

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our strong opposition to President Trump's decision to rescind the modest across-the-board statutory pay increases and locality pay increases provided for the hard-working public servants in our federal workforce. We should not abandon our federal workers but rather stand by the 1.9 percent federal pay adjustment that is already included in the bipartisan and Senate-passed Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2019.

The federal government has serious business to conduct, and we must block the President's indefensible attacks on the federal workforce that we count on every day. It is obviously a cruel joke to say that federal workers and their families should suffer in the name of the President's sudden campaign for fiscal responsibility. The President's budget-busting tax bill will increase the deficit by more than \$1.5 trillion over a decade, giving tax breaks to the wealthy while leaving middle class taxpayers behind. If the President wants to "put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course," as he claimed in his letter announcing the pay freeze, he should start with his gargantuan deficit-financed tax giveaway to the wealthy and corporations, and not the hard-won modest benefits of a federal workforce struggling to do their jobs in this unstable environment.

Federal workers have already been required to help reduce the deficit – contributing over \$200 billion towards deficit reduction since 2011. From 2011 through 2013, federal workers experienced a three-year pay freeze. In 2013, more than 750,000 federal employees were furloughed due to sequestration cuts, costing those middle-class families over \$1 billion in lost wages alone. Also, during the 2013 shutdown, upwards of 800,000 federal employees were furloughed indefinitely and another 1.3 million reported for work not knowing when they could expect their next paycheck. From 2014 through 2016, federal employees received raises lower than those required by law.

It is hard to think of another group of Americans that has been asked to give more to reduce the national deficit. We cannot continue to pretend to balance our budget on the backs of the people who process our Social Security checks, keep our airports secure, fight forest fires, promote public health, and protect our homeland. It is plainly wrong to tell millions of our fellow Americans that we can afford lavish tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans but not what amounts to a cost-of-living adjustment for the civil servants who keep the government working.

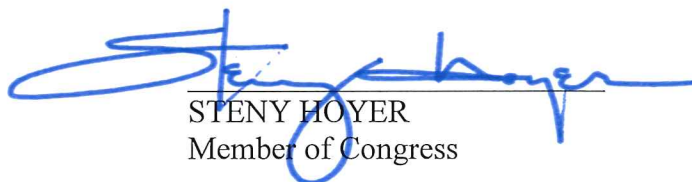
The Trump Administration must end these irrational and draconian cuts to the pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees, just as it must stop attacking the rights of employees to collectively bargain, resolve workplace disputes, and challenge unfair treatment. The men and women that make up our federal workforce are highly skilled and dedicated public servants who love this country. We cannot continue to demoralize them and denigrate their service while expecting national progress.

Please reject the President's proposal and stand with our federal workers by supporting the modest 1.9 percent pay adjustment passed in bipartisan fashion in the Senate.

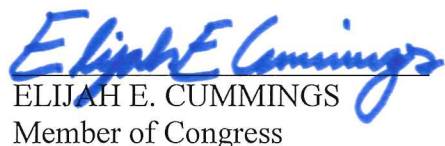
Sincerely,



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



STENY HOYER
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress



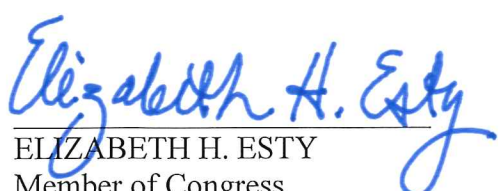
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



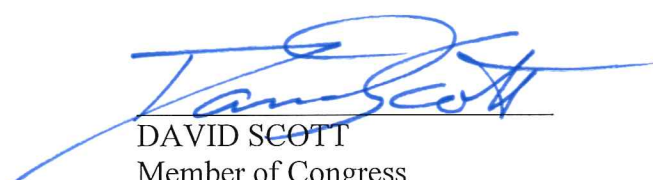
SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



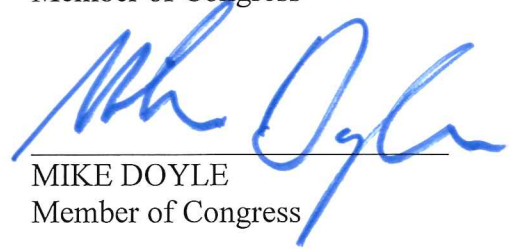
THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



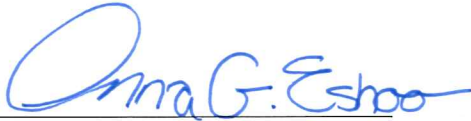
MIKE THOMPSON
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FRANK PALLONE, JR
Member of Congress



MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress



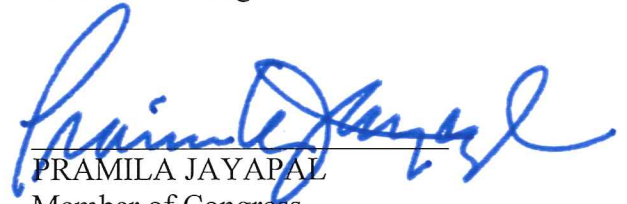
ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



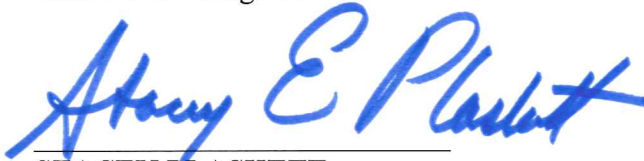
RUBEN J. KIHUEN
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COLLEEN HANABUSA
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DENNY HECK
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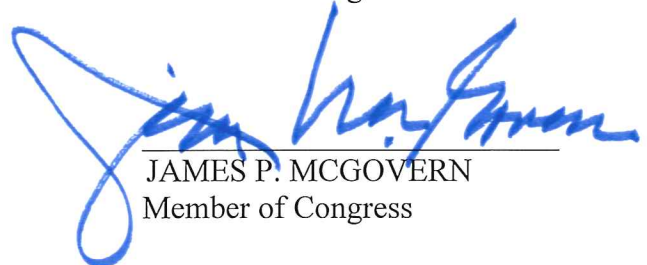
CHARLIE CRIST
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JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



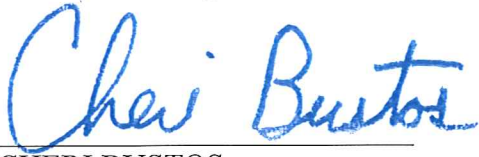
FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

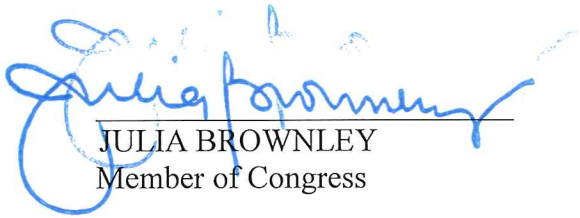


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

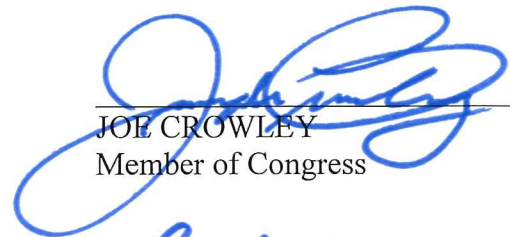

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

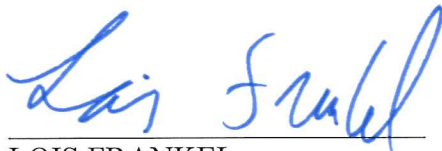

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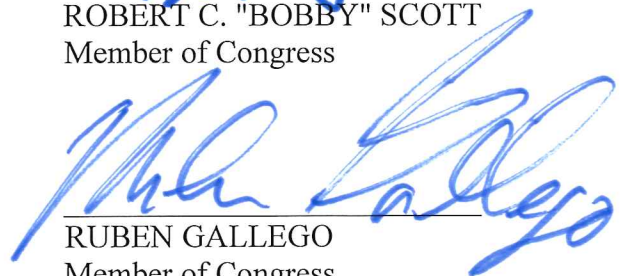

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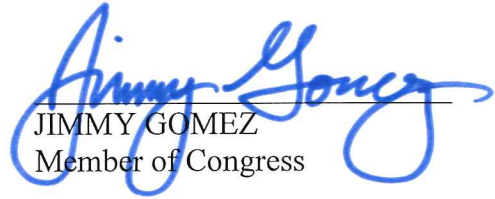

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Member of Congress



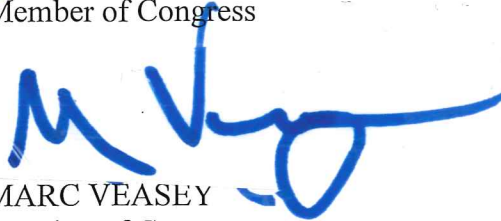
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Member of Congress



MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress



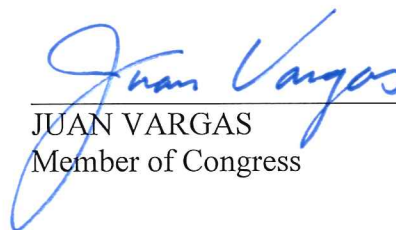
DEREK KILMER
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DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress



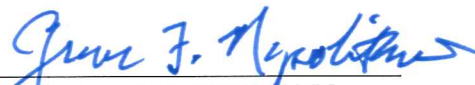
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
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JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



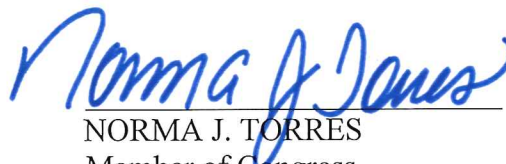
HAKEEM JEFFRIES
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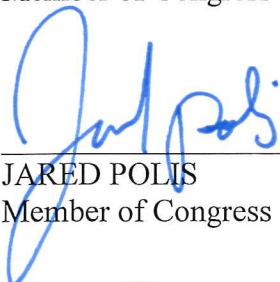
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JARED POLIS
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RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



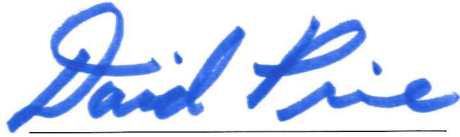
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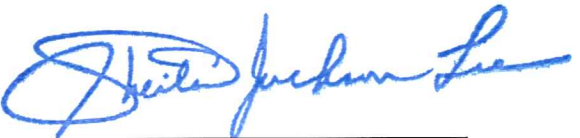

ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress

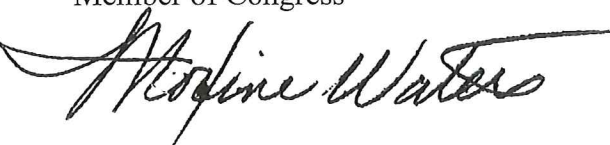

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KEITH ELLISON
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ADAM SMITH
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BARBARA LEE
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PETER WELCH
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Lloyd Doggett

LLOYD DOGGETT
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Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
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Peter J. Visclosky

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez

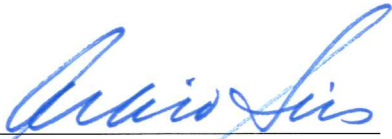
LINDA T. SANCHEZ
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Conor Lamb

CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
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ALBIO SIRES
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ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



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NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



RICHARD M. NOLAN
Member of Congress



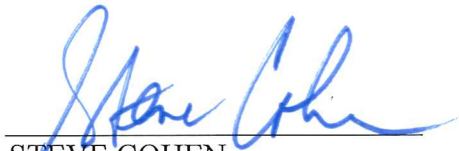
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



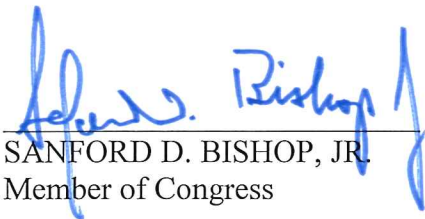
BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



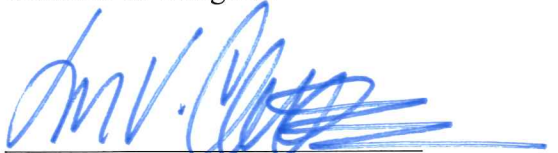
ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
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GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
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ROSA DELAURO
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

Judy Chu

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

JOHN GARAMENDI
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene

SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

FREDERICA S. WILSON
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Theodore E. Deutch

THEODORE E. DEUTCH
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Mike Quigley

MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

BRIAN HIGGINS
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ELIOT L. ENGEL
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Paul D. Tonko

PAUL D. TONKO
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Dina Titus

DINA TITUS
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Jackie Speier

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
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Gene Green

GENE GREEN
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

VAL BUTLER DEMINGS
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack

DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
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Daniel T. Kildee

DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

Tim Walz

TIM WALZ
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas

NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress