

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

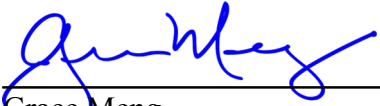
Since Hamas' indiscriminate attack on Israel Saturday morning, our offices have received harrowing reports from constituents who remain in Israel and are seeking to return to the United States as soon as possible. We write to express our grave concern for their wellbeing and safety. Given the rapidly escalating situation as Israel launches a counteroffensive, it is imperative that you use all tools at your disposal to return all U.S. nationals in Israel home who wish to do so.

Almost 50 years to the day of the start of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas terrorists crossed the border and began slaughtering Israelis and abducting hostages in towns in southern Israel. To date, thousands of lives—including 11 Americans—have been lost due to Hamas' indiscriminate and brutal assault since Saturday. Hamas' heinous actions also include taking over 150 Israeli hostages, which our offices have received reports that Americans are among those taken hostage in Gaza, including New Yorkers. It has been devastating to see the horrific accounts of those around the country taking shelter from the thousands of rockets launched from Gaza. This past weekend was meant to be one of happiness and celebration for the Jewish community. Instead, our constituents were left distraught and in tears fearing for the safety of their friends and loved ones in Israel.

While we appreciate the steps the Biden administration is taking to provide additional security assistance to Israel, we urge the State Department to use all resources at its disposal, including charter flights, to help those Americans that remain in Israel and wish to return to the United States. As you are aware, airlines have cancelled most flights out of Ben Gurion Airport, and some have suspended operations in the region. As the number of casualties continues to rise, our constituents who remain in Israel fear for their lives. We ask that you consider charter flights and military options for evacuation, simultaneously.

At this harrowing moment in Israel's history, it is more important than ever that every American who is looking to return home has the opportunity to do so. We look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



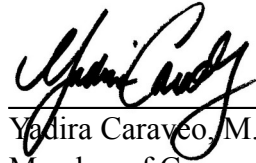
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



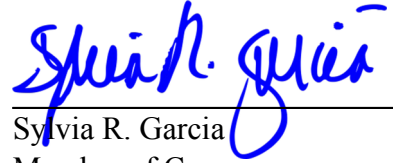
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



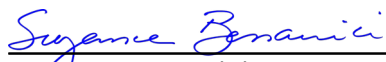
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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



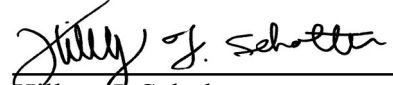
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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



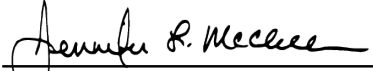
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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



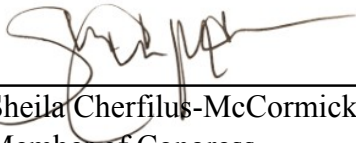
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



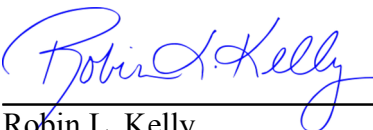
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



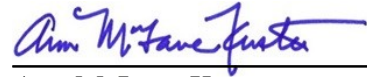
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



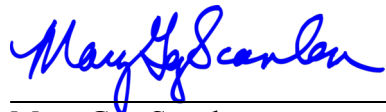
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



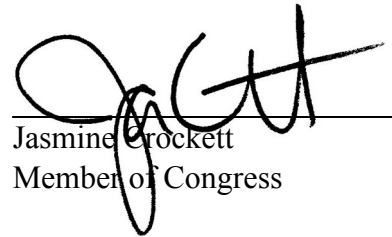
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



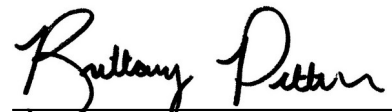
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



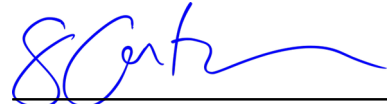
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



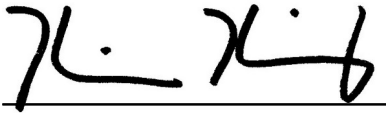
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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



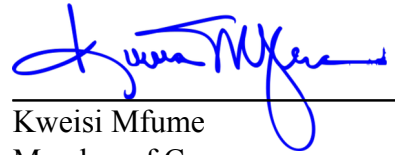
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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Kiley  
Member of Congress



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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



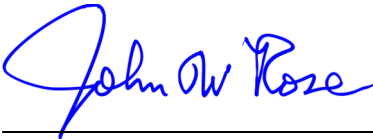
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Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



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John Rose  
Member of Congress



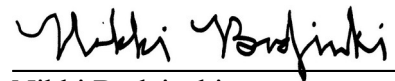
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



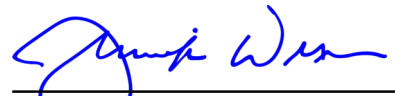
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



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Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



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Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



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Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



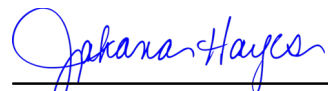
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



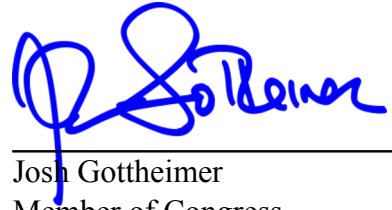
Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



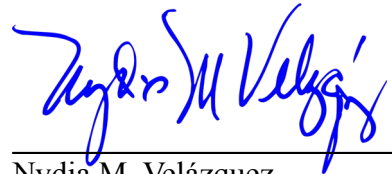
Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



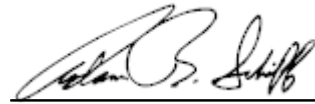
Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress





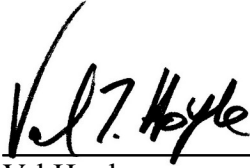
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



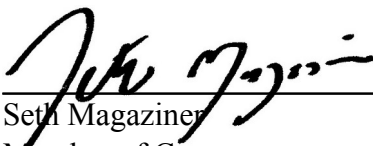
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



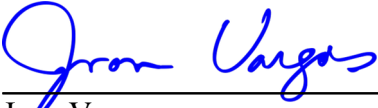
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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



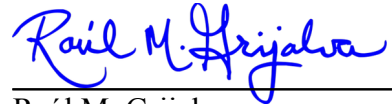
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



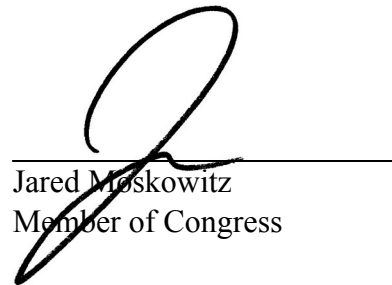
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



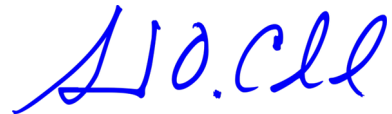
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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



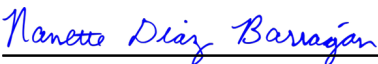
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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



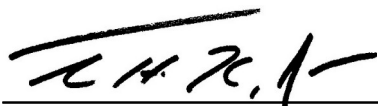
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



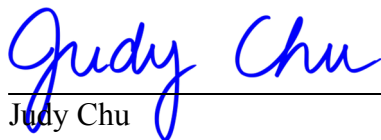
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



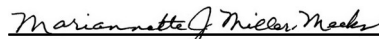
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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



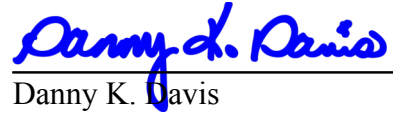
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



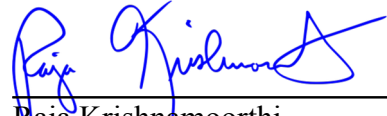
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



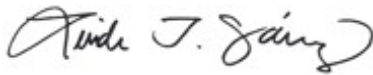
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations




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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress




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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress




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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress




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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress




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Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress




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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



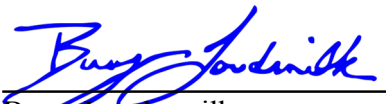
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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress




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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



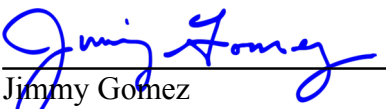
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Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress




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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



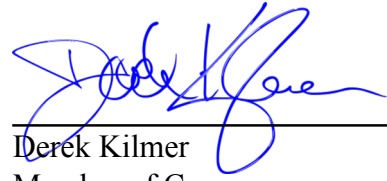
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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress