

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Co-Chair
Conference Committee on the FY 2014 Budget
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Co-Chair
Conference Committee on the FY 2014 Budget
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murray and Congressman Ryan,

As you work with your colleagues on the conference committee for the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, we urge you to support policies that prioritize America's seniors and the benefits that they have earned over a lifetime of hard work. While we understand that you and your fellow conferees will have to make difficult decisions to find common ground, we believe that any compromise the conference produces must protect Medicare and Social Security for current and future generations.

In the aftermath of the disgraceful and avoidable government shutdown, you have an opportunity to develop a bipartisan budget that reduces our debt and deficit in a responsible manner. To make good on this opportunity, the conference must reject policy reforms that place Medicare and Social Security benefits on the chopping block. Too often, we hear of proposals to drastically slash benefits provided through these critical programs. These proposals are presented under the guise of fiscal responsibility, but would jeopardize the livelihood and health of the millions of seniors who depend on Social Security and Medicare.

What the conference committee does in the coming weeks will shape the outcome of the FY 2014 budget process. Now is the time to send a clear message to the American people: While arriving at a solution to a budget impasse does require difficult choices, it does not require Americans to surrender their hard-earned benefits.

Medicare and Social Security are central to the health and retirement security of our nation's seniors. Millions of Americans who have paid into these systems are counting on these

investments to be there for them. That is why we urge you and your fellow conferees to support a responsible conference agreement that protects these bedrock promises we have made to our seniors.

We thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope and expect that your deliberations will be successful.

Sincerely,



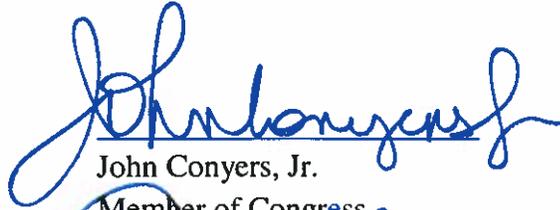
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



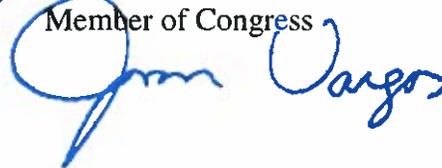
Cheri Bustos
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Lois Frankel
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John Conyers, Jr.
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Juan Vargas
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Ann McLane Kuster
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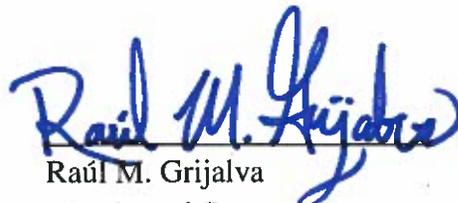
Betty McCollum
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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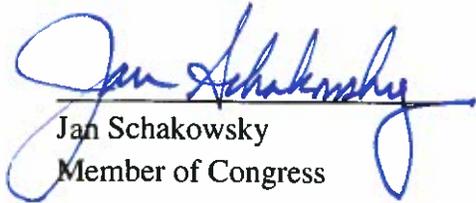
Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

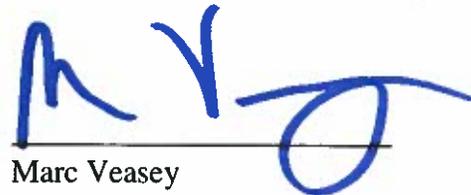


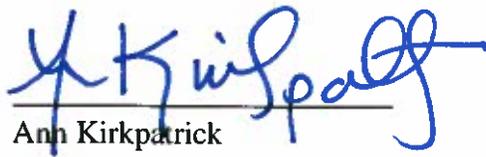
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

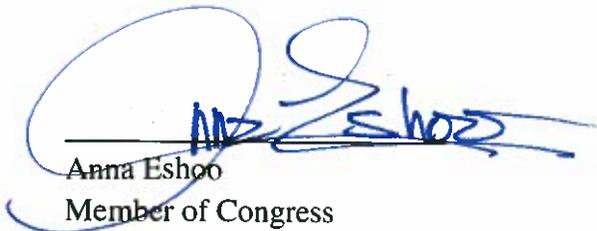

Bruce Braley
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Marc Veasey
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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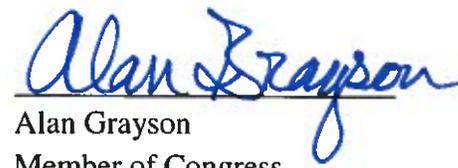

Anna Eshoo
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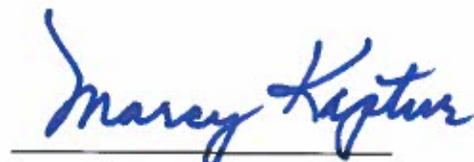

Elijah E. Cummings
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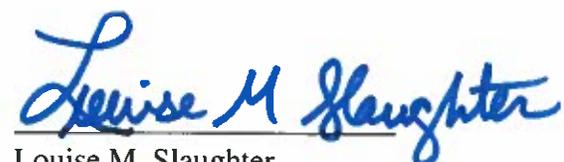

Grace Napolitano
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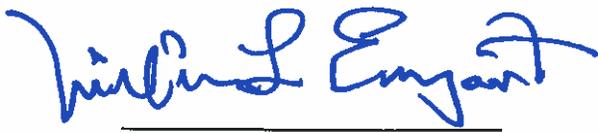

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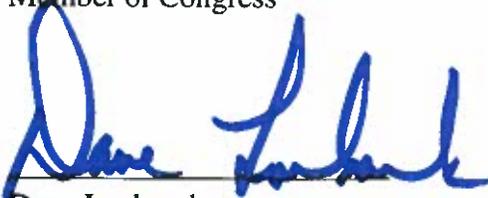
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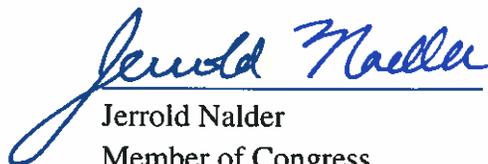
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Marcia L. Fudge

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Raul Ruiz

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

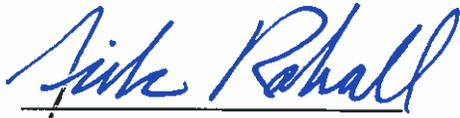
Julia Brownley
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Gary Peters
Member of Congress



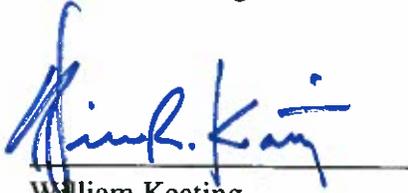
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Nick J. Rahall, II
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Mike Michaud
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William Keating
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Patrick E. Murphy
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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