Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Biden,

We write to thank you for your strong leadership during a tragic and dangerous moment in the Middle East. The horrific attack on October 7 against Israel by the terrorist organization Hamas took the lives of over 1,400 people, injured over 3,000 more, and resulted in the capture of nearly 200 people – including many American citizens – who are being held as hostages in Gaza. You have rightly condemned these actions as pure evil and expressed the United States' steadfast support for our ally Israel in a moment of need and horror.

We stand with you in supporting Israel and are ready to provide whatever assistance the state and people of Israel need to defend themselves and to ensure that hostages return home and those who perpetrated these crimes against humanity are held accountable.

We are grateful as well for your clear statements regarding the fundamental importance of ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population of Gaza are met, and that all possible steps are being taken to ensure the safety of civilians and noncombatants in the Strip. Reportedly, more than 3,000 people have been killed and more than 9,700 wounded in Gaza, making it imperative that we act to prevent further loss of innocent lives. We agree with you that Israel's response must be in accordance with international law and our shared democratic values.

We support the efforts that Secretary Blinken and your entire administration are making to ensure that the basic necessities of life for Gaza's civilians are available, such as food, water, and medicine. In addition, we must enable those civilians and noncombatants who want to seek refuge temporarily in safe zones in southern Gaza to be given safe passage, and to ensure that they have the ability to return to their communities in Gaza when the war is over.

A commitment to Israel's security and right to respond to terror is not incompatible with a commitment to the humanitarian needs of the innocent people of Gaza. Indeed, you are correctly charting a path that promotes American values and interests when we pursue both goals together.

We further support the efforts that your administration is undertaking to prevent the conflict from escalating to other fronts in this war, including to Israel's north, as evidenced by the decision to deploy carrier strike groups to the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, we urge your administration to work closely with Israel and regional partners to ensure stability on the West Bank and to prevent any escalation of violence in that region.

Even after this war between Israel and Hamas is over, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians cannot be solved ultimately by any military means. When this crisis ends, your leadership together with regional partners

will be needed to create a path to a sustainable future because, as you have so often pointed out, both Israelis and Palestinians deserve equal measures of freedom, security, opportunity and dignity. There will never be an end to the violence until that goal is achieved, and we know that the United States will have a significant role in the pursuit of the peaceful coexistence between Israel and its neighbors.

Thank you again for your steady and determined leadership at this critical time. We look forward to continuing to work with you in defense of Israel and, ultimately, in pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

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

Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

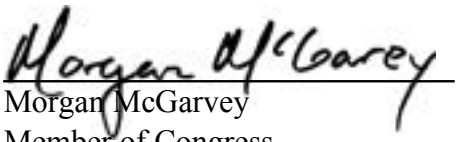
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

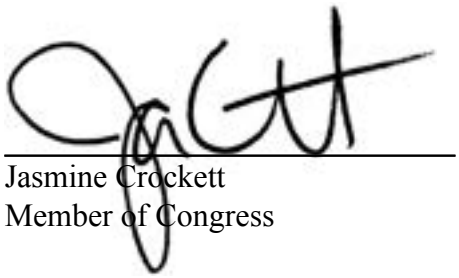
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

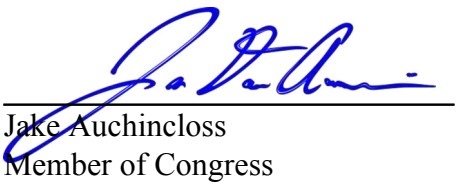
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

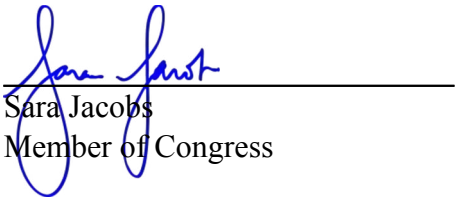


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



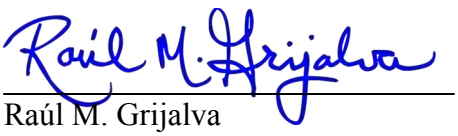
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

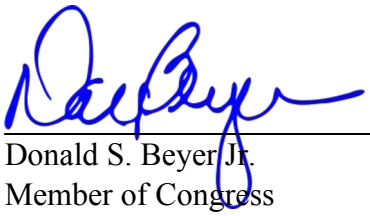


Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



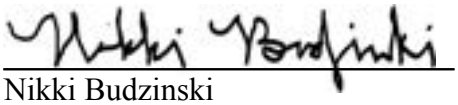
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



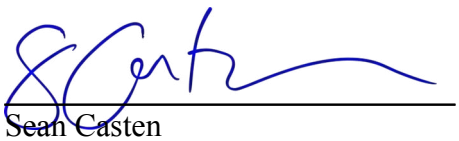
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

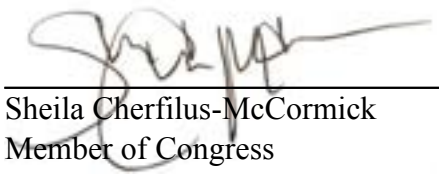


Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



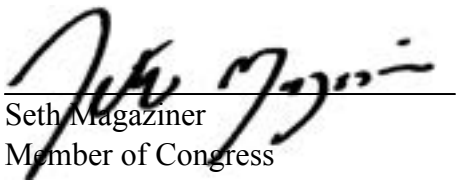
Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

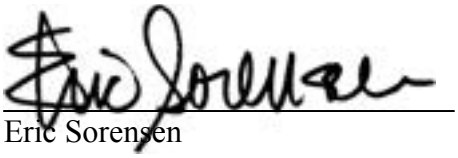


Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

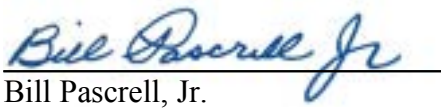


Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

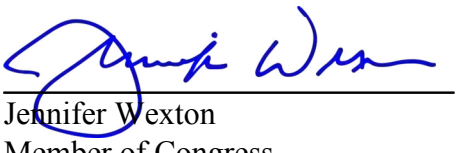
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

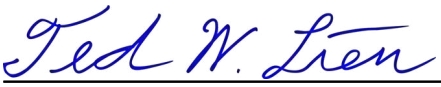
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



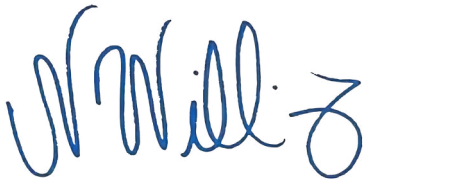
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



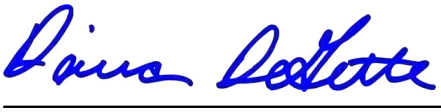
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

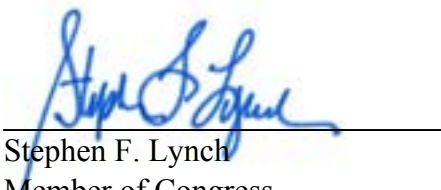


Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

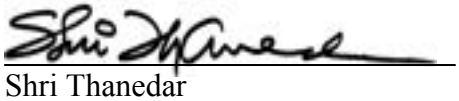


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

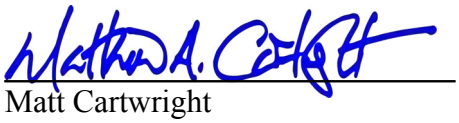


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

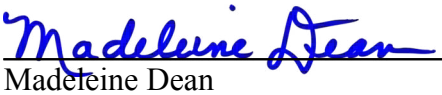


Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

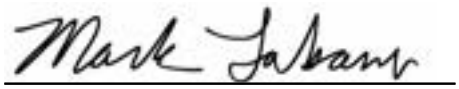
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



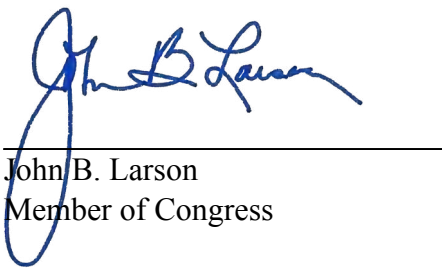
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress

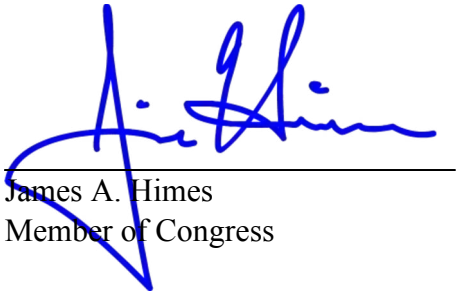
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

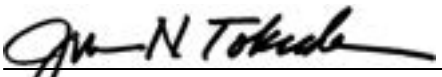
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



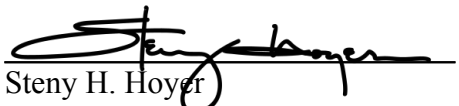
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



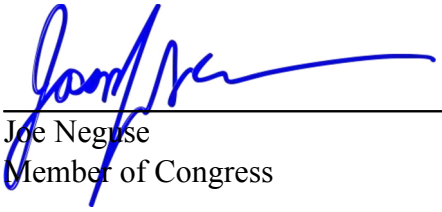
James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



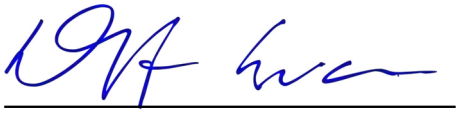
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



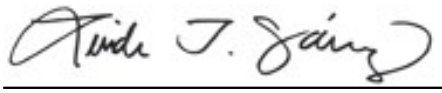
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

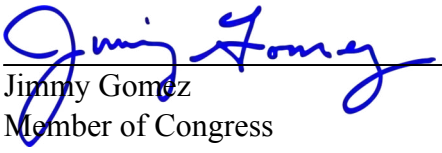


Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

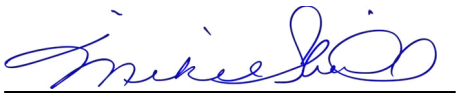


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

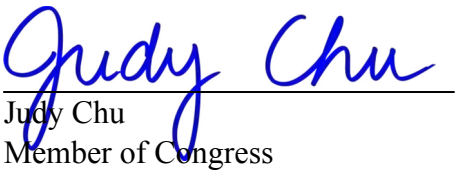
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



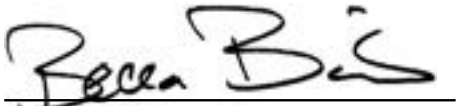
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on
Education and the Workforce

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

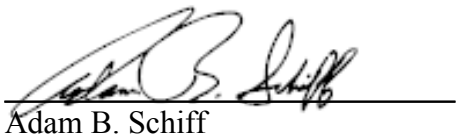
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

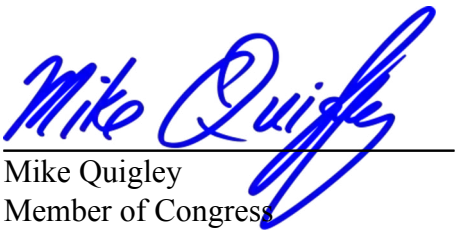


Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

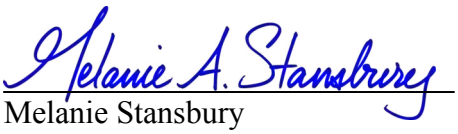


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



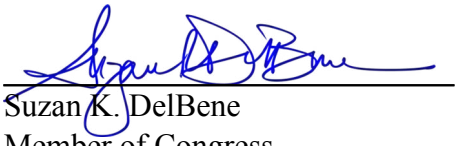
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



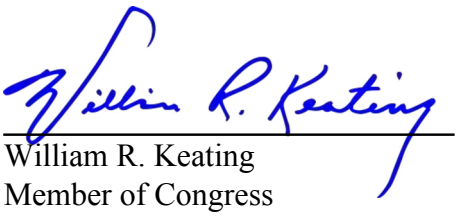
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

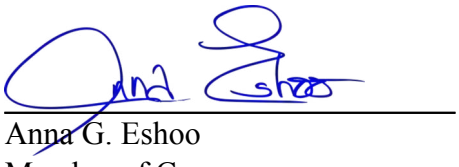


Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

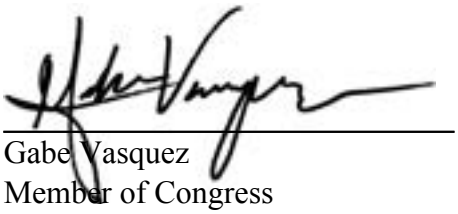
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

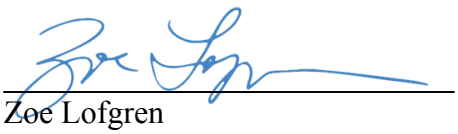


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

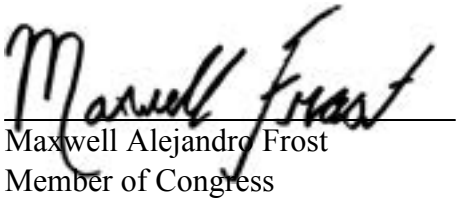


Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

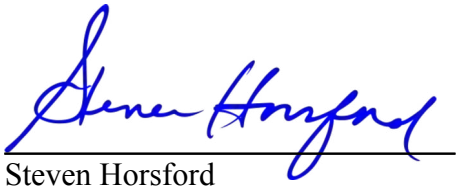


Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

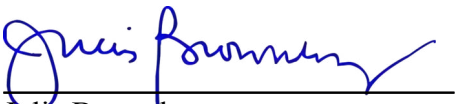
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

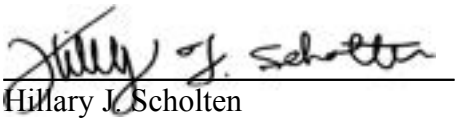


Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

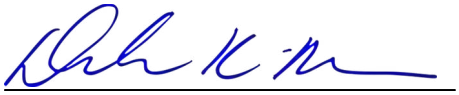


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Greg Casar
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress