

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Sept 29, 2015

Mr. Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt,

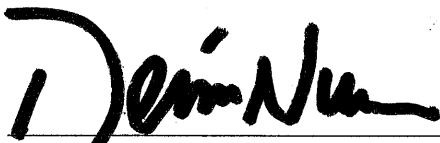
We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recent proposal to cut Medicare payments to radiation oncology providers in the physician fee schedule for calendar year 2016. We recognize the valuable role community-based radiation therapy plays in meeting patients' oncology needs and we are concerned that the proposed cuts could further jeopardize patient access to this treatment option.

As you know, radiation oncology is an important cancer treatment option in the battle against cancer, offering patients less invasive care on an outpatient basis that allows many patients to continue living their lives while receiving this treatment. Yet, if CMS' proposed rule is finalized, radiation oncology services would face another three percent overall cut, while freestanding cancer centers would be subject to approximately a six percent payment cut. These cuts could particularly adversely impact patients with prostate and breast cancer because the proposed rule could cut payments for care for these patients by 25 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

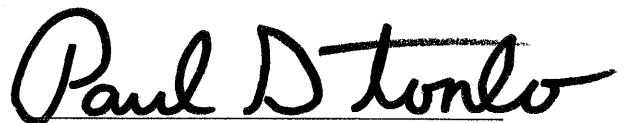
The latest proposed cuts follow a disturbing trend of proposed cuts in recent years that has resulted in cumulative payment reductions totaling approximately 20 percent for freestanding cancer centers. We remain not only concerned about the latest proposed cuts to radiation oncology proposed in the 2016 physician fee schedule rule, but also about the repeated proposals in recent years to further cut reimbursement for this care. It is critical that patients have access to quality and timely cancer care in their communities. Therefore, we look forward to working with you to ensure that community-based radiation oncologists have the payment stability necessary to ensure our constituents have access to the radiation oncology care they need, including continued dialogue regarding potential legislative options that achieve these goals.

We strongly urge CMS to reconsider the proposed cuts to radiation therapy in the 2016 physician fee schedule final rule and look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of our nation's cancer patients. Thanks you in advance for your consideration on these important matters.

Sincerely,

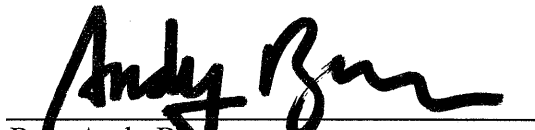


Devin Nunes
Member of Congress




Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

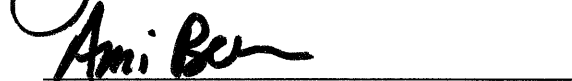

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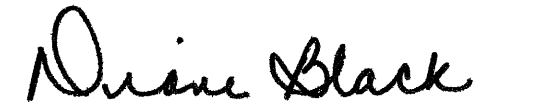

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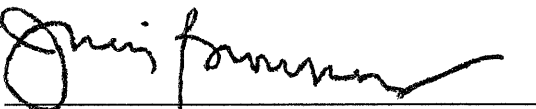

Rep. Diane Black

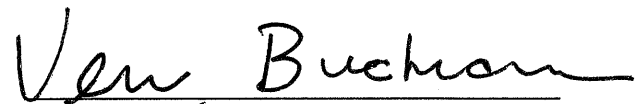

Rep. Marsha Blackburn

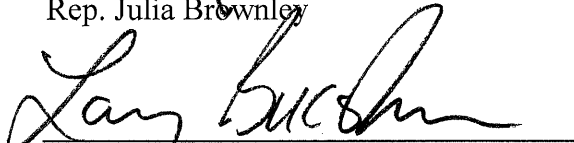

Rep. Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.

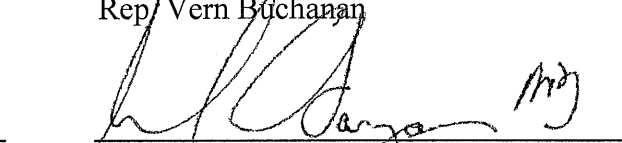

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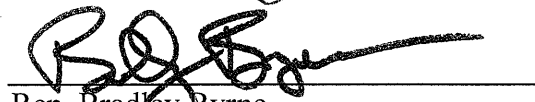

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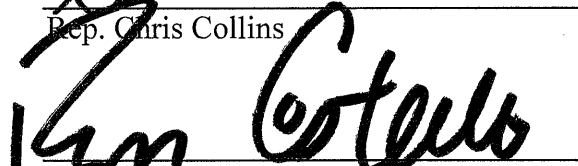

Rep. André Carson

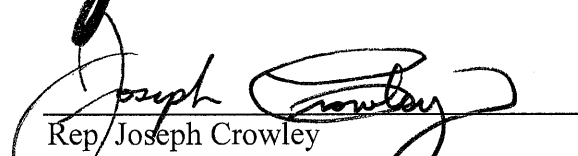

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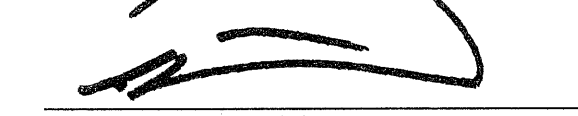

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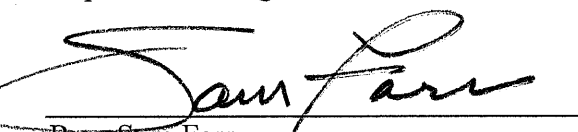

Rep. Peter A. DeFazio

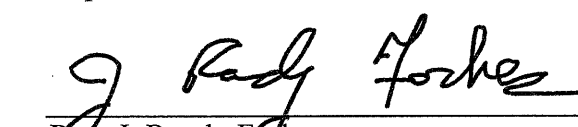

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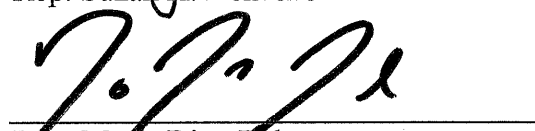

Rep. Gerald E. Connolly

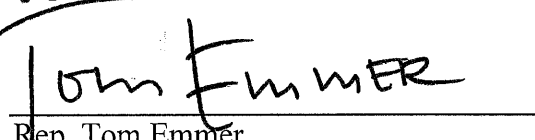

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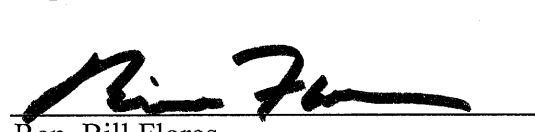

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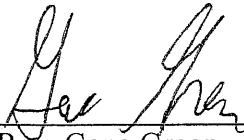

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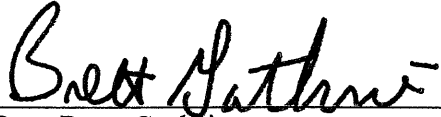

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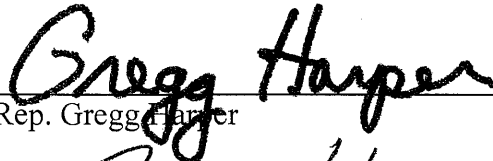
Rep. H. Morgan Griffith



