

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to support language to set aside a percentage of funds under the Fund for the Improvement of Education for competitive awards to national not-for-profit organizations and school libraries for providing books and childhood literacy activities to children and families living in high need communities.

The importance of this type of grant program was recognized during the FY12 appropriations process, and the final conference report (H.R. 2055) included **\$28.6 million** for this essential childhood literacy initiative.

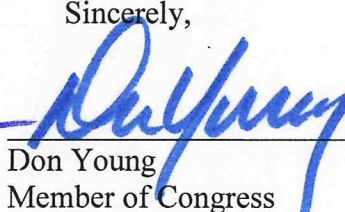
Ensuring children's access to books is critical in promoting life-long learning and remains a key component of early childhood literacy. For American families living in poverty, access to reading materials is severely limited. Two-thirds of America's children living in poverty have no books at home, and this unfortunate and difficult reality hinders their ability to prepare for school. We also recognize the importance of effective school library programs in promoting literacy and advancing student achievement.

Congress has taken an important step in supporting the needs of disadvantaged students by providing funding for book distribution, early literacy services, and effective school library programs. We ask that you maintain this investment by providing at least level funding in the FY13 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.


Sincerely,



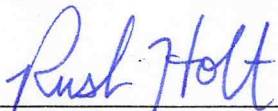
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



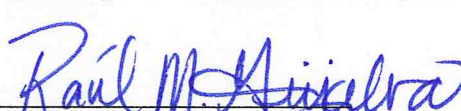
Don Young
Member of Congress



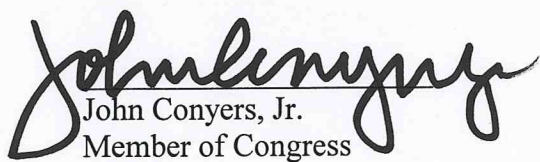
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

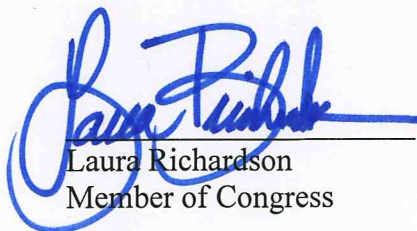


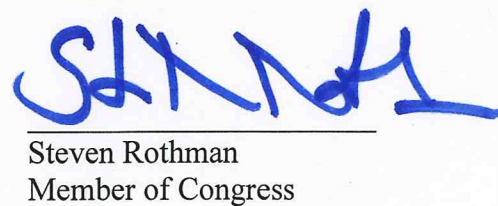
Rush Holt
Member of Congress

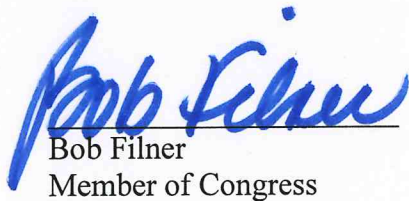


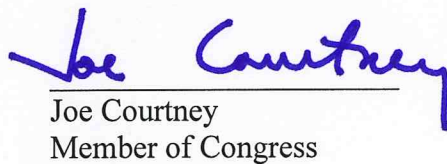
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

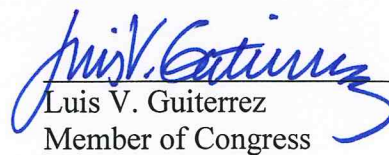

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

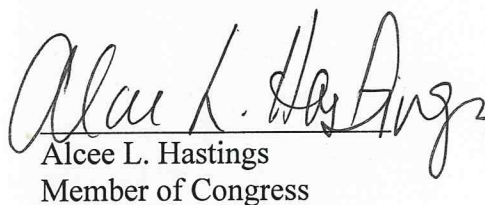

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

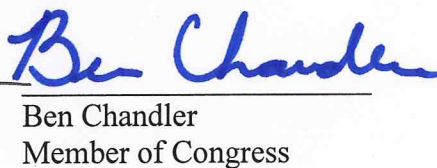

Steven Rothman
Member of Congress

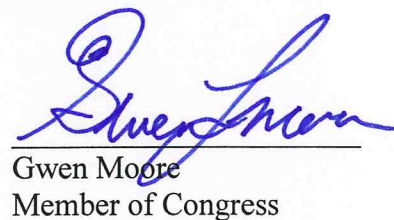

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

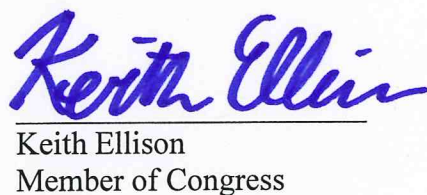

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

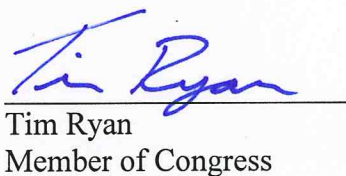

Luis V. Guterrez
Member of Congress

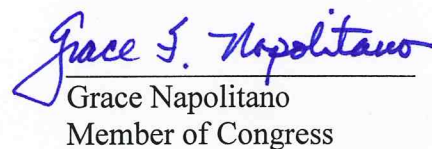

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

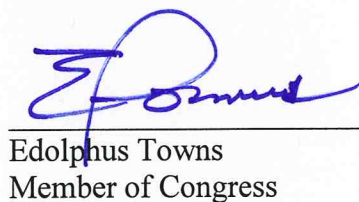

Ben Chandler
Member of Congress

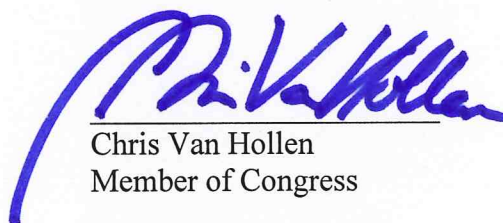

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

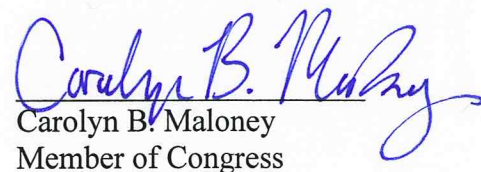

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

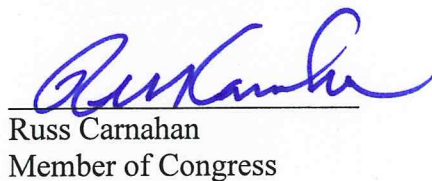

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

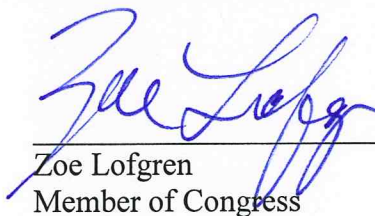

Grace S. Napolitano
Member of Congress

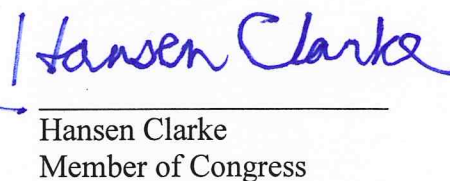

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

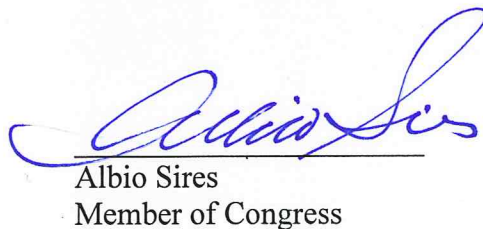

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

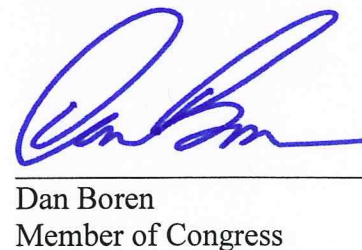

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

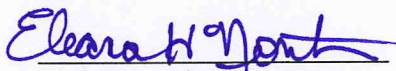

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

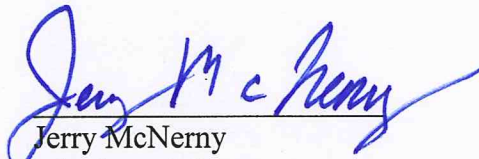

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress

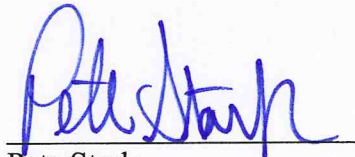

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

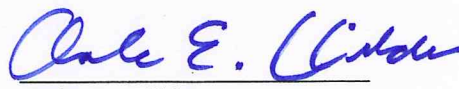

Dan Boren
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

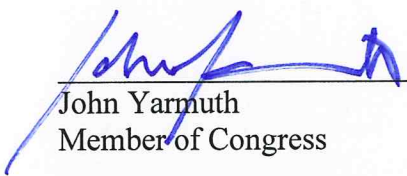

Jerry McNerny
Member of Congress

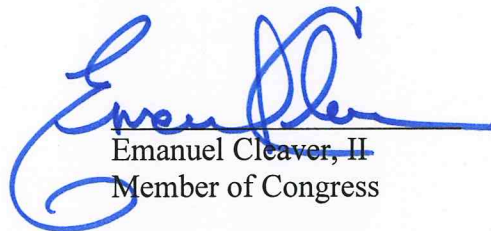

Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress

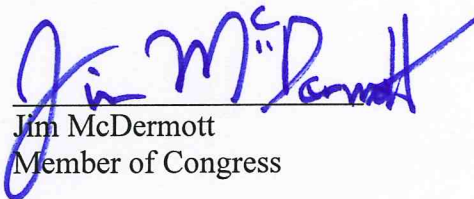

Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress

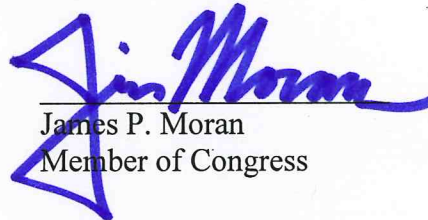

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

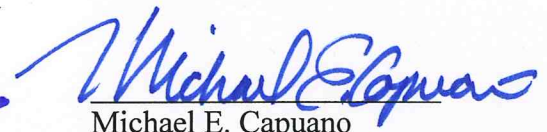

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

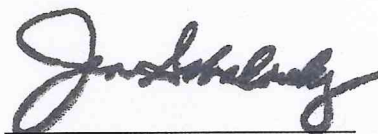

Emanuel Cleaver, II
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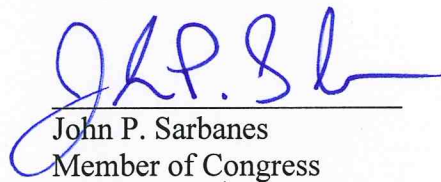

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress

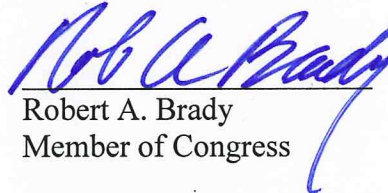

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

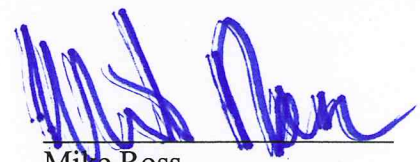

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

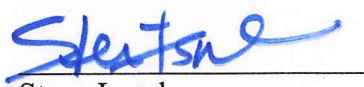

John P. Sarbanes
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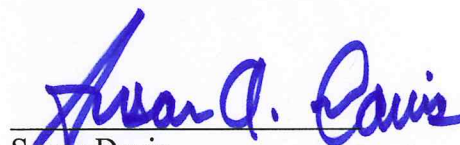

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

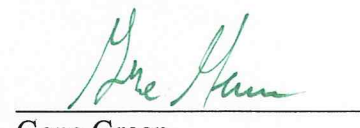

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

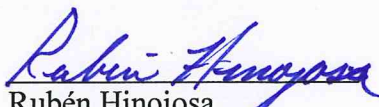

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

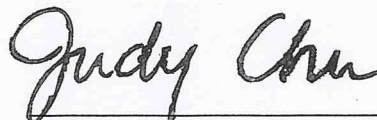

Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress

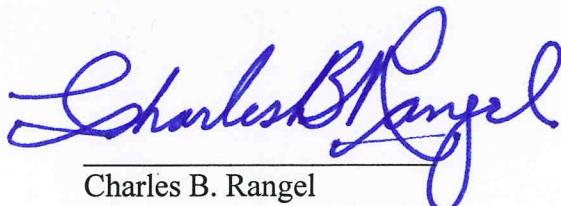

Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress

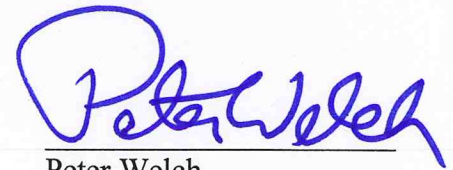

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

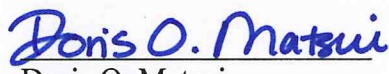

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

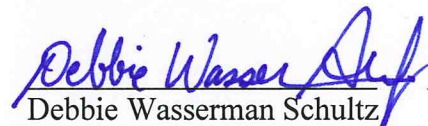

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

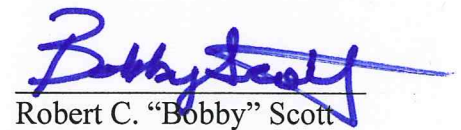

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


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



Peter Welch
Member of Congress

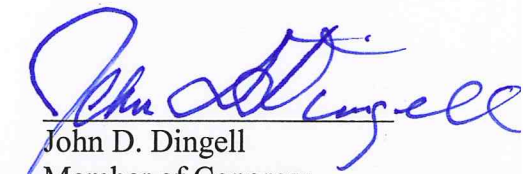

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

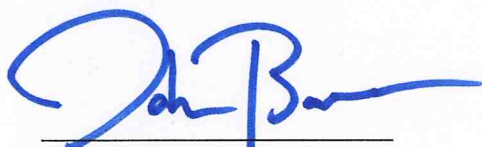

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

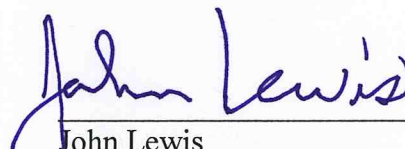

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

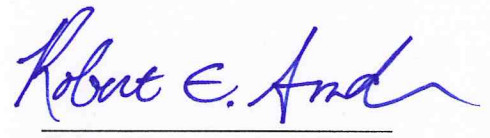

Larry Kissell
Member of Congress

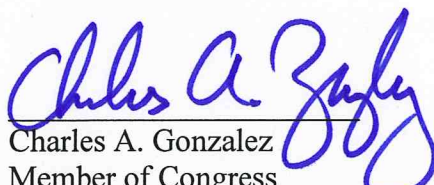

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

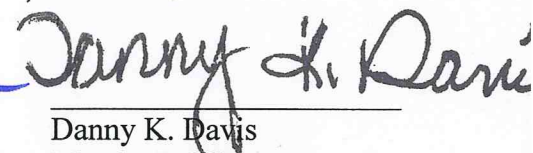

John Barrow
Member of Congress

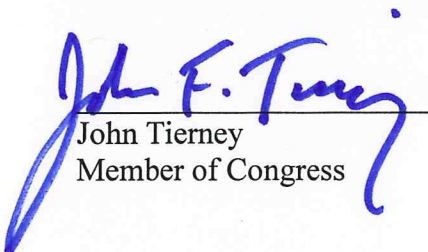

John Lewis
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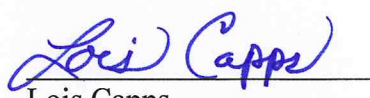

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

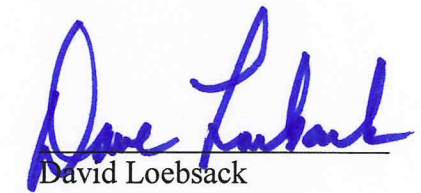

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


John Tierney
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress


David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Howard Coble

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Robert J. Dold

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Bruce L. Braley

Bruce L. Braley
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Mazie Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Gary Peters

Gary Peters
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Leonard L. Boswell


Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

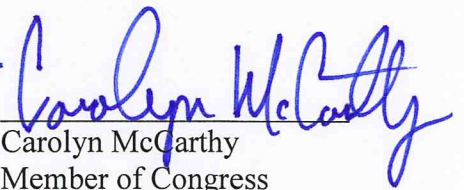
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



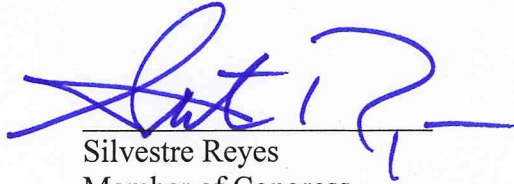
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



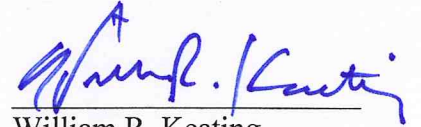
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



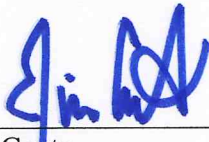
Bill Owens
Member of Congress



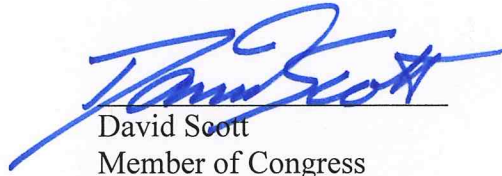
Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



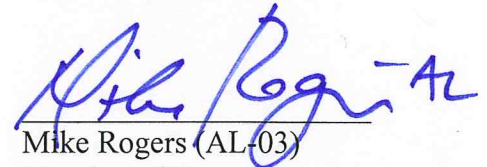
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



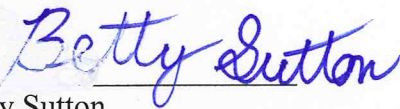
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



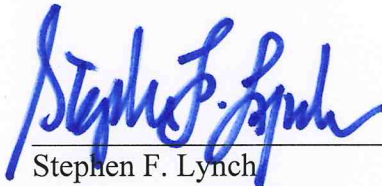
David Scott
Member of Congress



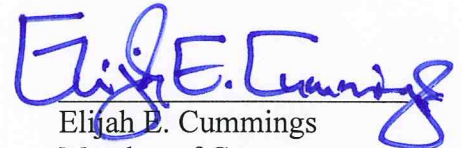
Mike Rogers (AL-03)
Member of Congress



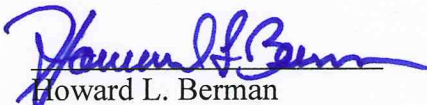
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



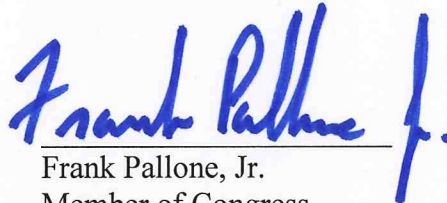
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



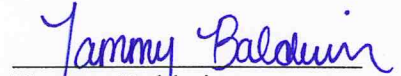
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



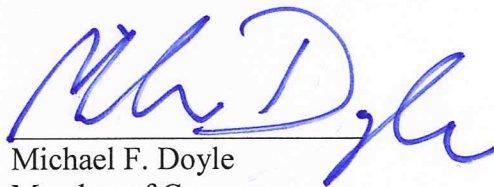
Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



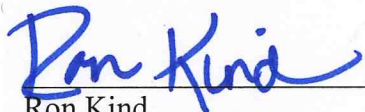
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



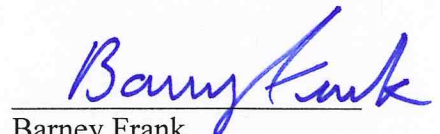
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



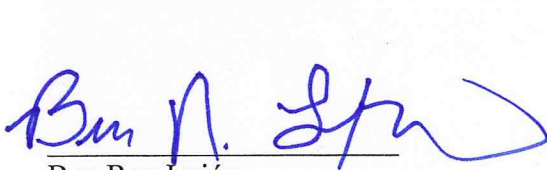
Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



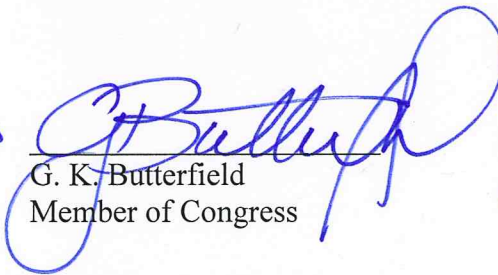
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



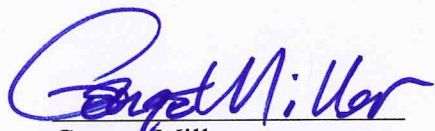
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



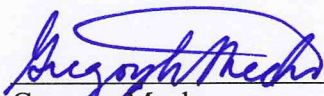
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



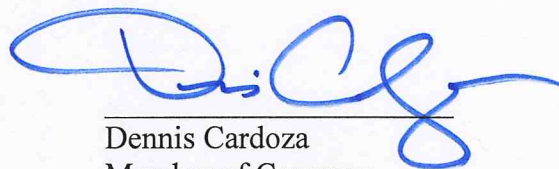
Judy Biggert
Member of Congress



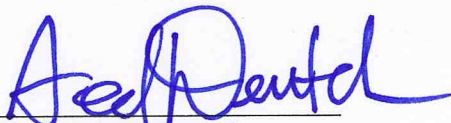
George Miller
Member of Congress



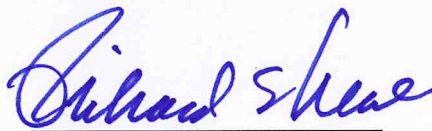
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



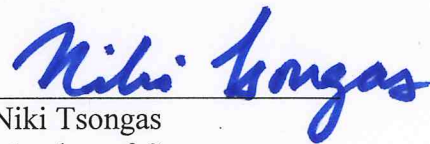
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



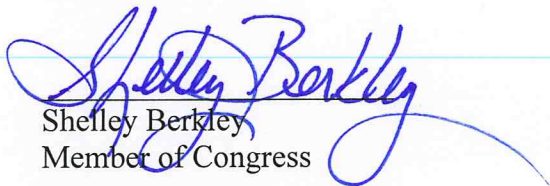
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress