



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As you begin work on the FY 2009 appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you include the Title X national family planning program in your list of funding priorities and allocate at least \$400 million for the program. While the FY 2008 Title X increase of \$16.8 million to \$299.9 million is a step in the right direction, it does not begin to address the inadequate funding over the past 28 years. In fact, had funding for the Title X program kept up with the rate of inflation since 1980, it would have been funded at \$759 million instead of \$283 million in FY2007. Years of stagnant funding have left the program without the resources needed to keep up with medical inflation, increased demand for services, and new technologies to better allow clients to meet their basic primary health care needs.

Widespread use of birth control and access to family planning services continues to be a critical component of basic preventive health care for women and it has been the driving force in reducing the nation's rate of unintended pregnancies, STDs, and abortion. Contraceptive use has also led to dramatic declines in maternal and infant mortality rates and has vastly improved maternal and infant health. Publicly supported family planning services, such as those provided by Title X, have helped women plan the number and timing of their pregnancies, thereby helping to prevent approximately 1.3 million unplanned pregnancies each year, nearly half of which would end in abortion.

While Title X has served nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,400 state and county health departments and health care clinics, many American women still do not have access to family services, which include Pap tests, breast exams, STD test, and confidential HIV tests. As a result, the United States continues to have one of the highest rates of STDs, unintended pregnancies, and abortions among western nations. Furthermore, a recent study from the Guttmacher Institute found that low-income women are four times more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy than higher-income women are.

Today, almost 17 million women need publicly supported contraceptive care – a number which continues to grow. Many of these women rely on Title X to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care they could otherwise not afford and likely would not get. Title X is a vital part of our nation's public health infrastructure, serving nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,400 state and county health departments, hospital-based clinics, family planning councils, and Planned Parenthood clinics that receive these funds. In addition to providing contraceptive services and supplies, Title X clinics provide other basic preventive health services. In 2006, Title X-funded clinics provided 2.5 million Pap tests, 2.4 million breast exams, 5.2 million STD tests, and 652,426 confidential HIV tests.

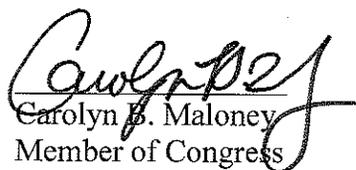
A 2005 government review of the Title X family planning program confirms that the program serves a unique and valuable purpose, is cost-effective, and is effectively managed. Yet while Title X is one of the nation's best and most cost-effective public health success stories, without additional funding, Title X clinics will be unable to meet the growing demand for care and provide quality preventive services, such as rapid HIV tests and chlamydia screening. The combination of dramatic price increases for contraceptives in recent years and the approval of a costly HPV vaccine pose significant barriers to providing these quality services.

While we are mindful of the many competing budget priorities, we urge you to invest in programs like Title X that promote public health and at the same time save scarce public health dollars. ***For every public dollar invested in family planning, \$3.80 is saved in Medicaid costs for pregnancy and newborn care alone.***

Please continue to include Title X in your list of funding priorities. An investment of \$400 million in FY 2009 will help our safety net clinics continue to provide high-quality, cost-effective health care for low-income women and men. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

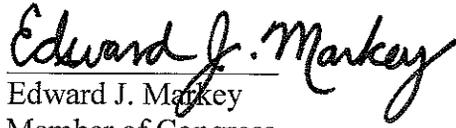
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



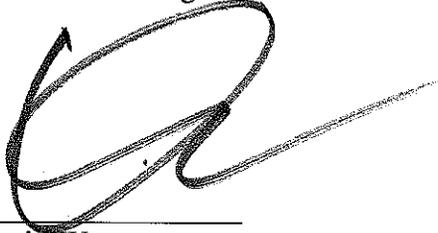
Carolyn B. Maloney
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Lois Capps
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Edward J. Markey
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David Wu
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Mazie K. Hirono
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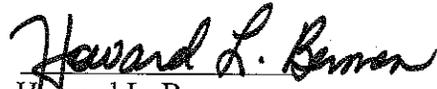
Diana DeGette
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Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



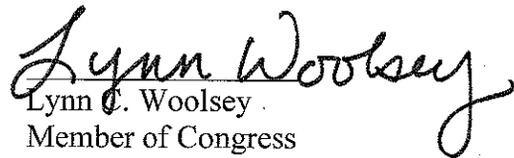
Jim McDermott
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Howard L. Berman
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Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

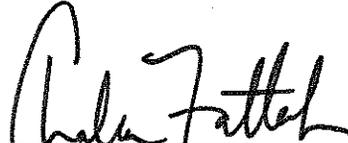


Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress

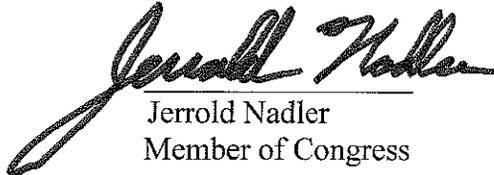

Raul M. Grijalva
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Dennis Moore
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Tammy Baldwin
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Chaka Fattah
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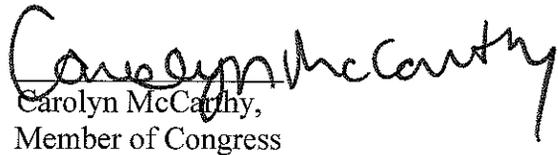

Rick Larsen
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Jerrold Nadler
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Carolyn McCarthy,
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Harry E. Mitchell
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Sam Farr
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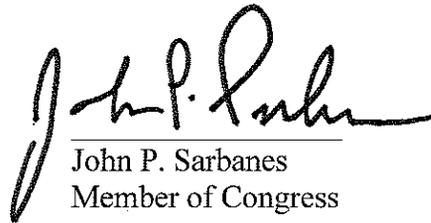
William J. Jefferson
Member of Congress



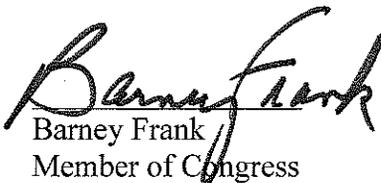
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



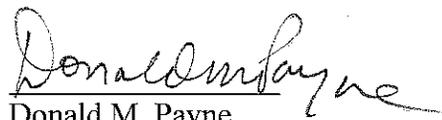
Jane Harman
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John P. Sarbanes
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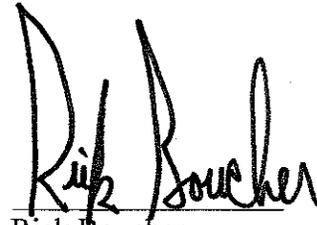


Barney Frank
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Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

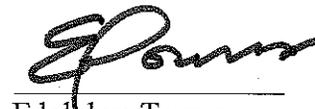

Thomas H. Allen
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Rick Boucher
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Joe Courtney
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Albert Russell Wynn
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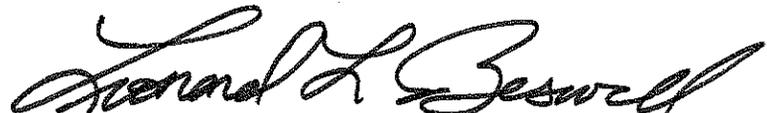

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

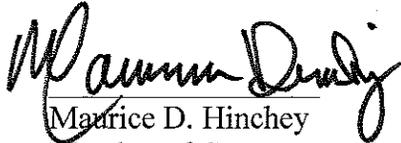

Edolphus Towns
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George Miller
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Louise McIntosh Slaughter
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Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

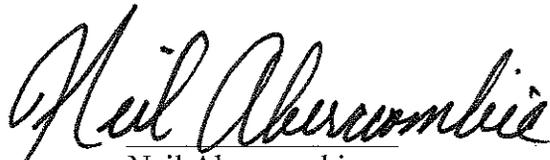

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

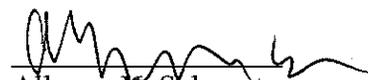

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

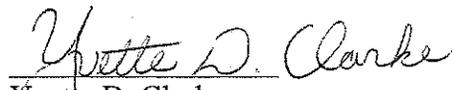

Robert C. Scott
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Bob Filner
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Neil Abercrombie
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Ellen O. Tauscher
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Allyson Y. Schwartz
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


William D. Delahunt
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Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



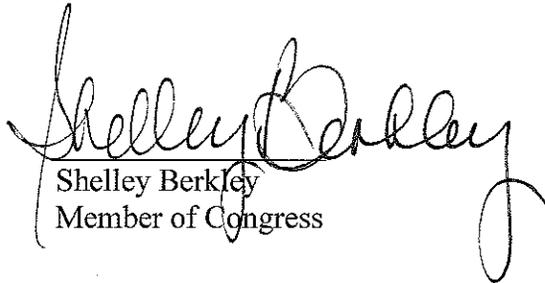
Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress



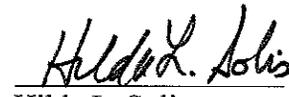
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



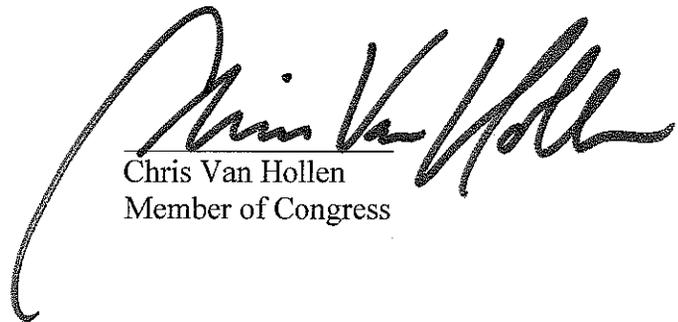
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress



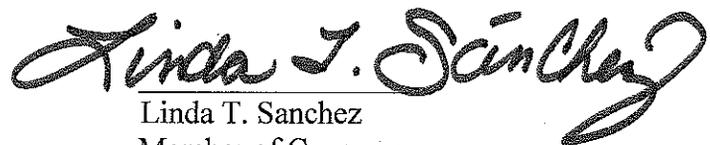
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



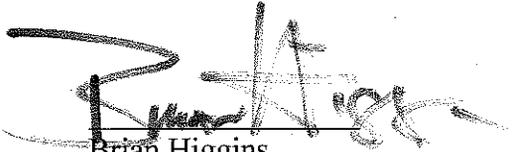
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

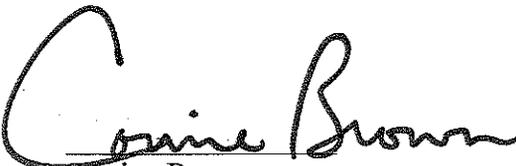


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

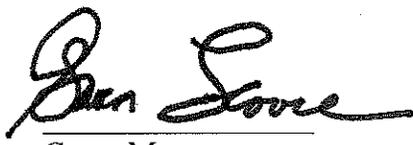

Phil Hare
Member of Congress

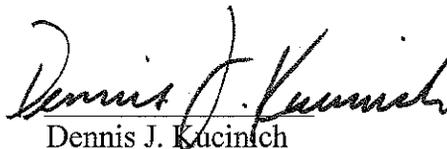

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

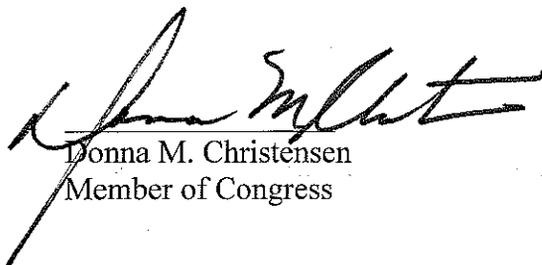

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

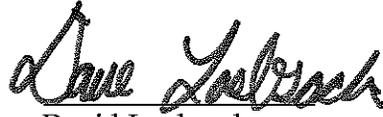

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress


Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



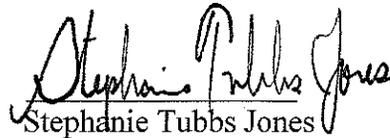
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



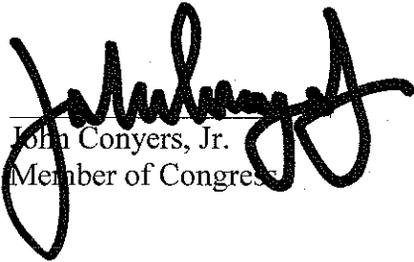
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



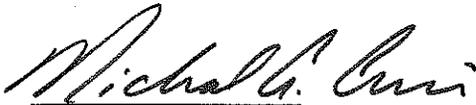
Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



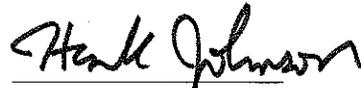
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



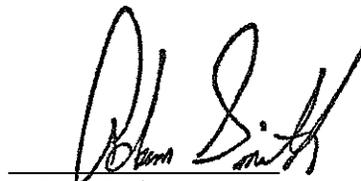
Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress



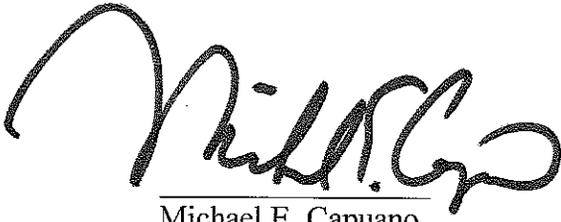
Henry C. Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



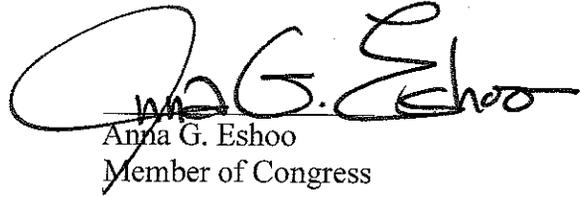
Paul W. Hodes
Member of Congress



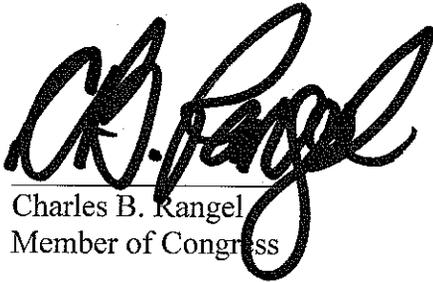
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



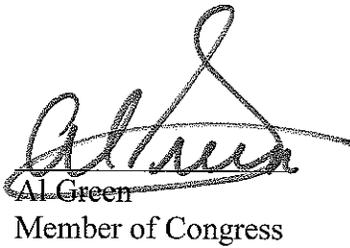
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



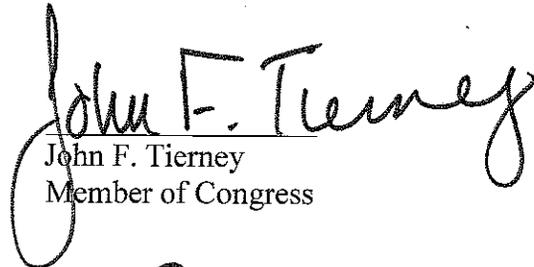
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



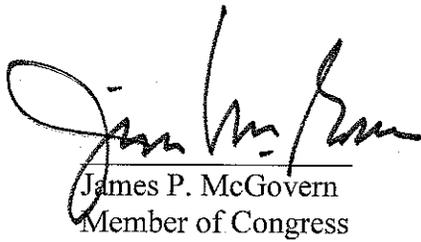
John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



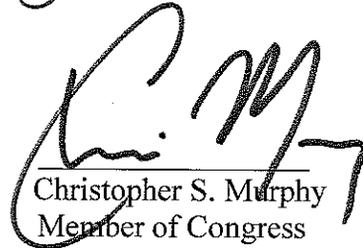
Al Green
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress

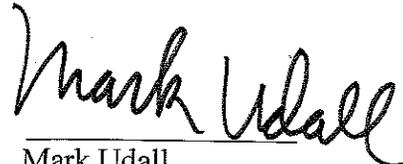


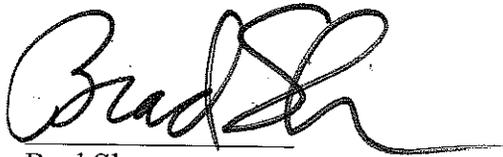
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

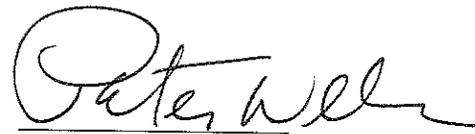

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress


Mark Udall
Member of Congress

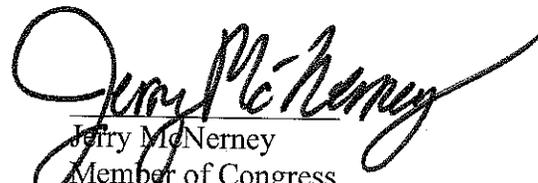

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress

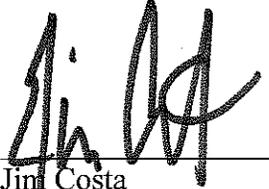

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Costa', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Costa
Member of Congress