

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2005

Dennis J. Hastert
Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Roy Blunt
Acting Majority Leader
H-107 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Acting Majority Leader Blunt,

We are confident that every Member of Congress is committed to funding the reconstruction of those areas of our nation that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The ultimate cost of that reconstruction has been estimated to be \$200 billion or more. In order to offset the costs of this substantial undertaking, we feel that it is imperative for Congress to use common sense approaches when the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is implemented.

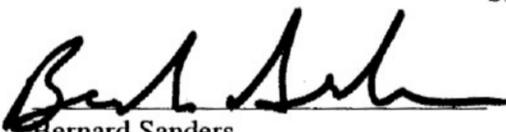
We would like to recommend the adoption of two viable and cost-saving additions to the Medicare program. First, Congress should remove the prohibition in the new Medicare law that prevents the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs. Allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, just as the Department of Veterans Affairs does, could save the program up to 50% off many prescription drugs, thereby seriously reducing the \$1.2 trillion projected cost of the Medicare prescription drug benefit over the next ten years. These savings would substantially offset the tremendous expense of recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

Second, Congress could pass legislation, as the House did in 2003, allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs from other well-regulated nations at substantial savings. Allowing wholesalers, pharmacists and individuals to purchase prescription drugs from Canada and the European Union would lower the cost of brand name medicines by some 30% to 50% -- savings that would accrue to both the government and individuals.

Again, we ask that you adopt prescription drug negotiation and a safe importation program which would substantially offset the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to pursue this sensible and responsible approach to our current fiscal crisis.

Sincerely,



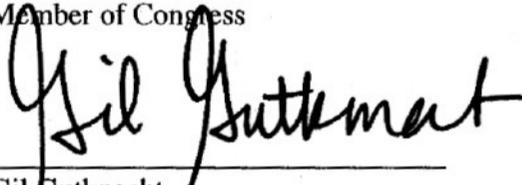
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress



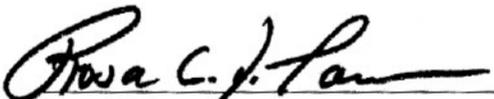
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



Marion Berry
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



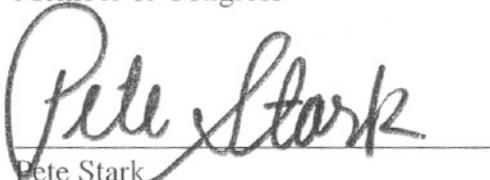
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



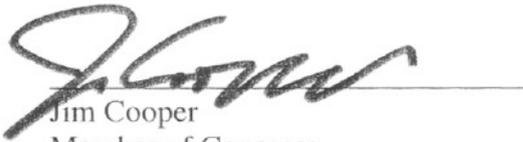
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



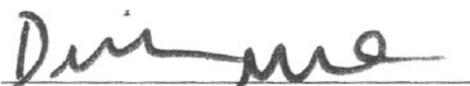
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



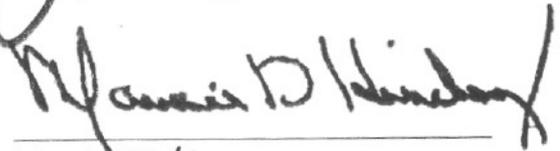
Alan B. Mollohan
Member of Congress



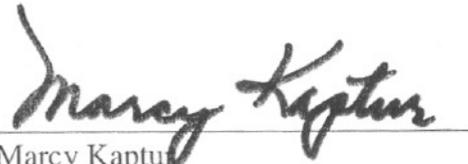
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



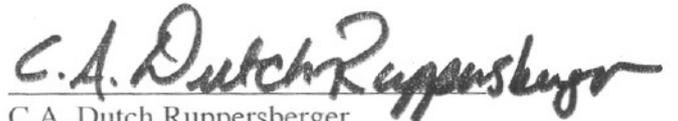
Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



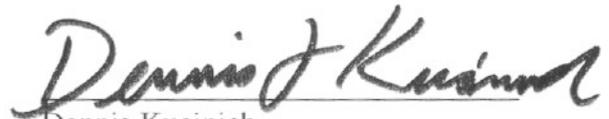
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
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Frank R. Wolf
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Pete Hoekstra

Peter Hoekstra
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Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
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Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio
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Jerry F. Costello

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James L. Oberstar

James L. Oberstar
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Daniel Lipinski

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Dale Kildee

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Ron Paul

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

John W. Olver

John Olver
Member of Congress

Fed Strickland

Fed Strickland
Member of Congress

Nita Lowey

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

Tim Bishop

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

Diane E. Watson

Diane Watson
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

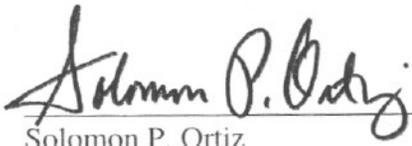
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

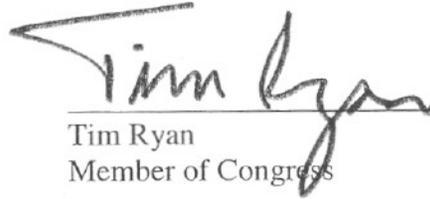
Tammy Baldwin

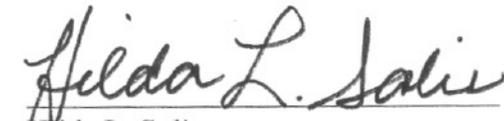
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

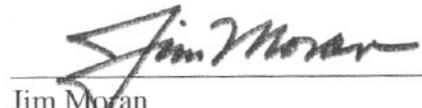
Gene Taylor

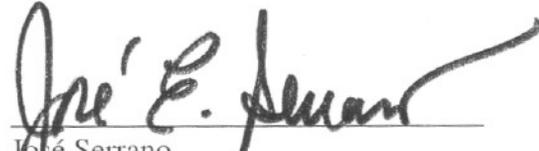
Gene Taylor
Member of Congress

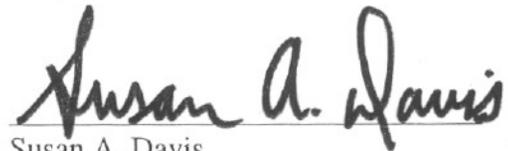

Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

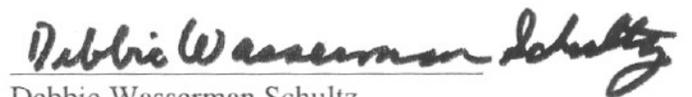

Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress

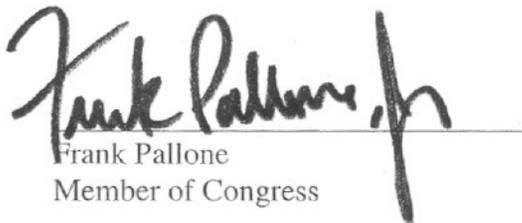

Jim Moran
Member of Congress


José Serrano
Member of Congress

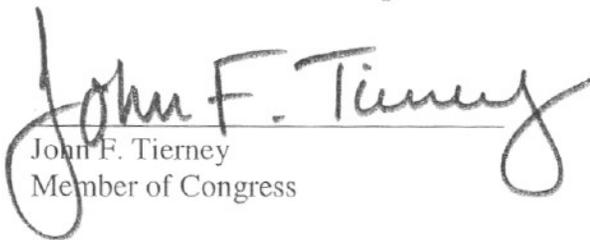

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

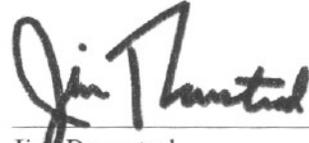

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

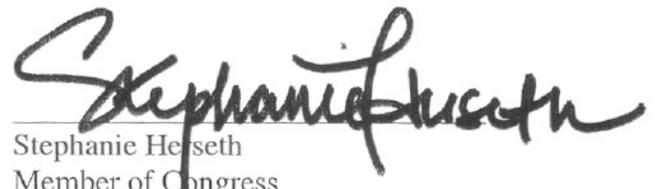

Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

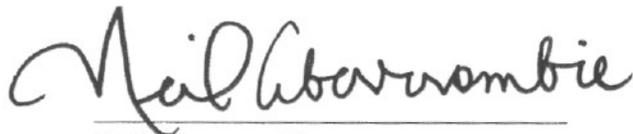

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

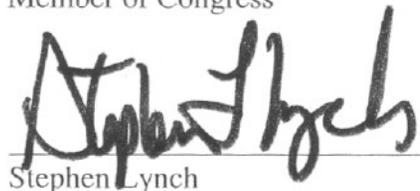

Jim Ramstad
Member of Congress

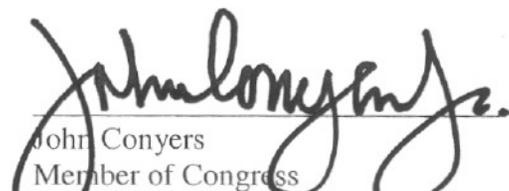

Ed Case
Member of Congress

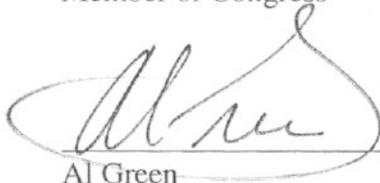

Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress

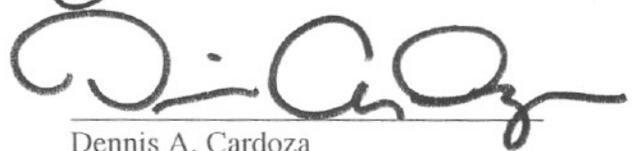

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress


Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress


Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress


John Conyers
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Dennis A. Cardoza
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Julia Carson

Julia Carson
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Major R. Owens

Major R. Owens
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

John Spratt

John M. Spratt, Jr.
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Steve King

Steve King
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

Vic Snyder

Vic Snyder
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

John Lewis

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Joe Baca

Joe Baca
Member of Congress

Bob Filner

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress