

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Peter Orszag  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

We respectfully request that you increase international family planning assistance funding in President Obama's budget to \$1 billion, including \$65 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This increase will reverse a decade of inadequate funding and will prevent grave consequences for the health and well-being of women, children and families across the globe for generations.

Since 1995, international family planning funds have declined by 40 percent in real dollars while the number of women of reproductive age in the developing world has increased by 300 million. Today, 200 million women want but lack access to contraceptives, and this demand is projected to rise by 40 percent over the next 15 years. Our request represents the U.S. fair share of the amount necessary to address the existing unmet need for family planning. By doing so, more than 18 million additional women in the developing world would be able to use modern methods of contraception.

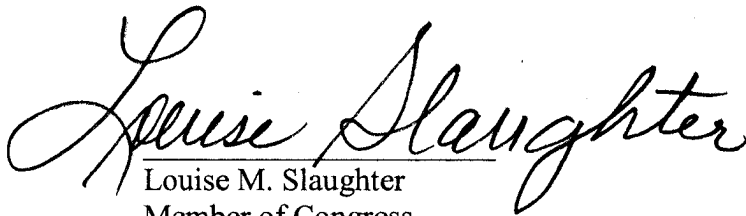
Inadequate funding for international family planning holds grave consequences for the health and well-being of women, families and communities across the globe. More than half a million women die from pregnancy related causes and childbirth complications every year. The vast majority of these preventable deaths occur in the poorest countries in the world where there are limited services to promote safe motherhood and a lack of basic health infrastructure. Further, 50 percent of infant deaths result from poor maternal health and inadequate safe delivery care. Family planning is paramount to turn the tide on maternal and infant mortality.

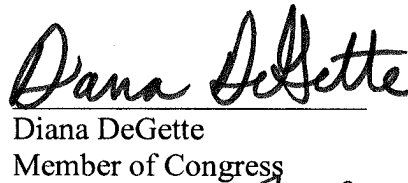
The direct and rippling positive impact of an investment in family planning is clear. Slowing the population's rapid growth will ease pressure on natural resources and decrease emissions that lead to global warming. Given the ability to control the size and spacing of their children, families' standards of living rise and communities are lifted out of cyclical poverty. Family planning encourages social stability in the developing world, which in turn, assures our national security. Access to reproductive health care and family planning is the hallmark in our effort to advance the rights and empowerment of women. All the while from a fiscal standpoint, we know an investment now in family planning holds real cost savings for the American taxpayers' in the future.

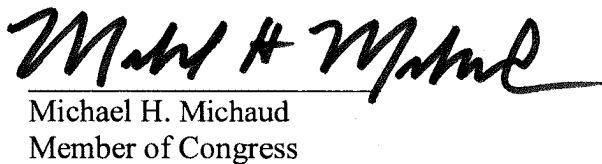
The U.S supports family planning projects in more than fifty developing nations. Each year, these programs help prevent 60 million unplanned births, 105 million abortions and nearly 3 million infant deaths. These projects promote safe motherhood initiatives, combat sexual and gender-based violence, and prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, reducing the risk of mother to child transmission.

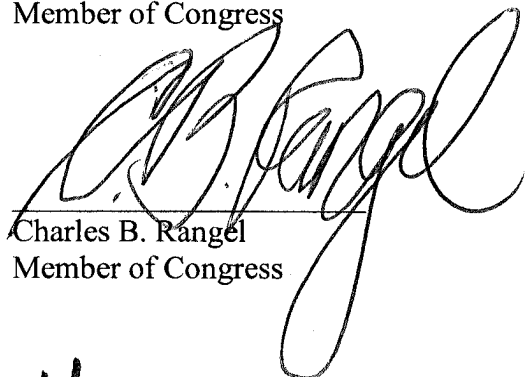
For a healthier world and planet, we firmly support strengthening international family planning programs and urge you to provide one billion dollars for international family planning assistance in the President's Budget. We appreciate your attention to this request.

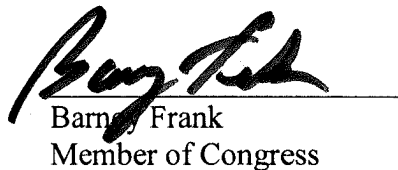
Sincerely,

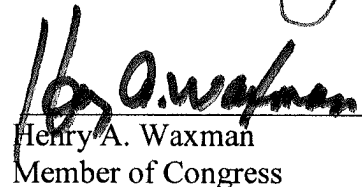
  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

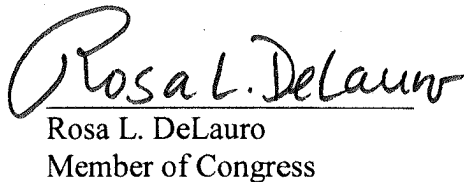
  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

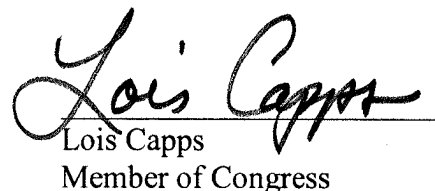
  
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

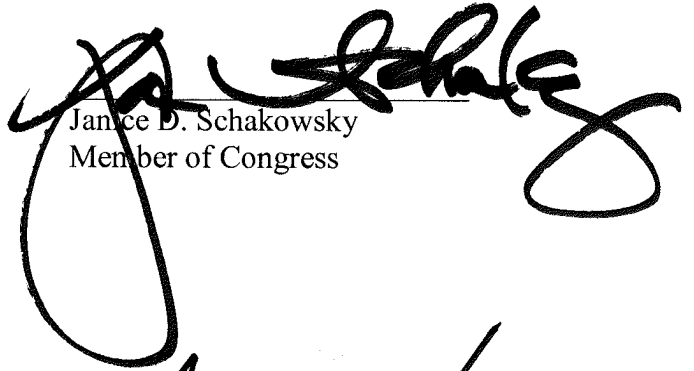
  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



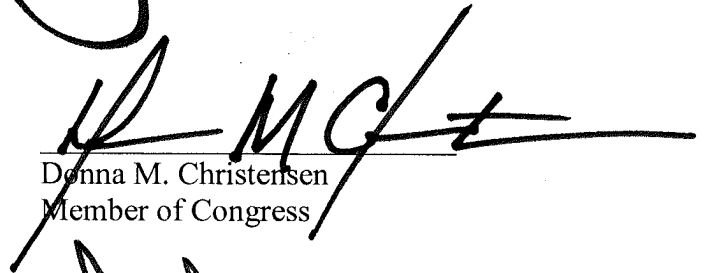
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress




Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



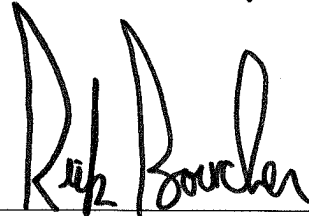
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress



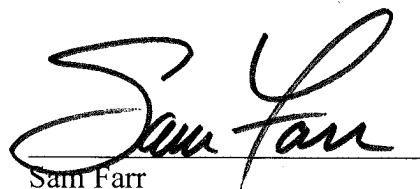
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



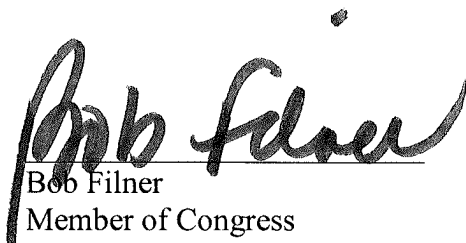
Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress



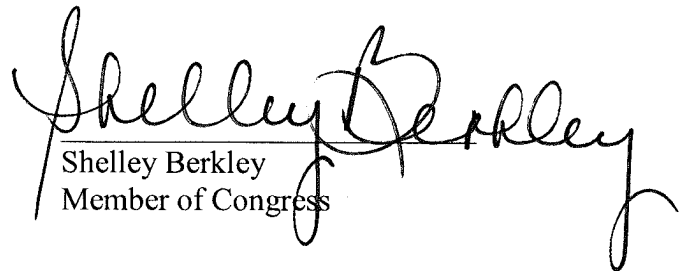
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



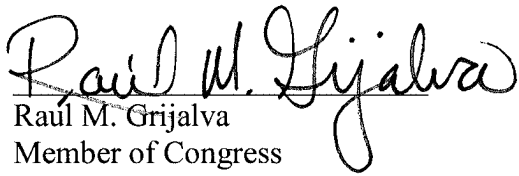
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

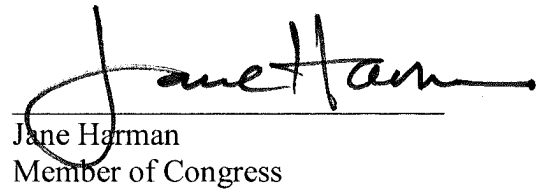


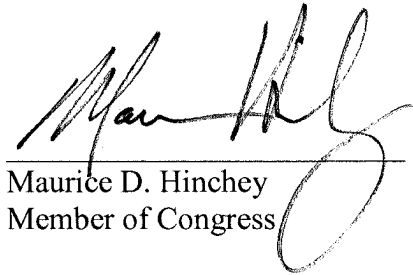
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

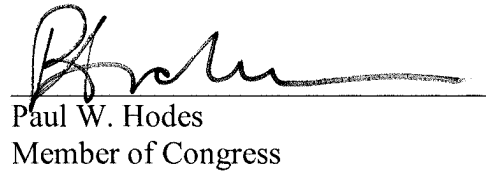



Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress

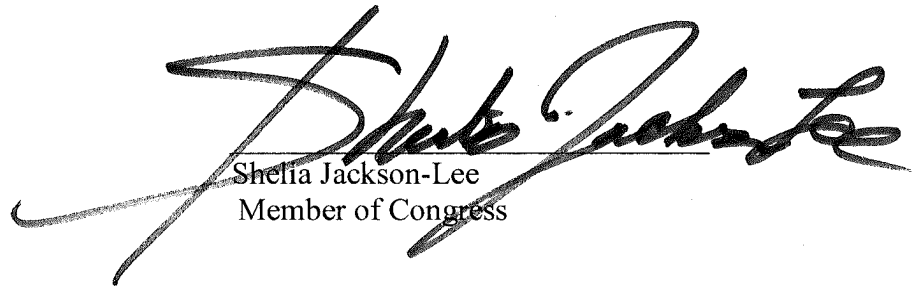
  
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Jane Harman  
Member of Congress

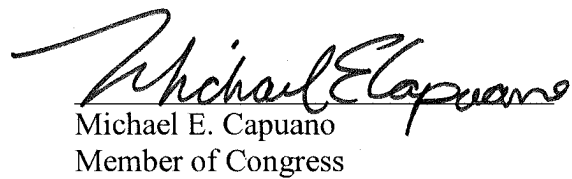
  
Maurice D. Hinchey  
Member of Congress

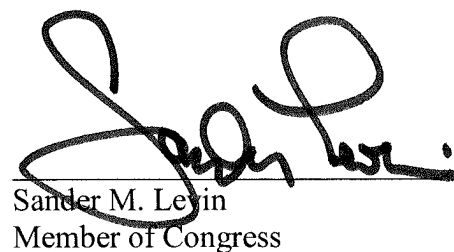
  
Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress

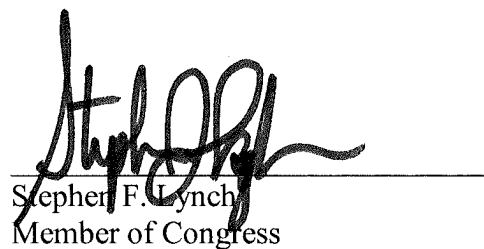
  
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress

  
Shelia Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress

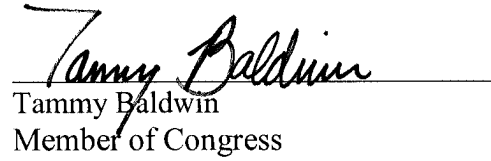
  
Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

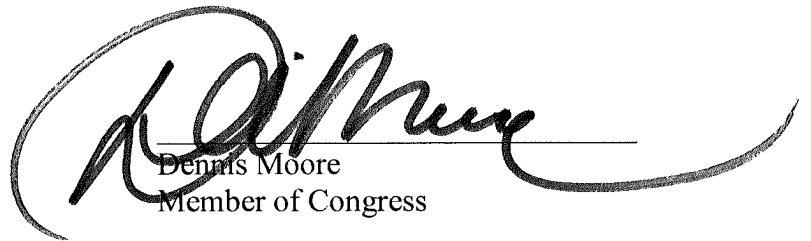
  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

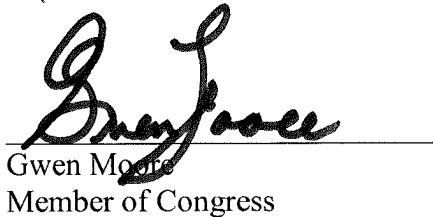
  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

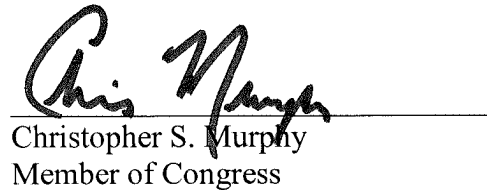
  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

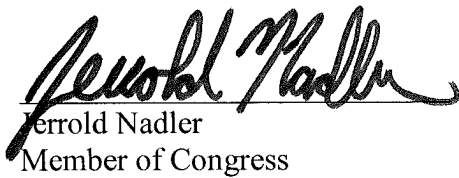
  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

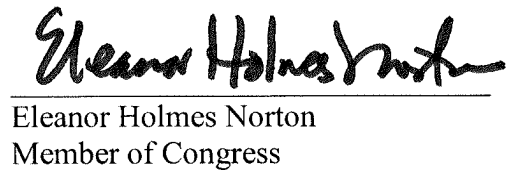
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

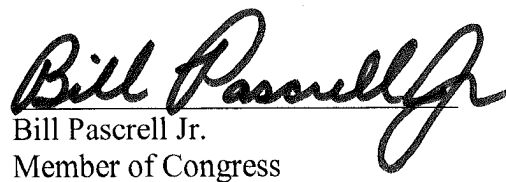
  
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress

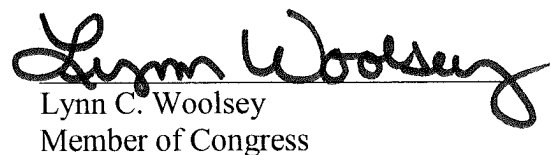
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

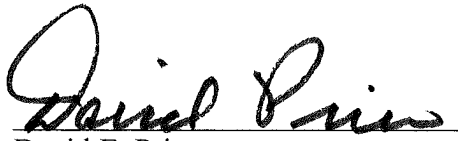
  
Christopher S. Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress

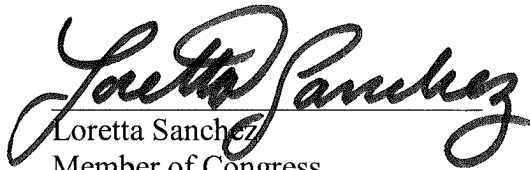
  
Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



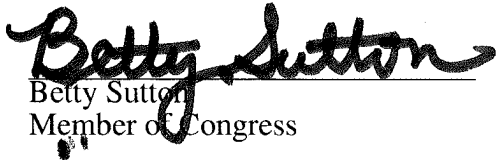
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Eric J.J. Massa  
Member of Congress



Corinne Brown  
Member of Congress

*Mike E. McMahon*

Michael E. McMahon  
Member of Congress

*Gene Green*

Gene Green  
Member of Congress