

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

As you know, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. As state agencies prepare their LIHEAP programs for the winter, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release LIHEAP funds as quickly and at as high of a level as possible under the current continuing resolution.

On average, low-income families and seniors spend a higher proportion of their income to heat their homes, and for many states October marks the beginning of the coldest months. During these tough economic times, this year's electricity costs will be an even greater struggle for many families. The timing is crucial for the release of LIHEAP funding to better prepare our most vulnerable populations.

As the relevant state agencies begin to provide assistance for this winter, we believe it is critical that states begin the process of assisting those individuals with the greatest needs immediately. Therefore, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP funds and at as high of a level as possible in order to allow states and low-income households to prepare for another challenging winter.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical program, and thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents.

Sincerely,



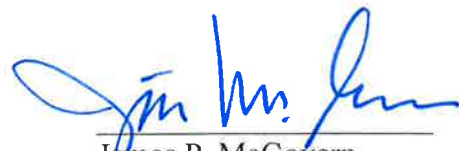
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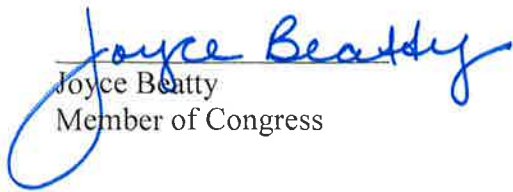
Peter Welch
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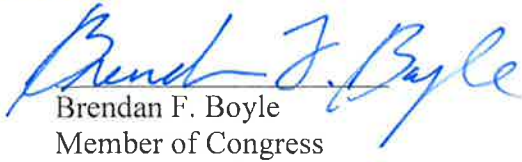


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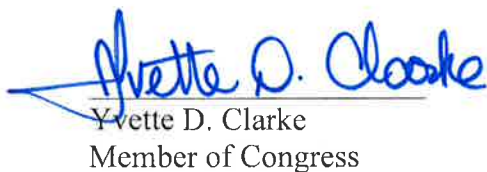

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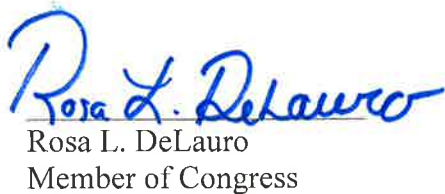

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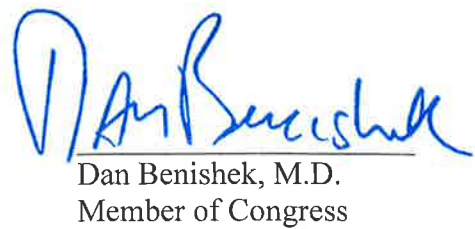

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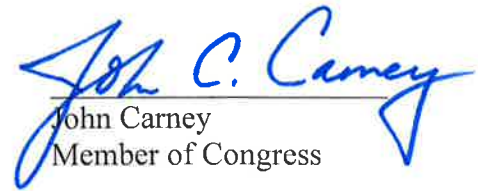

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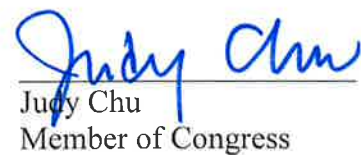

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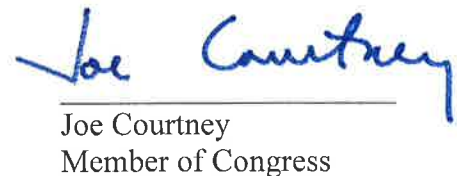

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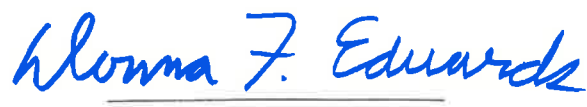

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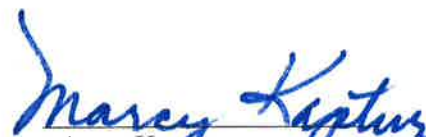

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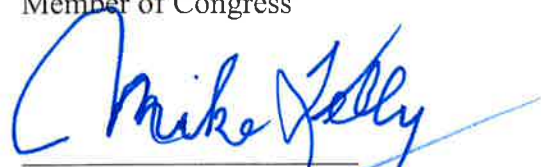

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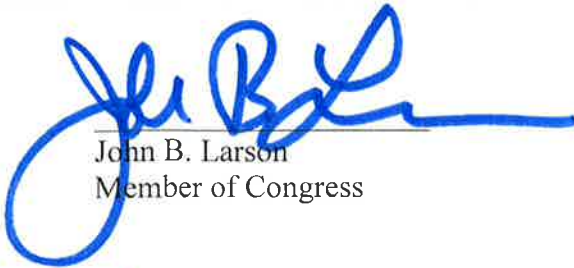

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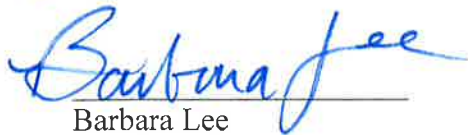

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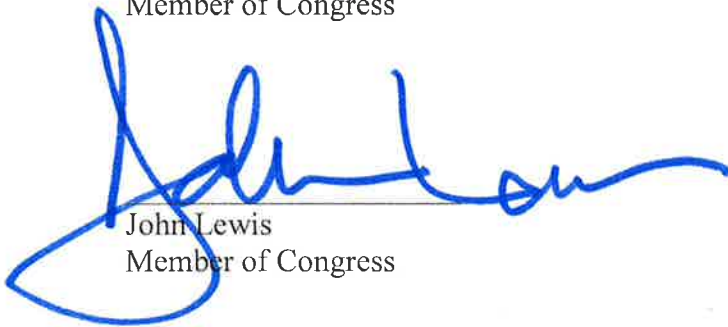

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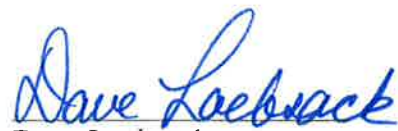

Sandy Levin
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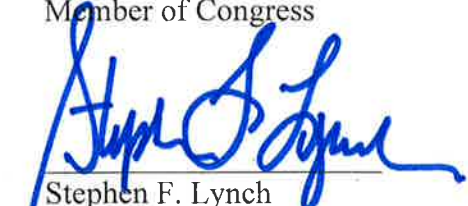

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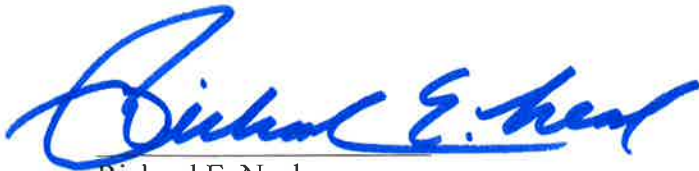

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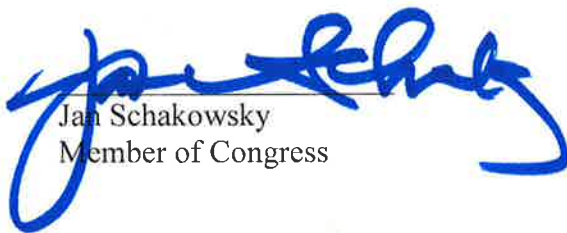
Sean Patrick Maloney
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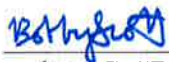
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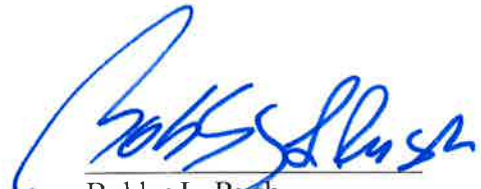
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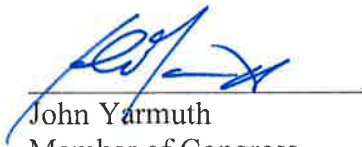
Paul D. Tonko
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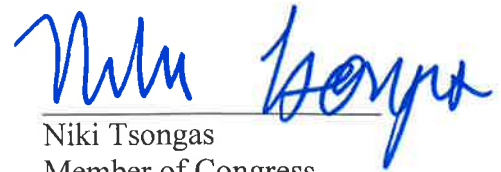
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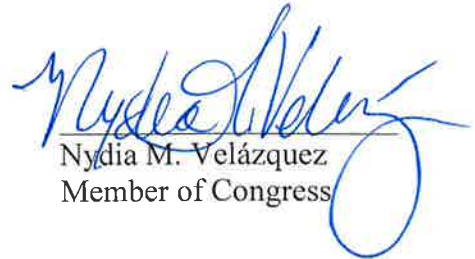
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