

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

October 28, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We strongly support efforts to eliminate sequestration and budget caps that are preventing us from making critical investments in education, infrastructure, and job creation. While we hope that a long-term budget agreement can be negotiated to achieve those goals, we want to firmly state our commitment to vote against any deal that would cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits.

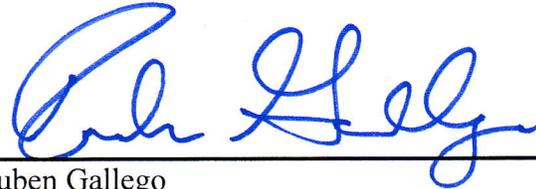
Earned Social Security and Medicare benefits are essential to the health and financial well-being of millions of senior citizens, people with disabilities, and families. Two-thirds of retirees rely on Social Security for a majority of their income, one in three has virtually no other source of income, and half of all Medicare beneficiaries had less than \$24,150 in income last year. Medicaid not only provides a safety net for low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and families, it is our nation's primary source of long-term care services and supports. Cuts in benefits -- whether by raising the retirement age, cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or increasing out-of-pocket burdens -- would shift financial burdens and impose serious harm to our constituents.

Reductions to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits are not only unjustified, they are unnecessary. We can fully fund the federal government and reduce the deficit without cutting programs that for generations have helped sustain and expand the middle class. Instead of forcing seniors, people with disabilities and their families to absorb painful reductions to their benefits, we look forward to working with you to enact a budget approach that protects Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, meets our national priorities, spurs economic growth, and relies on fair revenue-raising policies to meet our fiscal problems.

Sincerely,



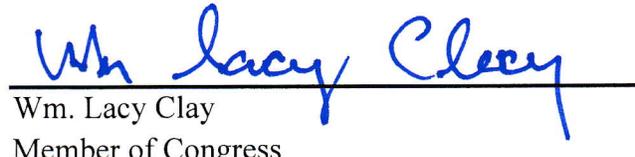
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
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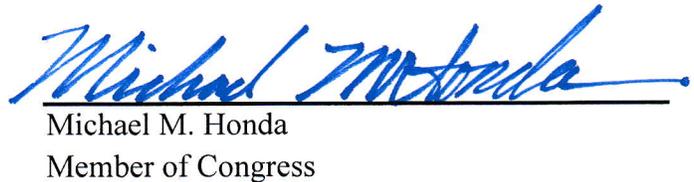
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



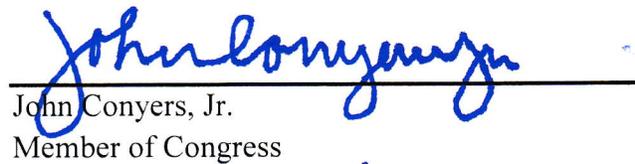
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



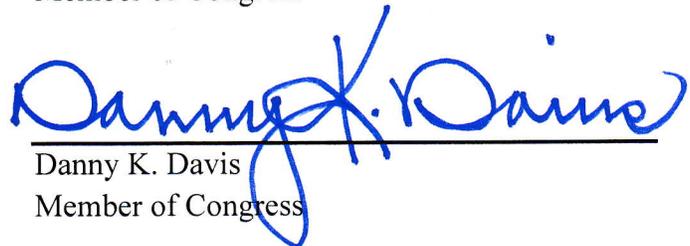
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

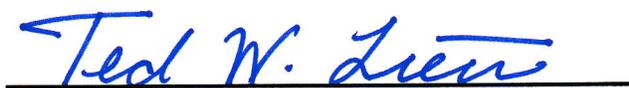


Marcy Kaptur  
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Danny K. Davis  
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Gregory W. Meeks  
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Ted Lieu  
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Ann Kirkpatrick  
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

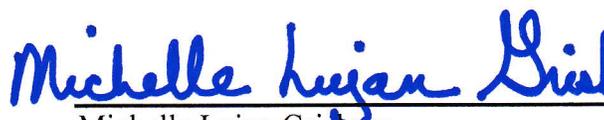
  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
Alan S. Lowenthal  
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Emanuel Cleaver  
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John P. Sarbanes  
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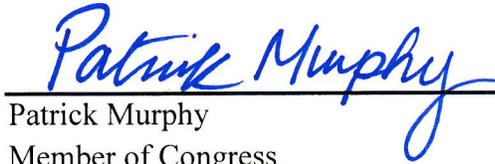
  
Betty McCollum  
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Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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Jim McDermott  
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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



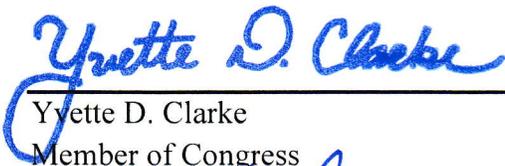
Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



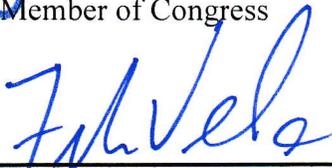
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



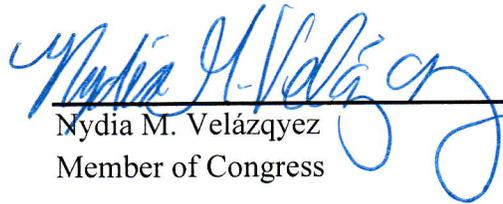
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



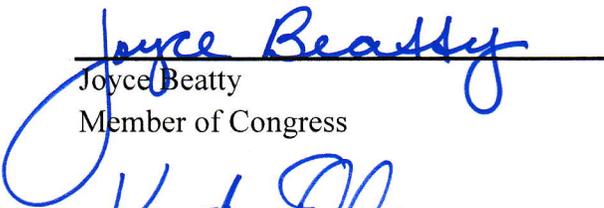
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



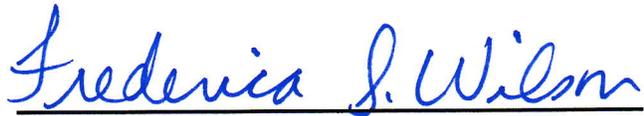
Joyce Beatty  
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Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



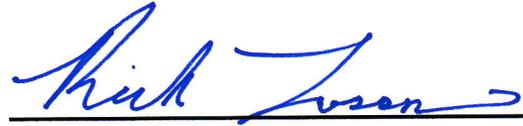
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



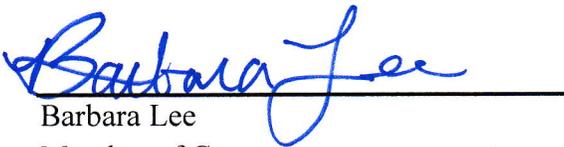
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

*Judy Chu*

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Member of Congress

*Raúl M. Grijalva*

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Member of Congress

*Brenda Lawrence*

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

*Donna F. Edwards*

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*David N. Cicilline*

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*Charles B. Rangel*

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*Debbie Dingell*

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

*Hank Johnson*

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

*Lois Frankel*

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

*Gene Green*

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

*Alan Grayson*

Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

*Katherine M. Clark*

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

*Tony Cárdenas*

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

*Bonnie Watson Coleman*

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

*Alcee L. Hastings*

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress