



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

December 1, 2006

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201-0004

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

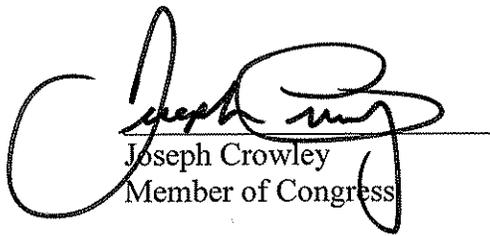
The recent announcement of Dr. Eric Keroack, as the new deputy assistant secretary for population affairs for the Department of Health and Human Services raises serious concerns about the Federal government's commitment to family planning. We believe the appointment of Dr. Keroack is a horrendous mistake for the safety of women's health in the United States. Family planning, specifically, the use of contraceptives is a proven success for limiting unintended pregnancy and stopping the spread of disease.

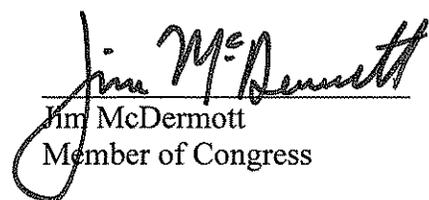
The appointment of such an outspoken critic of contraception whose opinions are out of step with the goals of the Title X program sends a negative message to the people this agency is responsible for helping. The official stated goal of the program is to "provide access to contraceptive supplies and information to all who want and need them with priority given to low-income persons. A broad range of effective and acceptable family planning methods and related preventive health services are available on a voluntary and confidential basis." The federal government must live up to this mission statement and not backtrack from the important health services it should be providing and, not denying, to those who need them most.

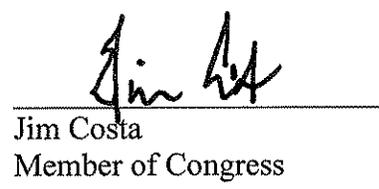
If our goal is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in our country, this appointment will be a major set back to that fight. Title X services assist low-income individuals in avoiding approximately one million unintended pregnancies each year. Family planning through Title X is a proven method of limiting such procedures.

We urge you to reconsider this appointment to ensure that this office is properly utilized to benefit the health of women.

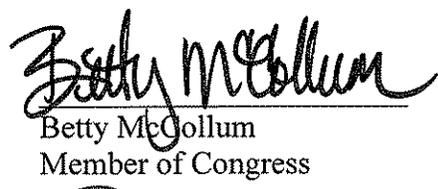
Sincerely,

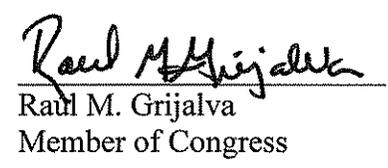

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

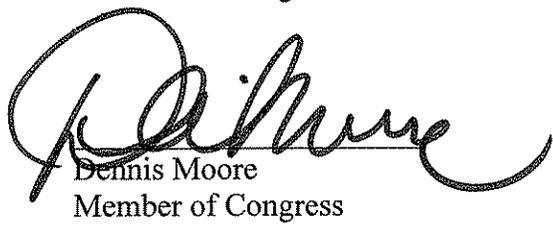

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress

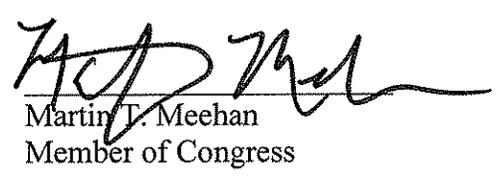

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

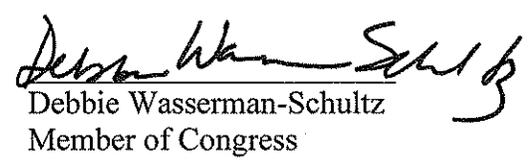

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

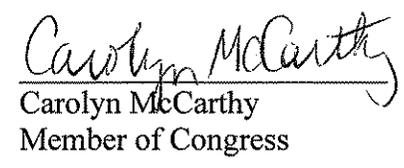

Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

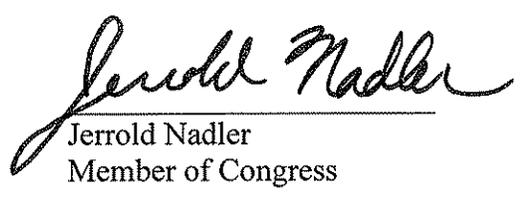

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

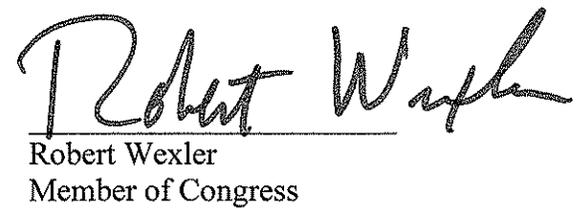

Martin T. Meehan
Member of Congress

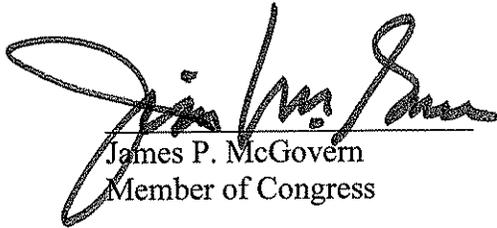

Debbie Wasserman-Schultz
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

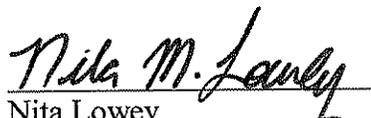

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

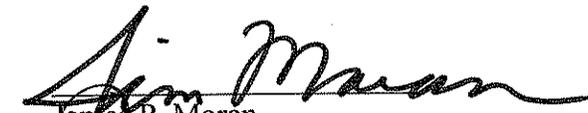
Lane Evans
Member of Congress

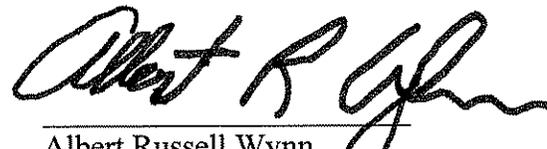

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress

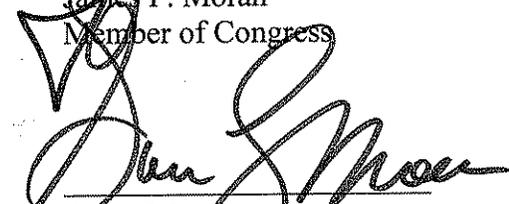

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

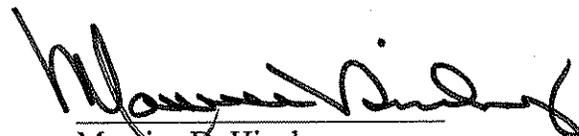

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

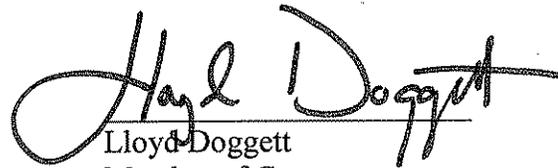

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

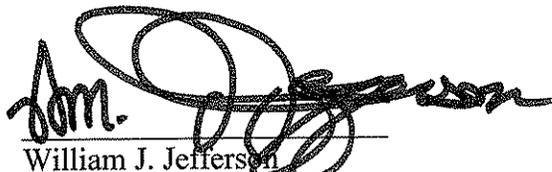

Albert Russell Wynn
Member of Congress

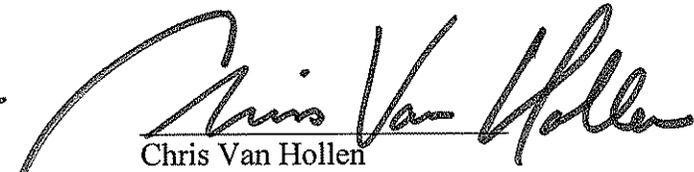

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

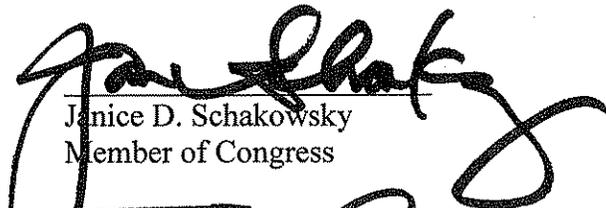

Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


William J. Jefferson
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

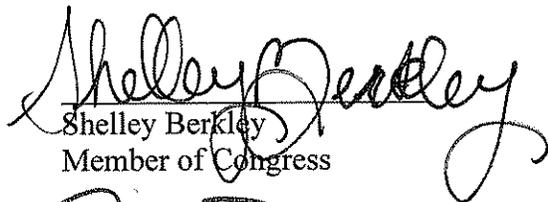

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

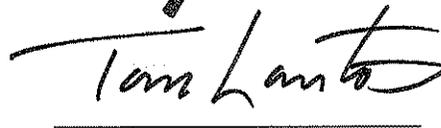

George Miller
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress


Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

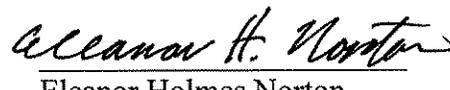

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

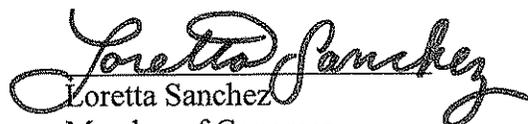

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress


Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress


Frank Rosten
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress


Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



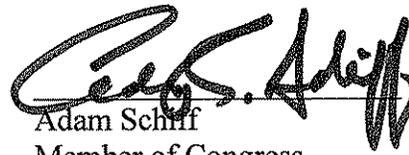
Michael M. Michaud
Member of Congress



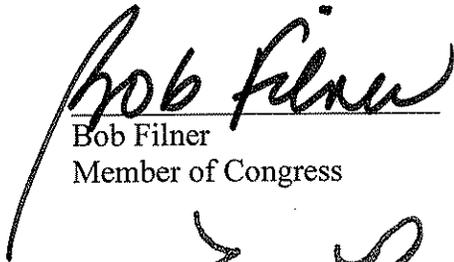
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



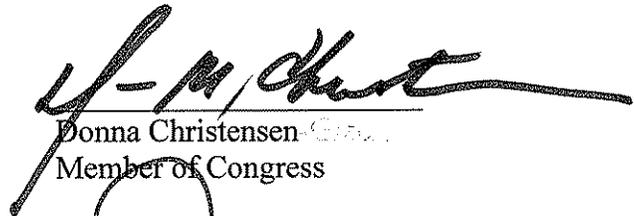
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



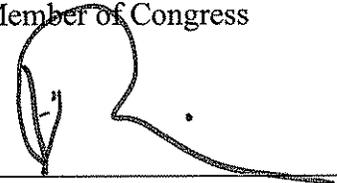
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



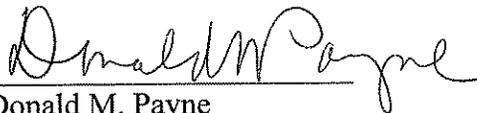
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



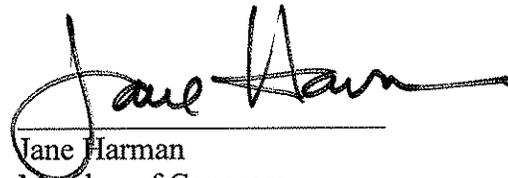
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



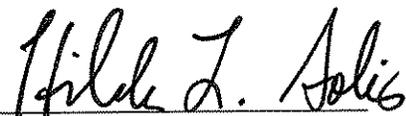
Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



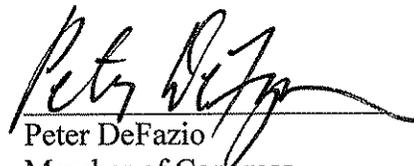
Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Melissa L. Bean

Melissa Bean
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

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Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

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Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Patrick J. Kennedy

Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano

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Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich

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Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

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Member of Congress

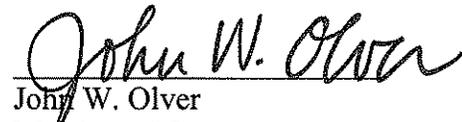
David Wu

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Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Mark Udall
Member of Congress

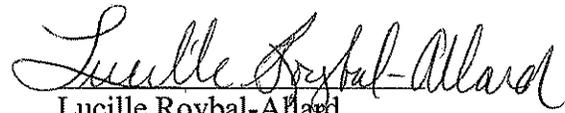

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

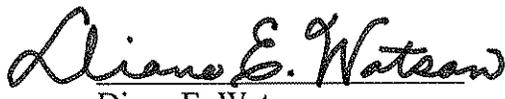

John W. Olver
Member of Congress

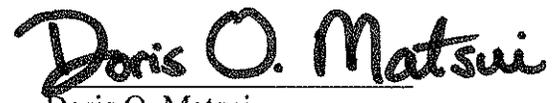

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress


Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress


Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

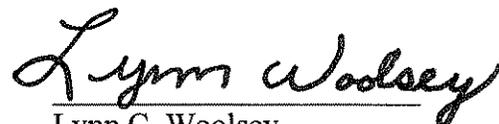

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

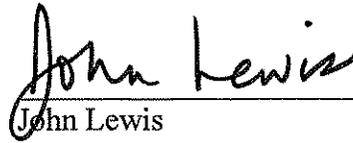

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress


Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



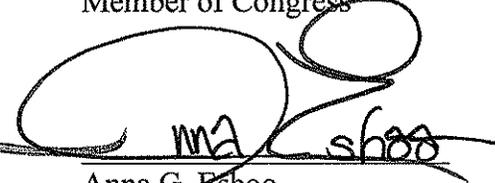
Mark Steven Kirk
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



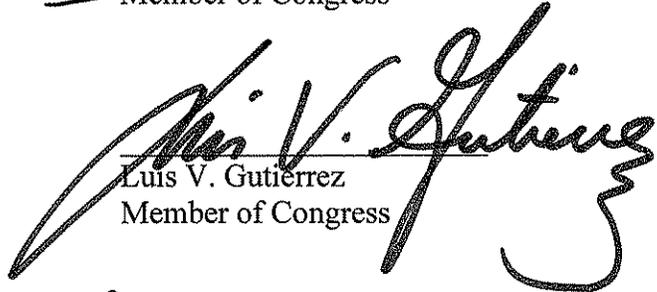
Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



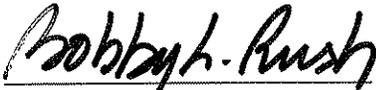
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



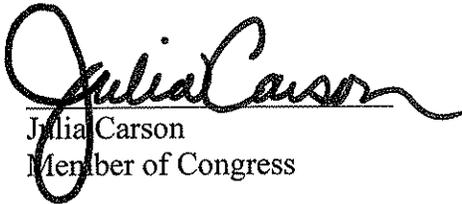
Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



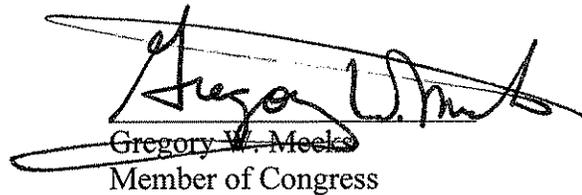
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Julia Carson
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



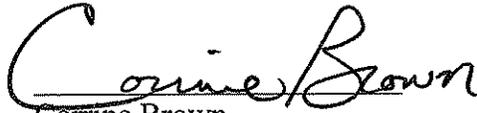
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

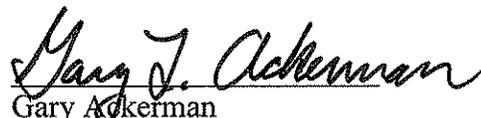

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

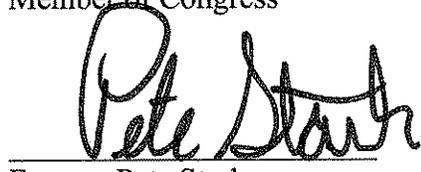

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

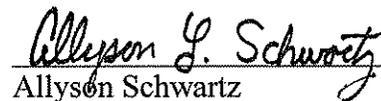

William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress

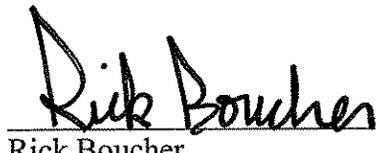

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress


Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress


Michael E. Honda
Member of Congress


Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Rick Boucher
Member of Congress

Judy Biggert

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress