

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Joyce and Ranking Member Cuellar:

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As you work to complete the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask you to fund the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) at \$180 million and \$180 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) NSGP. As you know, these accounts provide critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Security investments acquired through the NSGP program include physical security enhancements, emergency preparedness planning, training and exercises, and enhanced engagement and collaboration between public and private community representatives as well as their state and local homeland security and emergency management government agencies. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognized the serious nature of these threats in the two most recent National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletins, which warned that acts of extremist-motivated violence are likely to continue against faith-based institutions, schools, and racial and religious minorities. Nationwide reporting on related threat incidents just over the past month underscore the frequency, complexity, and geographic breadth of these concerns:

- On September 20, it was reported that jury selection will begin on April 24, 2023, in the capital murder trial of Robert Bowers, who is accused of attacking the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018, killing 11 worshipers in the deadliest attack on Jews in US history.
- On September 17, it was reported that in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, US Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY) called on the FBI and US attorney general to investigate and do more to respond to New York City's surging antisemitism. The NYPD has confirmed 149 anti-Jewish hate crimes between the start of the year and June 28, representing an incident every 29 hours on average.
- On August 30, it was reported that antisemitic crimes in New York City were up 114% over the previous year.<sup>i</sup>
- On August 30, it was reported that Jonathan Warren, 22, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 147 months in Federal prison for committing a drive by shooting into the Masjid E Noor Mosque in Indianapolis, where multiple worshipers were observing the Eid al-Fitr holiday.<sup>ii</sup>

- On August 26, it was reported that the Las Vegas Police arrested Andrew Gorrellick, 48, on charges of making false terrorist threats to kill Jewish people in more than 40 tweets associated with his Twitter account.<sup>iii</sup>
- On August 25, it was reported that the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights issued a warning that antisemitic incidents were on the rise in the commonwealth and have “become a statewide and dangerous issue.” The warning reflected a jump from just two incidents reported in 2019 to hundreds of incidents reported this year.<sup>iv</sup>
- On August 15, it was reported that Federal authorities sought to reincarcerate white supremacist Benjamin Thomas Samuel McDowell of Conway, South Carolina, for violating the terms of his supervised release for his 2018 conviction for plotting to attack the Temple Emanu-El synagogue in Myrtle Beach “in the spirit of” the 2015 racially-charged massacre of nine black parishioners at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC.<sup>v</sup>
- On August 8, it was reported that Cody Steven Rush admitted to threatening to blow up the Central Reform Congregation, in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2021, while the synagogue was holding services.<sup>vi</sup>
- On August 5, the nation recognized the 10th anniversary of the mass attack at an Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Sikh temple, where an armed white supremacist killed seven people.<sup>vii</sup>
- On August 4, Gavin Lee Casdorff, 23, of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced to more than five years in prison for making online terrorist threats to detonate several bombs across the campus of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, a nonprofit institution. Casdorff made these threats while pledging allegiance to ISIS.<sup>viii</sup>

The NSGP program is a critical component to the nation’s response to domestic and international threats targeting the nonprofit sector, but the program is significantly over-subscribed. This year’s (FY 2022) NSGP award results made this clear. FEMA reviewed almost 3,500 grant applications but was able to fund only approximately 1,800. The total security investments requested amounted to almost \$450 million, but FEMA had only \$250 million to invest, including the important 5% that Congress provided to strengthen the agency’s program management. In response, DHS recommended Congress appropriate more funding to the FY23 NSGP program to align the program closer to the level of demand. As we have seen, the need has continue to grow for these federal funds which will become more apparent as the FY23 NSGP application process unfolds.

Unfortunately, today’s threat environment provides a compelling public interest in protecting against attacks on the nonprofit sector that would disrupt the vital health, human, social, cultural, religious, and other humanitarian services and practices they provide to communities, and which threaten the lives and well-being of millions of Americans who operate, utilize, live, and work in proximity to them. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the Nonprofit Security Grant Program by funding the UASI NSGP at \$180 million and \$180 million for the SHSGP NSGP.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

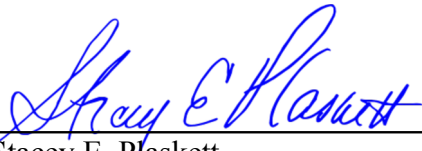
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



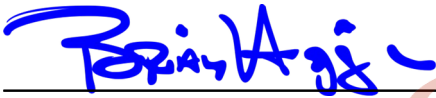
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



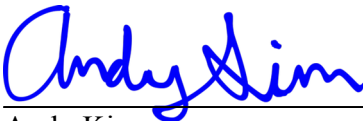
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



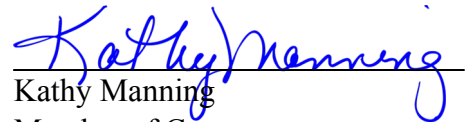
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



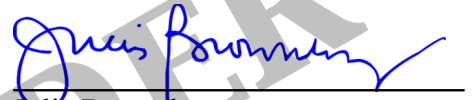
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress



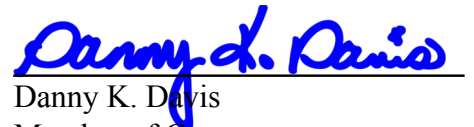
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



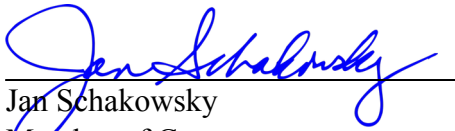
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress




Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress




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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress




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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress




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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress




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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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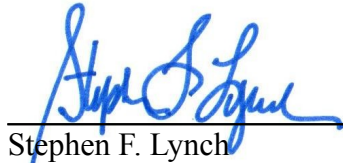
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



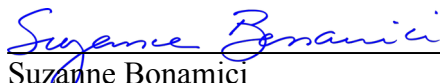
Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



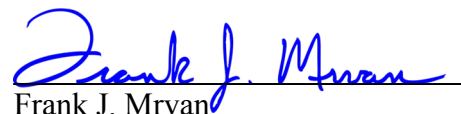
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



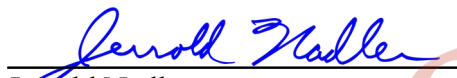
Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress

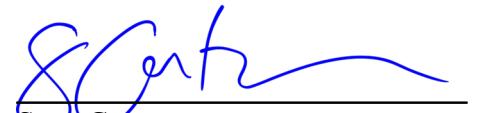
  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress


  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

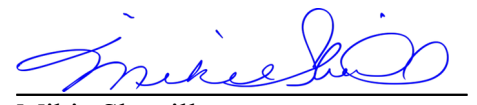
  
Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

  
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

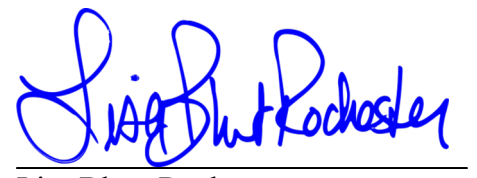
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

  
Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

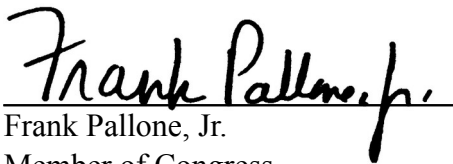




Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



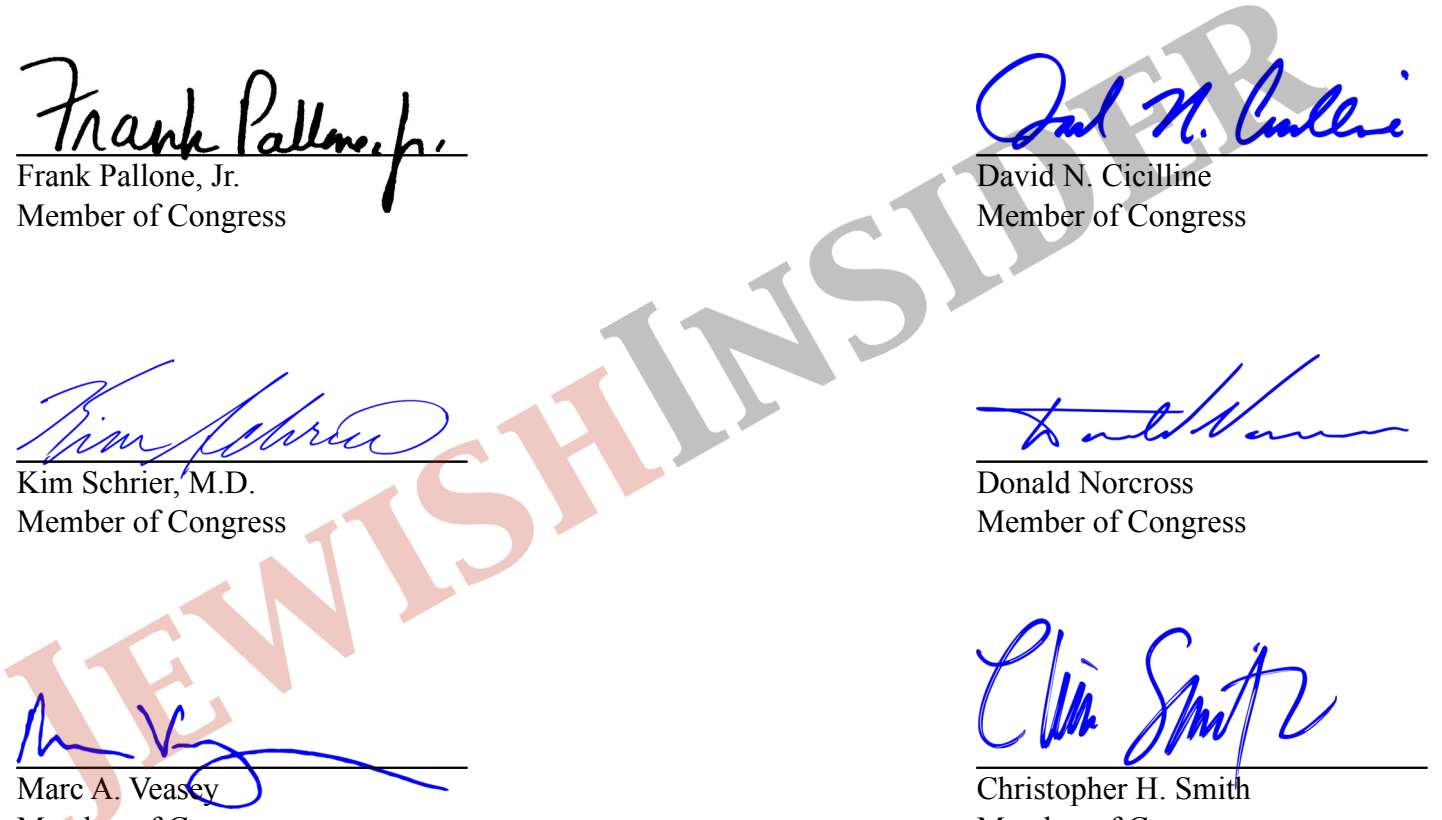
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



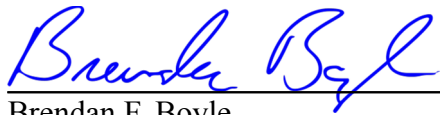




Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress

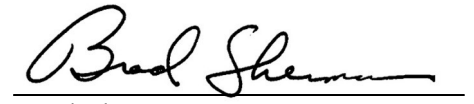


Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress




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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



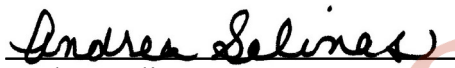
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress




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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



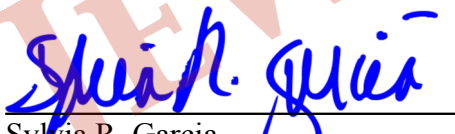
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress




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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



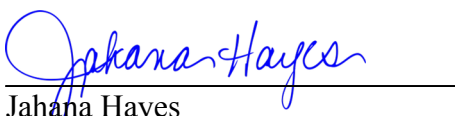
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



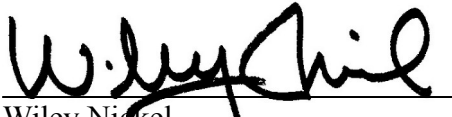
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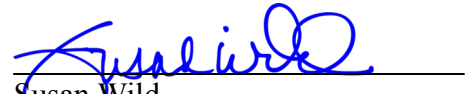
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress





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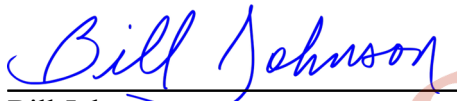
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

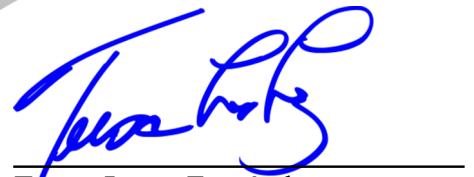
  
Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress

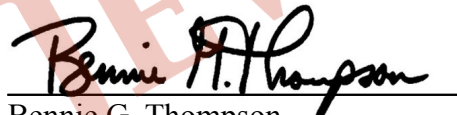
  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress


  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

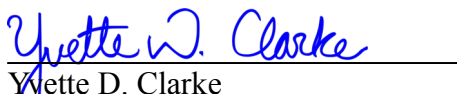
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

  
Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



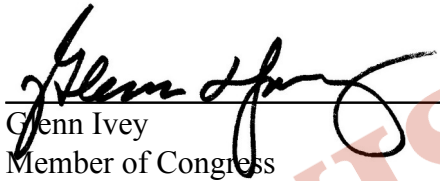
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sheri Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



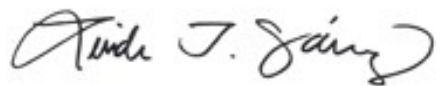
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

James A. Himes

James A. Himes  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup

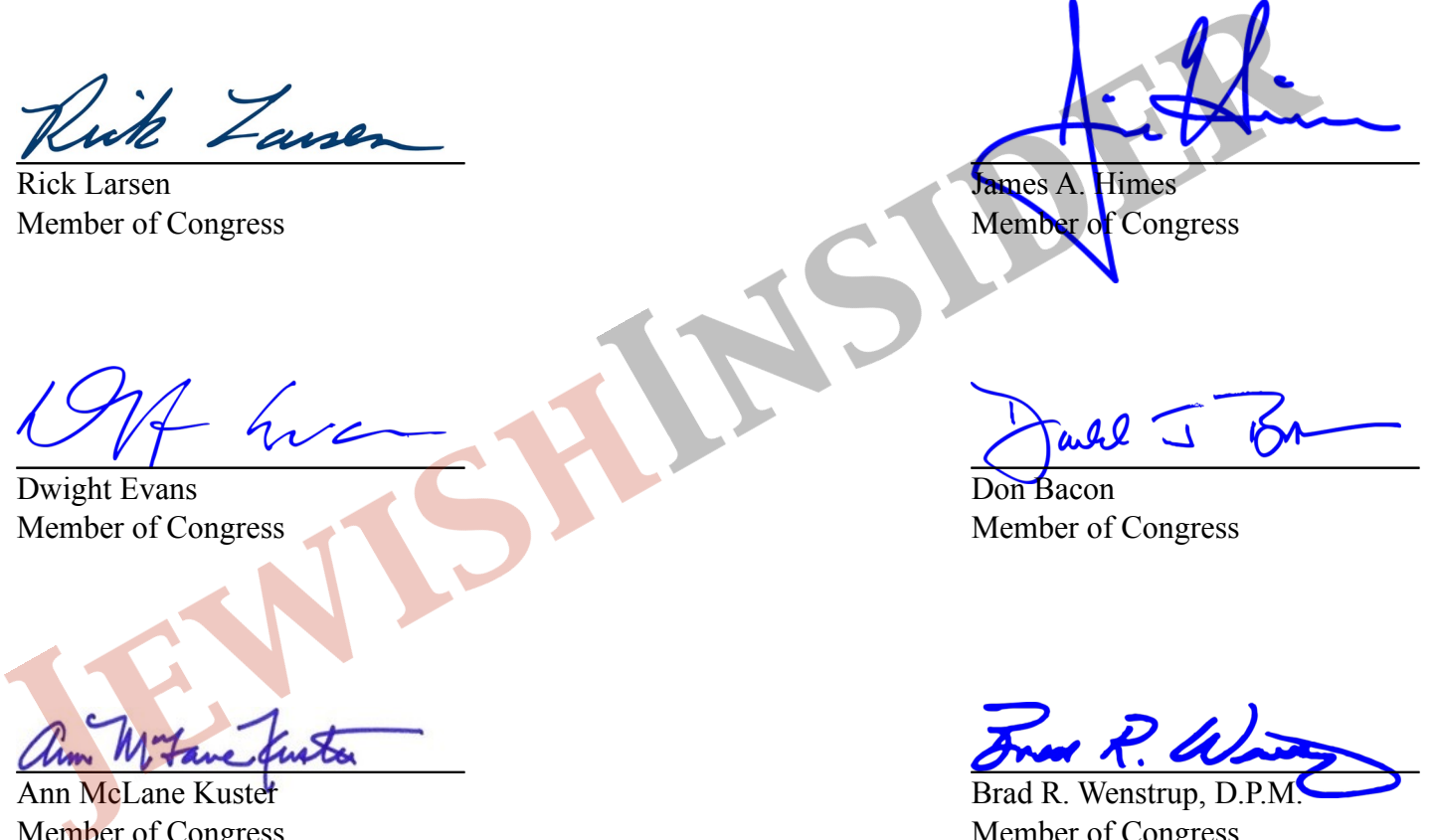
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress

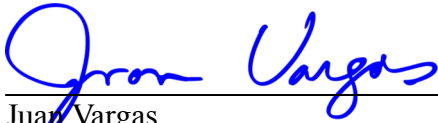
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress





Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress




Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



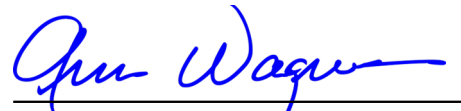
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



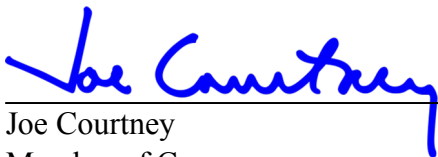
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



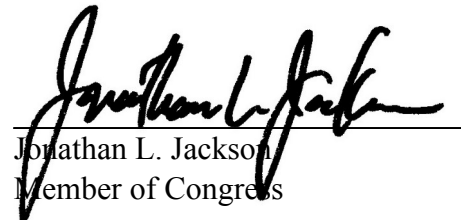
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



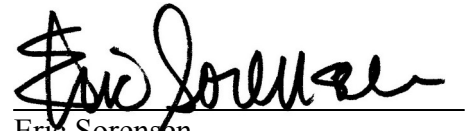
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



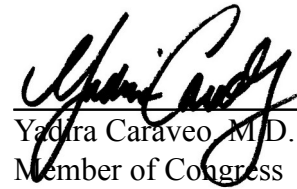
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



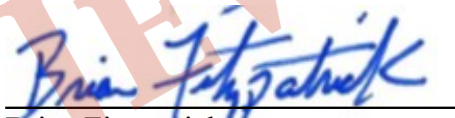
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



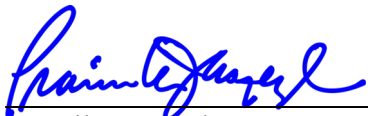
Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

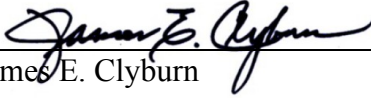


Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress





James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

André Carson  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress

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<sup>i</sup> New York Jewish Week

<sup>ii</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana

<sup>iii</sup> Jerusalem Post/7 Israel National News Arutz Sheva

<sup>iv</sup> NBC LEX 18 Lexington

<sup>v</sup> CBS affiliate WBTV News 13

<sup>vi</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Missouri

<sup>vii</sup> CNN

<sup>viii</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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