

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 15, 2013

Dear President Obama:

We want to thank you for standing strong in the American Taxpayer Relief Act to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from benefit cuts that would jeopardize the well-being of millions of Americans.

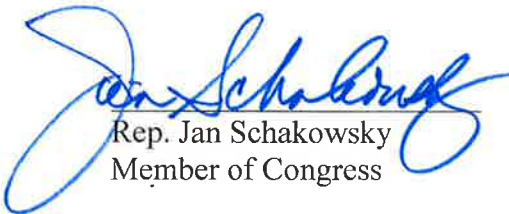
We write to affirm our vigorous opposition to cutting Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits in any final bill to replace sequestration. Earned Social Security and Medicare benefits provide the financial and health protections necessary to keep individuals and families out of poverty. Medicaid is not only a lifeline for low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and families, it is the primary source of long-term care services and supports for 3.6 million individuals. We cannot overstate their importance for our constituents and our country.

That is why we remain deeply opposed to proposals to reduce Social Security benefits through use of the chained CPI to calculate cost-of-living adjustments. We remain committed to making the changes that will extend solvency for 75 years, but Social Security has not contributed to our current fiscal problems and it should not be on the bargaining table.

Similarly, we oppose proposals to increase Medicare cost-sharing requirements or to raise the age of eligibility. Half of all Medicare recipients live on less than \$22,000 a year – yet they spend, on average, three times as much of those limited incomes on health care as other Americans. Raising their already heavy cost-sharing burden or increasing the age of eligibility doesn't lower health care costs, it just shifts them to those who can least afford more financial burdens – seniors, people with disabilities and their families.

A commitment to keeping the middle-class strong and reducing poverty requires a commitment to keeping Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid strong. We urge you to reject any proposals to cut benefits, and we look forward to working with you to enact approaches that instead rely on economic growth and more fair revenue-raising policies to solve our fiscal problems.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Rep. Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Rep. Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



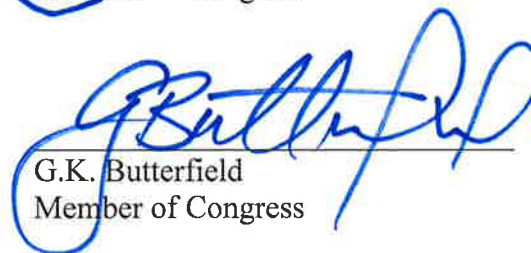
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



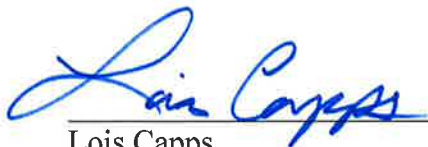
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress




Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



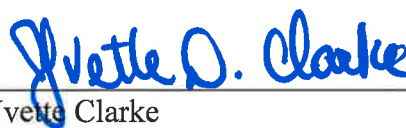
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



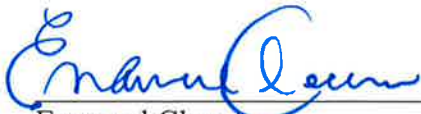
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



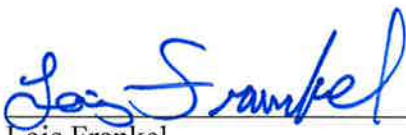
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



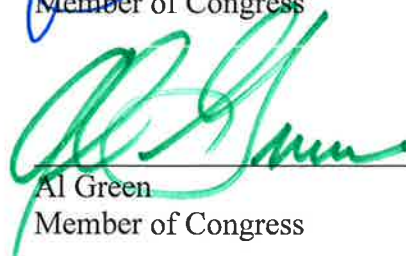
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

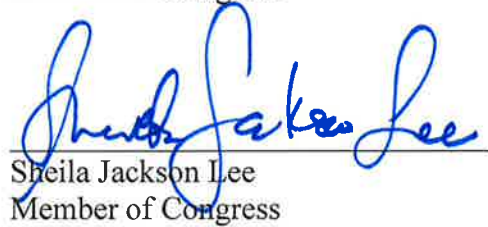

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress


Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

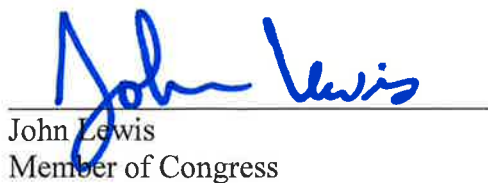

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

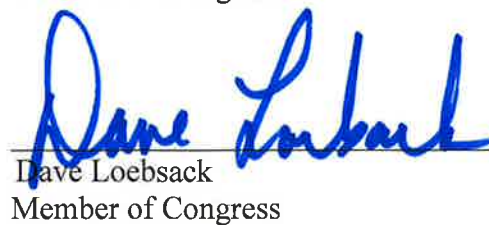

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


James Langevin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress

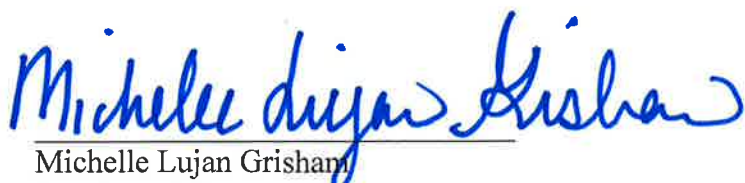

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



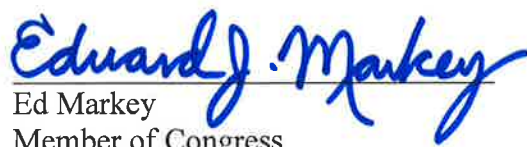
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



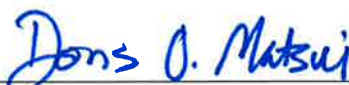
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



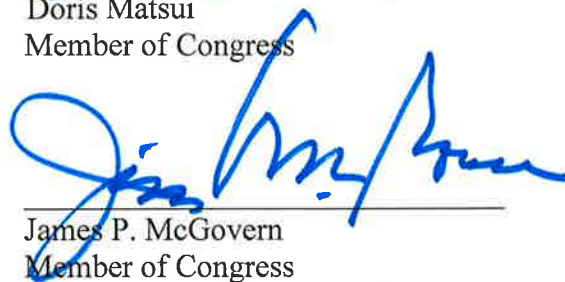
Ed Markey
Member of Congress



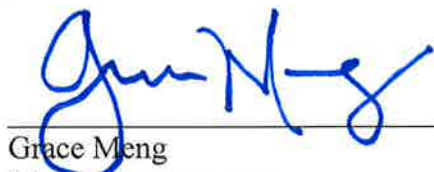
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



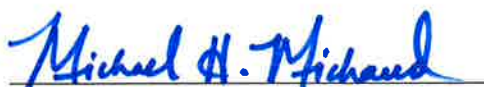
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



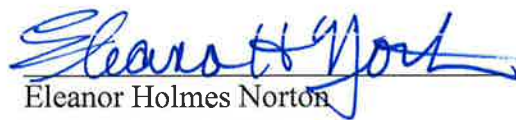
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress



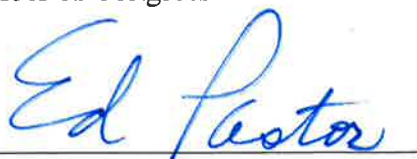
Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



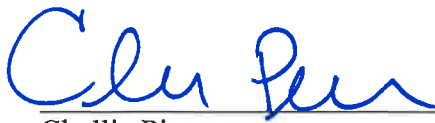
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



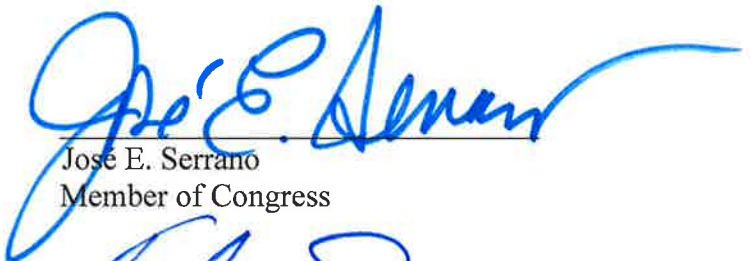
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



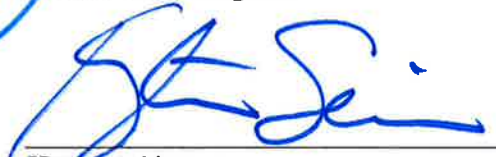
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress



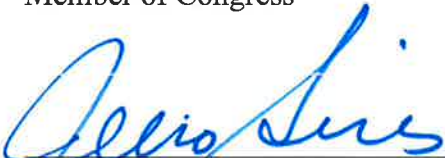
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Mel Watt
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



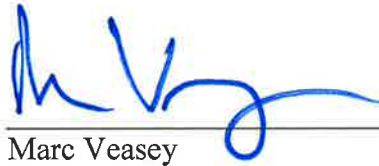
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



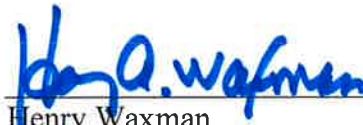
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



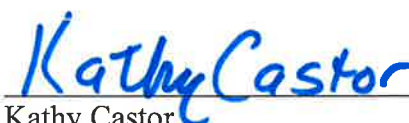
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



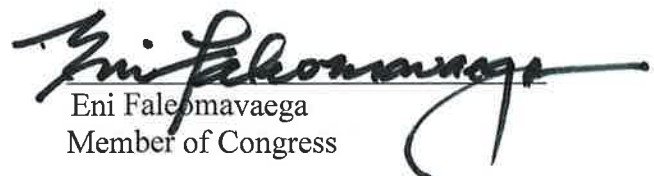
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

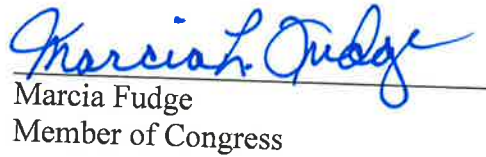


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

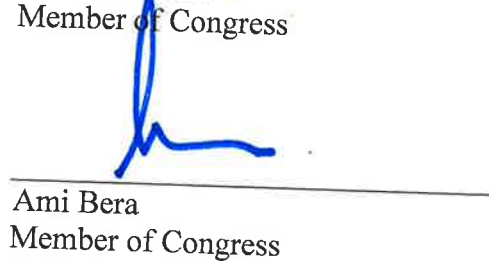

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


Richard Nolan
Member of Congress


Dan Kildee
Member of Congress


Ami Bera
Member of Congress

cc: Speaker John Boehner
House Minority Leader Pelosi
Senate Majority Leader Reid
Senate Minority Leader McConnell