

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies House Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies House Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Chair  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chairwoman Lee, and Ranking Member Rogers:

As you craft legislation making appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2023, we respectfully request \$225 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) domestic tuberculosis (TB) program in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, and \$1 billion in funding for the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) global TB program, in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. We encourage this as a priority in addition to your continued support for a robust U.S. contribution to the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, some 20 percent of which supports work on TB.

While COVID-19 overtook TB as the leading infectious disease killer at the end of 2020, TB is still the foremost lethal infectious disease in most low- and middle-income countries, and disproportionately affects people in poor and vulnerable communities around the world and in the United States; historically, black and brown communities have continued to bear the brunt of the TB disease burden. Often thought of as a disease of the past, the most recent World Health Organization Global TB Report found that TB sickened 10 million people and killed 1.5 million in 2020. That was before the compounding effects of COVID-19 and the health system disruptions. A report from the STOP TB partnership found that just 12 months of COVID-19 has set back the fight against TB by 12 years. In the U.S., every single state continues to report cases of TB each year and this airborne disease is a significant public health issue. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are up to 13 million individuals in the U.S. with latent TB infections, a future reservoir of active TB cases.

None of this needs to be the case and TB deaths are entirely preventable. If found and treated, drug-sensitive TB is a curable disease with a simple round of antibiotics. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on US and global TB programs with many TB program staff and resources diverted to focus almost exclusively on the COVID-19 response. Many TB clinics and laboratories closed during COVID-19 restrictions, leading to a significant reduction in diagnosis and evaluation of this airborne disease and fewer contact investigations for active TB cases. New World Health Organization reports show that globally well over 1 million fewer people were diagnosed with TB last year and without urgent intervention, an increase in the mortality rate will follow due to delayed diagnosis.

Unfortunately, prior delays alongside under-resourced programs over the past two decades have led to harder to treat and more deadly strains of drug-resistant forms of TB. Drug resistant TB is one of the leading causes of death from antimicrobial resistance globally and, in some areas, patients without access to U.S. programs are still treated with antiquated injectable regimens that may cause lifelong disability. The CDC identified drug resistant TB as a serious health threat to the United States. State and local public health departments are struggling with the high costs of treating drug resistant TB, which can cost between \$154,000 and \$250,000 per case. Complicated co-morbidities such as diabetes also contribute to extremely high treatment costs, even for TB that is not drug-resistant. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only 1 in 3 people with drug resistant TB access care globally, a proportion that is even lower for multi-drug resistant and extensively-drug resistant TB.

To combat increased drug-resistance and to have the most impact, the United States signed on to the 2018 UN High Level Meeting bold targets to find and treat more people with active TB disease and to treat latent infection. Public health campaigns “Treatment is Prevention” have successfully led to the decline in new HIV/AIDS infections and would be a turning point for TB as well if they could be resourced. A U.S. national prevention initiative, focused on those who are infected and are at greatest risk for progressing to disease, would bring the U.S. significantly closer to wiping out this curable disease for good. However, funding is currently not available to support these activities at the state and local levels. This is also a major concern for global TB burden, as one quarter of all people worldwide are living with latent TB infection. Additional funding would also enable the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to pursue active case finding to treat TB infection before it progresses to active disease, helping to save millions of lives for a fraction of the cost.

As a key partner in the fight against tuberculosis, the Global Fund works closely with USAID’s tuberculosis program to accelerate efforts to end the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics. The Global Fund is the largest multilateral funder of global health programming in the world and plays a critical role in supporting global health programming in low- and middle-income countries. U.S. investments in global health, including the Global Fund, advance the health security of all Americans by helping to build health infrastructure in countries around the world, enabling them to quickly identify new disease threats, bring them under control, and prevent them from spreading to other countries, including the United States.

TB is still a real public health threat due to a lack of resources to properly identify, treat and prevent all forms of the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB. There is an urgent need to implement nationwide and worldwide prevention initiatives, as well as develop shorter treatment regimens, faster diagnostics and vaccines to prevent all forms of TB in children and adults. In response to the need for new tools, programmatically-relevant research being done through CDC's TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) within the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) has resulted in breakthrough new short-course treatment regimens for active and latent TB. But due to reduced funding, the DTBE was recently forced to cut funding for trial sites several long-standing trial sites. The requested funding could restore some funding for these TBTC trials sites that are conducting vital TB clinical drug trials critical to halting the global TB pandemic.

We ask that the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provide \$225 million for CDC's domestic TB elimination program and that the FY 2023 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill provide \$1 billion for USAID's global TB program alongside continued support for the Global Fund, to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination and to make significant progress towards ending TB globally.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



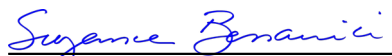
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



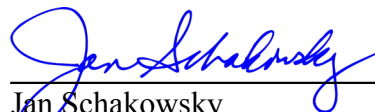
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



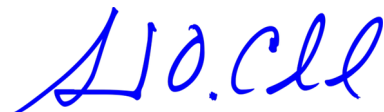
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



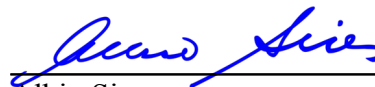
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



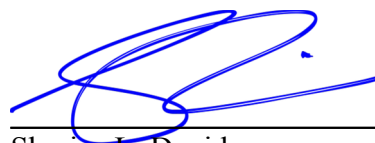
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



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



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



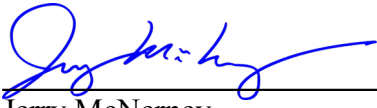
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Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



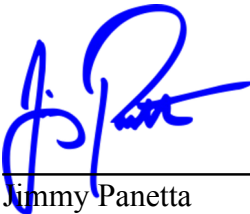
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



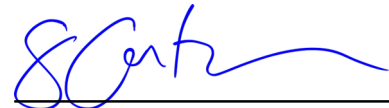
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André Carson  
Member of Congress




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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



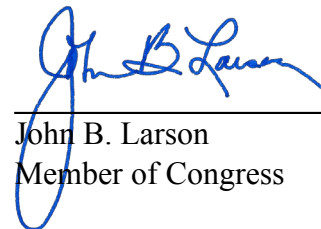
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



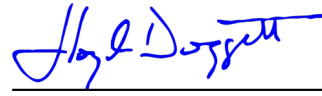
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



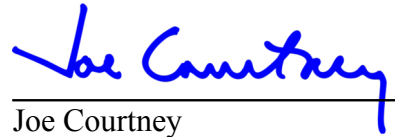
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



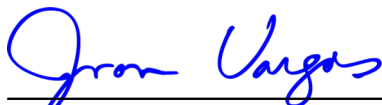
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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



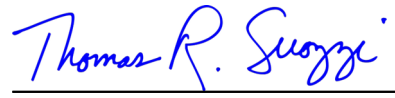
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



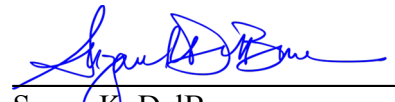
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



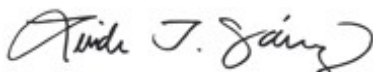
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



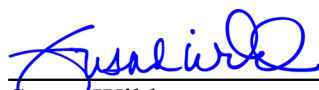
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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



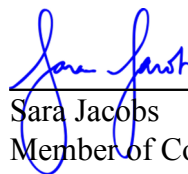
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress





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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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William R. Timmons IV  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



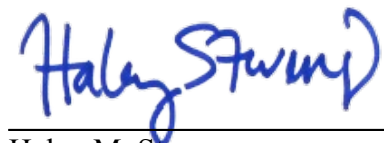
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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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C. A. Dutch Ruppberger  
Member of Congress




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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



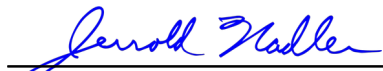
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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



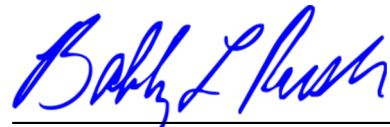
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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress




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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



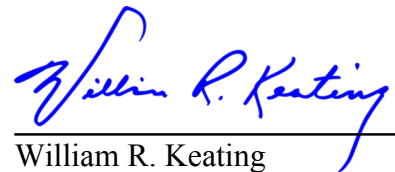
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



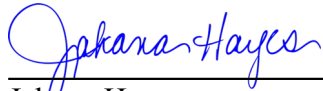
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



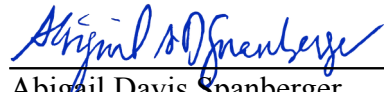
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



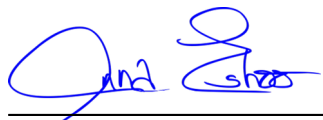
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



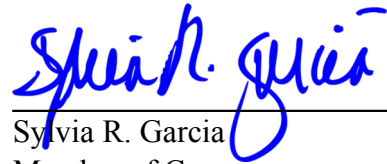
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



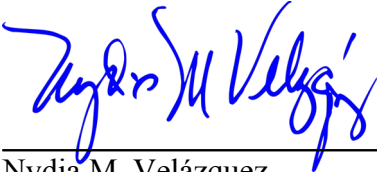
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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



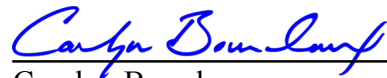
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



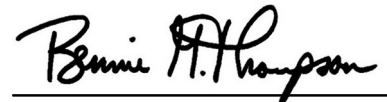
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



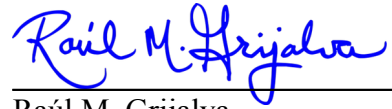
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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress