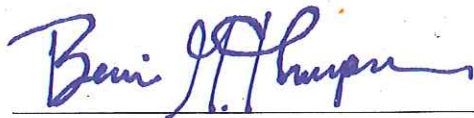
AUMUA AMATA RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



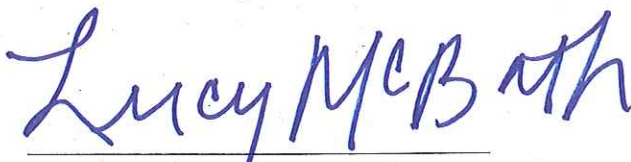
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



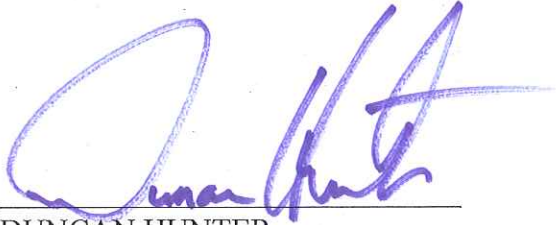
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



LUCY MCBATH
Member of Congress



BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress



DANIEL WEBSTER
Member of Congress



J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



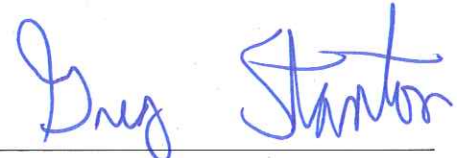
RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



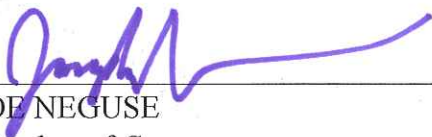
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress



GREG STANTON
Member of Congress



JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress




ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress



CEDRIC RICHMOND
Member of Congress



MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



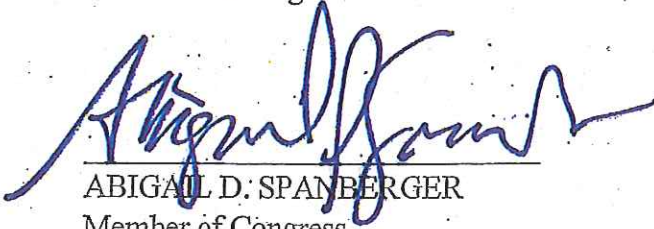
MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



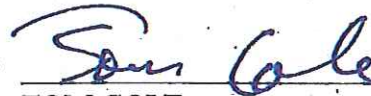
TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress



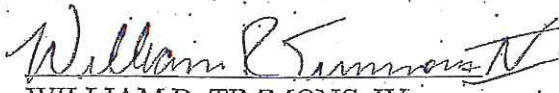
JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress



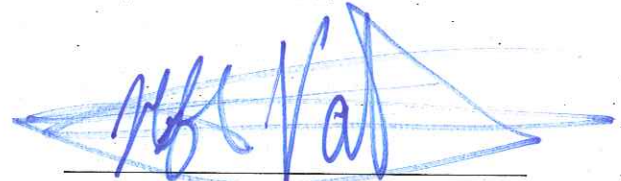
ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress



TOM COLE
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV
Member of Congress



JEFFERSON VAN DREW
Member of Congress