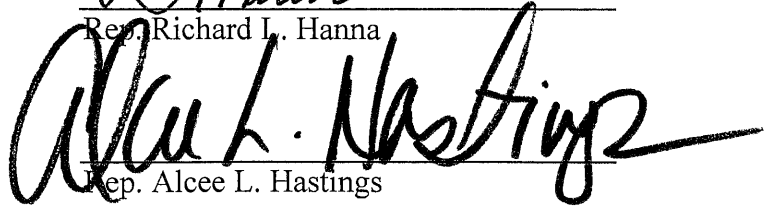
Rep. Brett Guthrie



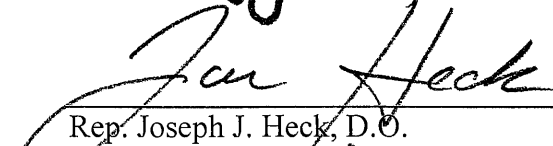
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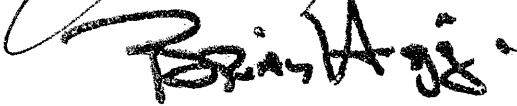
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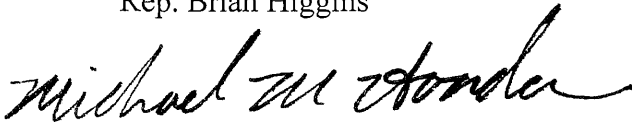
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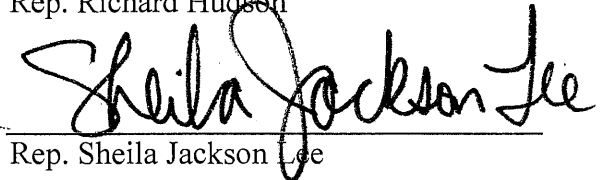
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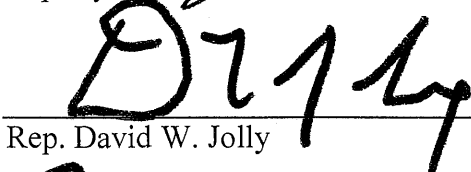
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



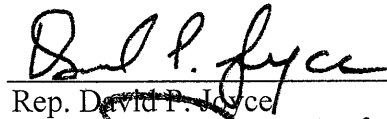
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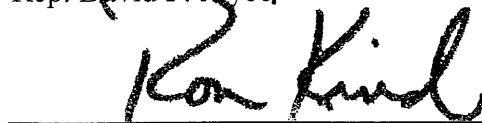
Rep. David W. Jolly



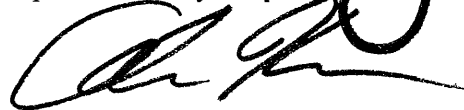
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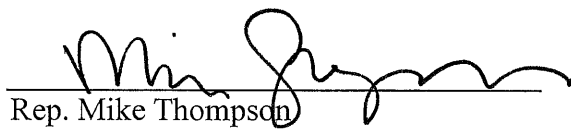
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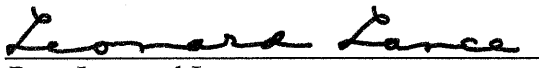
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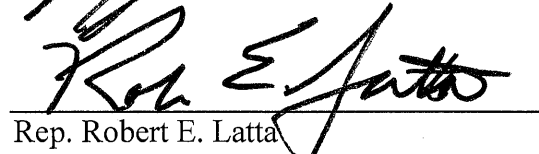


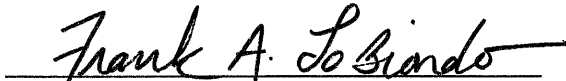
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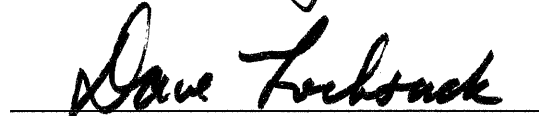

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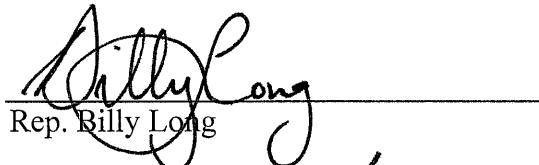

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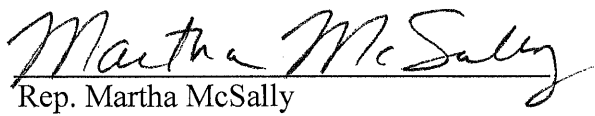

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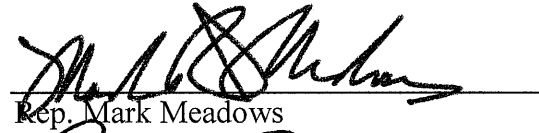

Rep. Billy Long

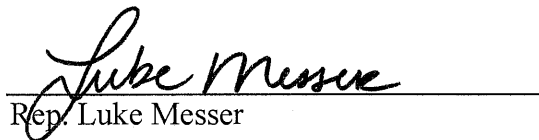

Rep. Kenny Marchant

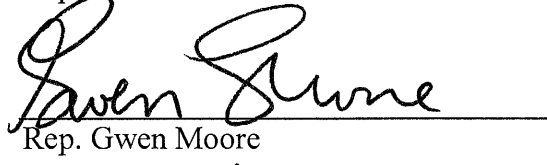

Rep. Michael T. McCaul

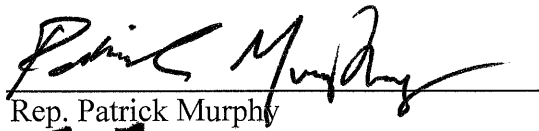

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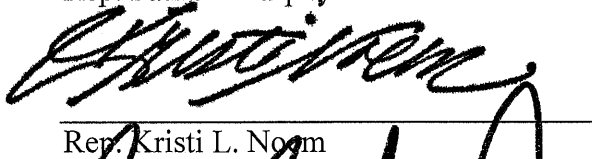

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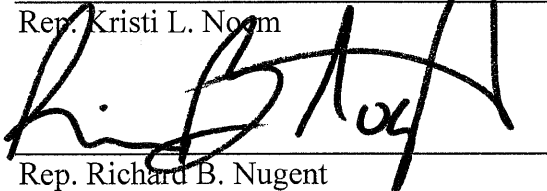

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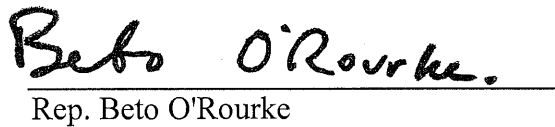

Rep. Patrick Murphy

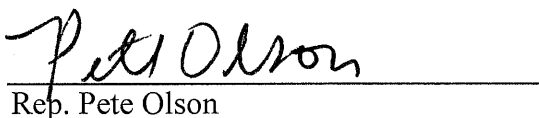

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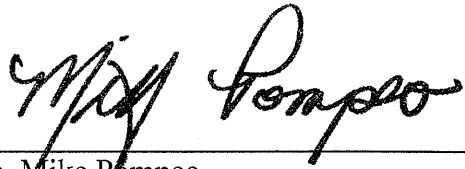

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Rep. Pete Olson

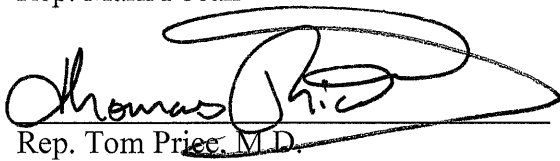

Rep. Erik Paulsen



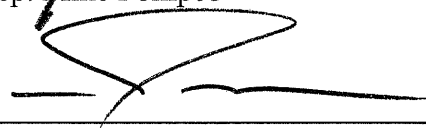
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Rep. Tom Reed



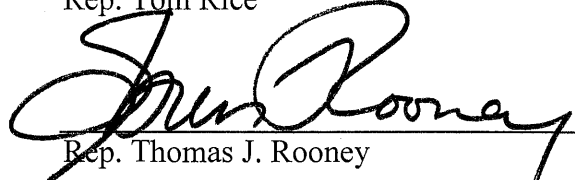
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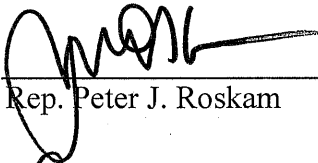
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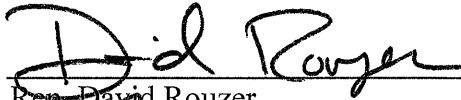
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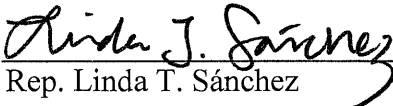
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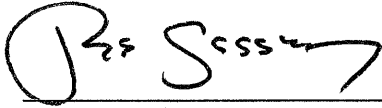
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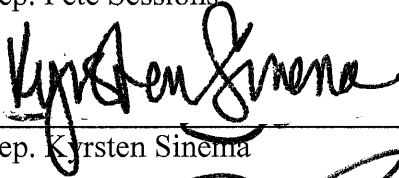
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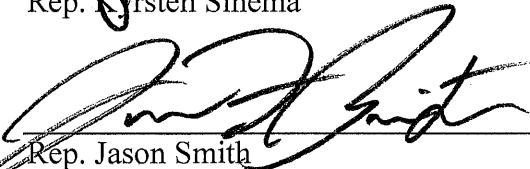
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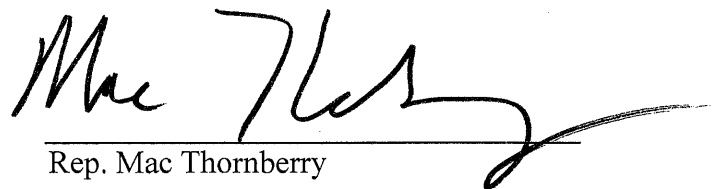
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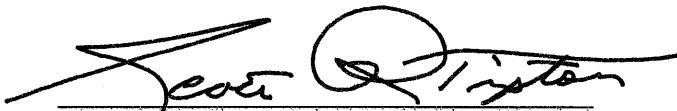
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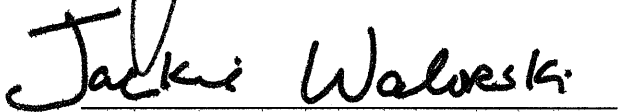
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Rep. Greg Walden



Rep. Juan Vargas

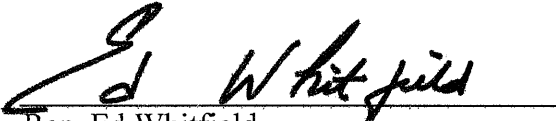

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Rep. Daniel Webster


Rep. Robert J. Wittman

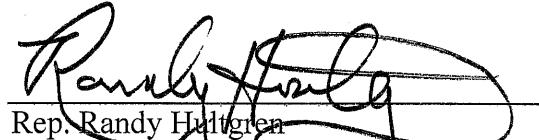

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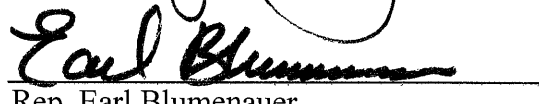

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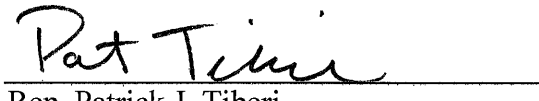

Rep. Gwen Graham

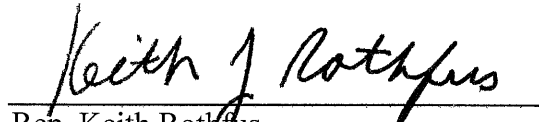

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Rep. Mike Simpson


Rep. Earl Blumenauer

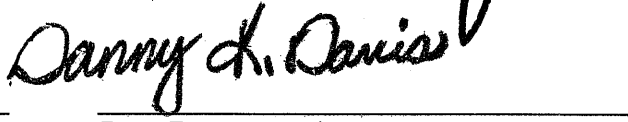

Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi

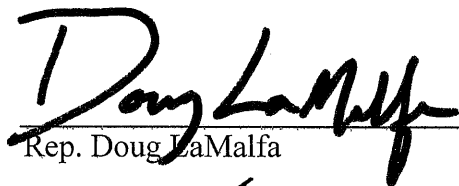

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Rep. Bill Posey



Rep. David G. Valadao

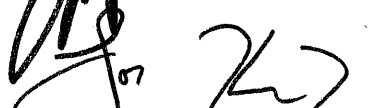

Rep. Danny Davis


Rep. Doug LaMalfa

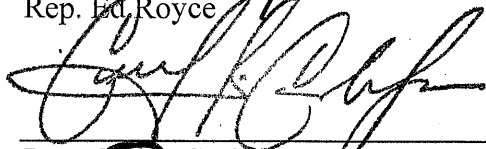

Rep. Derek Kilmer


Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen

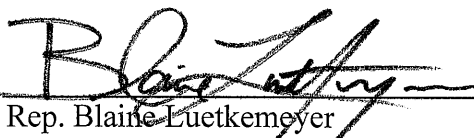

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Rep. Ed Royce



Rep. Carlo Curbelo



Rep. Duncan Hunter


Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer

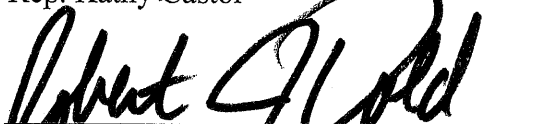

Rep. Mimi Walters



Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.


Rep. French Hill

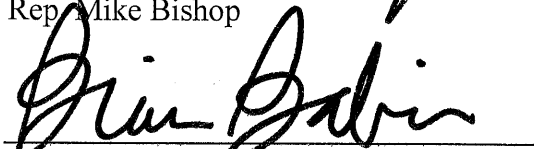

Rep. Sam Johnson

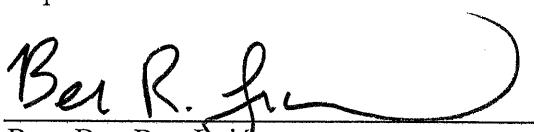

Rep. Kathy Castor


Rep. Robert Dold


Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.

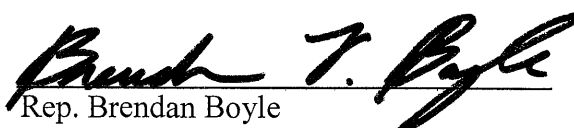

Rep. Mike Bishop

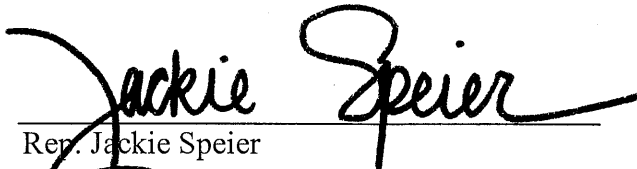

Rep. Brian Babin


Rep. Ben Ray Lujan


Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz


Rep. Collin C. Peterson


Rep. Brendan Boyle



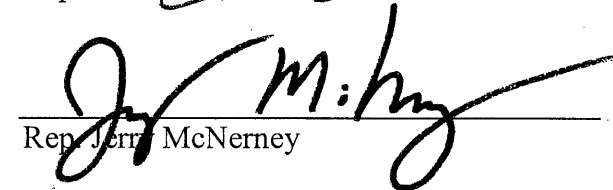
Rep. Jackie Speier



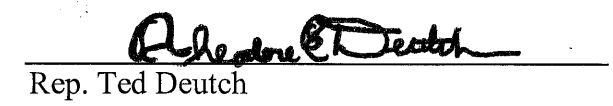
Rep. Peter Welch



Rep. Raul Ruiz, M.D.



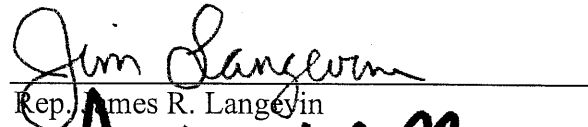
Rep. Jerr McNeerney



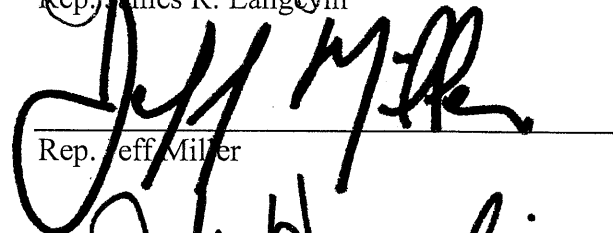
Rep. Ted Deutch



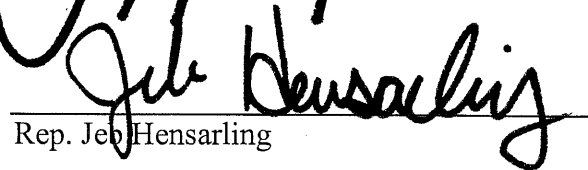
Rep. John Fleming, M.D.



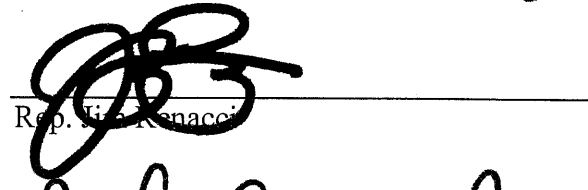
Rep. James R. Langevin



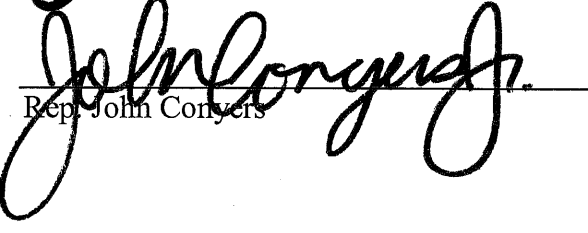
Rep. Jeff Miller



Rep. Jeb Hensarling



Rep. Jim Renacci



Rep. John Conyers