Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your long-standing support of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP), an essential resource in our nation's investment in diabetes research, treatment, education, and prevention programs. We write today to ask for your continued commitment to this vital program by ensuring its reauthorization prior to its expiration on December 31, 2026.

Diabetes is one of our country's most expensive diseases in both human and economic terms, affecting people of all ages and races, and in every region of our country. It is a leading cause of kidney disease, adult blindness, lower-limb amputations, heart disease, and stroke. Nearly one in four healthcare dollars and one in three Medicare dollars go toward diabetes care, and diagnosed diabetes cost the United States nearly $413 billion in 2022.

Although the costs and prevalence of diabetes continue to increase, the SDP is making meaningful progress. The SDP comprises two partner components: the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research (SDP) and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). Since the program's inception, both components have delivered critical resources and research breakthroughs for the more than 40 million Americans with diabetes and 115.2 million with prediabetes, as well as their loved ones. It is essential we continue to invest in the research necessary to develop a cure for diabetes, as well as support the programs that help prevent and treat the disease and its complications.

SDPI is one of the most successful programs ever created to reduce the incidence of and complications due to type 2 diabetes. Indian Health Service facilities, Tribal health organization, and Urban Indian Organizations with SDPI grants have seen substantial growth in diabetes prevention resources and a 37 percent reduction in diabetes-related mortality among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). In addition, SDPI decreased new cases of kidney failure by 54 percent in AI/AN adults, resulting in an estimated $520 million in savings to Medicare over ten years, and hospitalizations for uncontrolled diabetes by 84 percent.

Research funded by the program is leading to new insights and treatment options that improve the lives of diabetes patients and accelerate progress toward curing and preventing the disease. In recent years, this funding contributed to landmark research that culminated in the first early, preventive treatment that can delay onset of type 1 diabetes (T1D) in those at high risk of developing the disease. SDP-funded research is also advancing knowledge of how insulin-producing beta cells are lost with T1D and how they can be protected or replaced in

people, which is helping scientists accelerate development of new cell replacement therapies. The SDP has also allowed researchers to continue to make progress in other areas, such as:

- Cell replacement therapies: SDP-supported research helped pave the way for the June 2023 FDA approval of a cellular therapy – islet transplantation – for adults with T1D whose disease cannot be managed using current therapies.

- Therapies to Delay T1D Onset: The SDP enabled the creation of TrialNet, the largest clinical network for T1D, which conducted the clinical trials that supported the 2022 FDA approval of the first disease modifying therapy for T1D, which can delay the disease's progression. Other therapies to delay and ultimately prevent onset are in the research pipeline.

- Artificial Pancreas (AP) Systems: SDP-funded research laid early groundwork for developing AP systems, which have shown the ability to reduce costly and burdensome complications of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those with the disease. SDP funds led to the first automated insulin-dosing system being made available to patients in 2017, some five to seven years earlier than expected. Positive results from clinical trials since then have led to another FDA-approved AP system and next-generation AP devices that have outperformed first-generation devices in adolescents and young adults. According to one study, the use of AP systems in adults could save Medicare roughly $1 billion over 25 years.

- Eye Therapies: SDP-funded research discovered that combining a drug with laser therapy can reverse vision loss in people living with diabetes. The SDP also filled a critical research gap by funding a head-to-head comparison of three drugs for the treatment of diabetic eye disease. In the SDP era, diabetic eye disease rates have decreased by more than 50 percent for the AI/AN population, resulting in a reduction of vision loss and blindness.

- Environmental Factors Influencing T1D: Researchers recently completed a groundbreaking 15-year study to determine what environmental factors influence the onset of T1D. Researchers are continuing to compile and analyze the collected data and samples to identify specific triggering factors and new strategies to prevent the initial onset of the disease.

These are only a few of the many groundbreaking discoveries made possible by the SDP. New technology, therapies, and data sets are improving the lives of the 137 million Americans living with or at risk of developing diabetes, while also greatly reducing the long-term healthcare expenditures related to its complications. According to a 2025 study, advances supported by SDP-funded research have generated an estimated $50 billion in federal healthcare cost savings through improved diabetes management. Long-term, sustained investment in this program would provide the stability researchers need to continue large-scale trials, conduct outreach and education, and determine where best to allocate resources – all of which play an important role in helping to better treat, prevent, and ultimately cure diabetes.

We thank you for your support of the SDP and SDPI in the February funding package, which increased funding to the highest level in program history, reflecting the programs' value to the American people. Congress has reauthorized these programs with bipartisan support on a regular basis since the programs' inception in 1997.

The researchers and clinicians who deliver the programs' benefits require stable, predictable funding to maximize their contributions to the diabetes community. We greatly appreciate your recognition of these considerations. A multi-year extension of SDP beyond December 2026 will continue the program's momentum and provide renewed hope for the diabetes community.

We urge you to support a multi-year extension of SDP and SDPI and look forward to working with you to ensure the SDP can continue to support Americans living with or at risk of developing diabetes.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

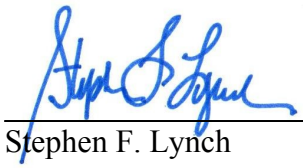
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

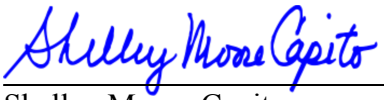
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



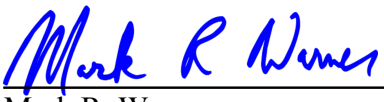
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



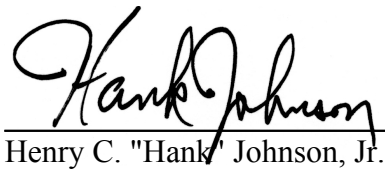
María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



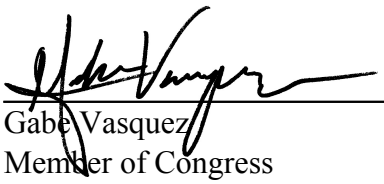
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



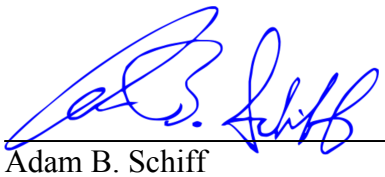
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



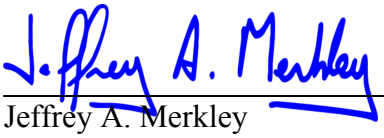
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



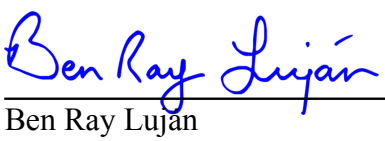
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



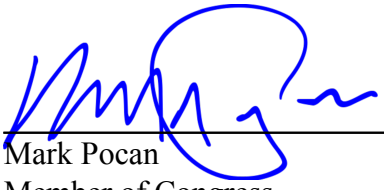
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



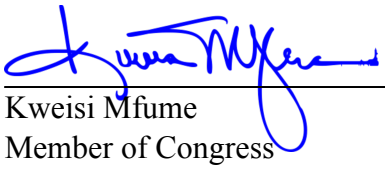
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



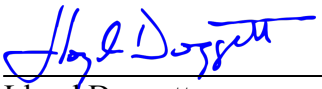
Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



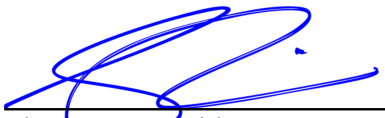
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



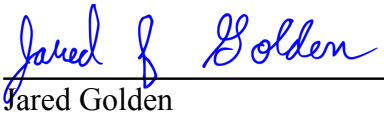
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



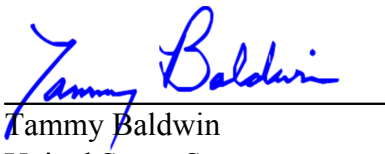
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



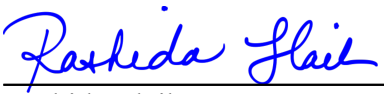
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



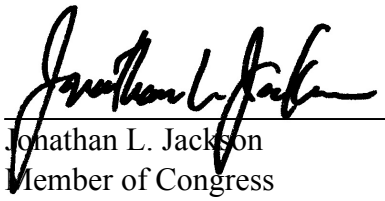
Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



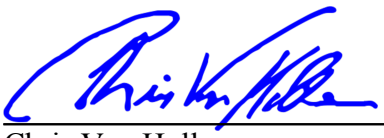
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



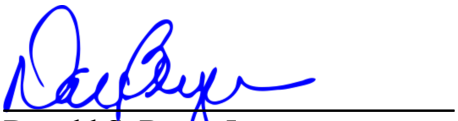
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



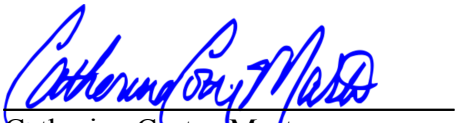
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



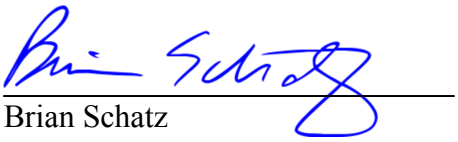
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



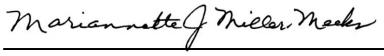
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



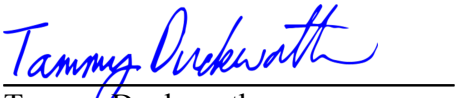
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



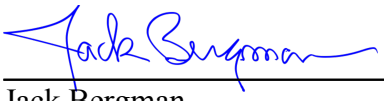
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



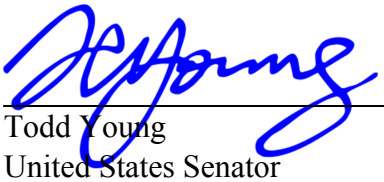
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



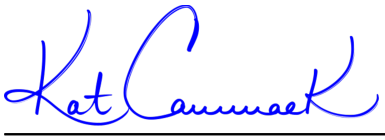
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



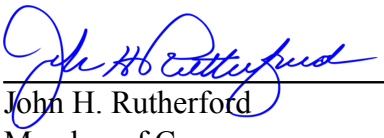
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Todd Young
United States Senator



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



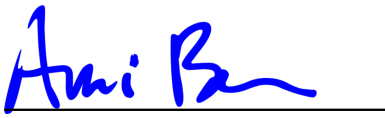
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



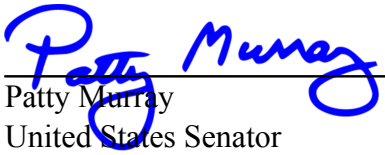
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



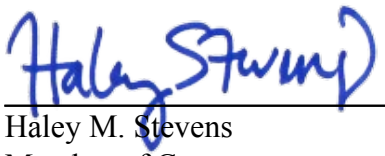
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



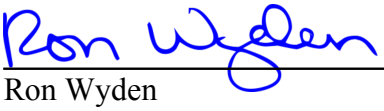
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress

Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress

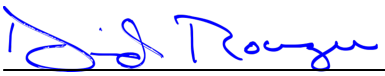
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Tina Smith
United States Senator

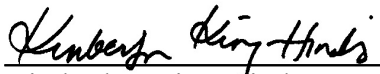
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



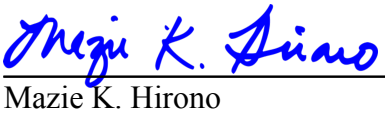
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



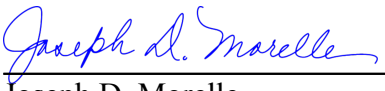
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



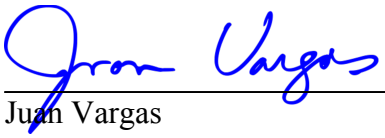
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



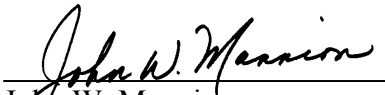
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



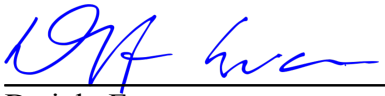
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



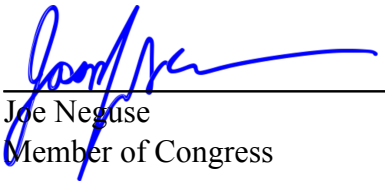
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



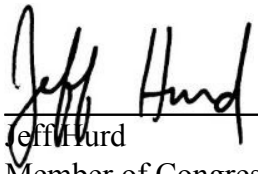
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



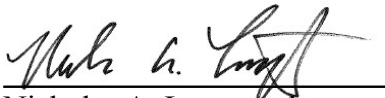
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress

Diana Harshbarger, Pharm.D.
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

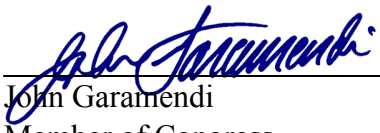
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



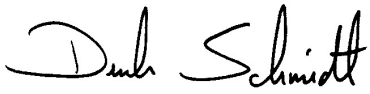
Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



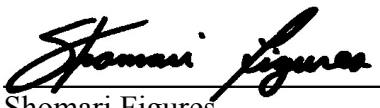
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ed Case
Member of Congress



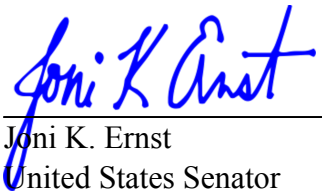
Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



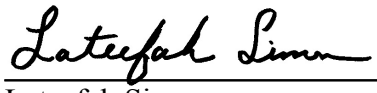
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



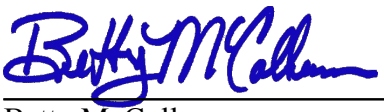
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Mike Flood
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress

Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Tim Moore
Member of Congress

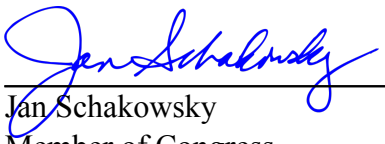
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



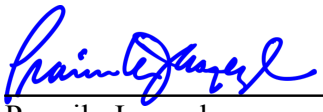
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



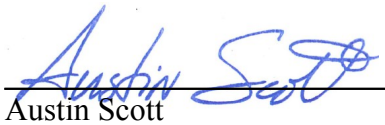
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



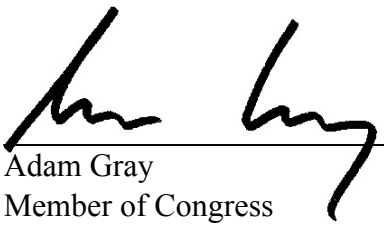
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



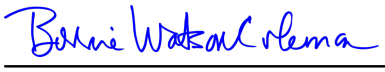
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



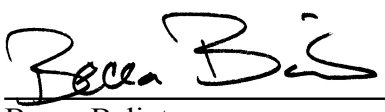
Adam Gray
Member of Congress



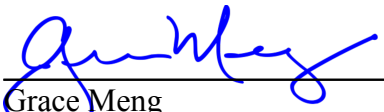
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



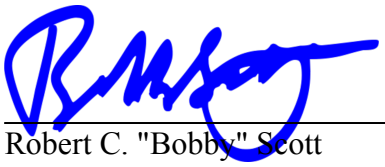
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



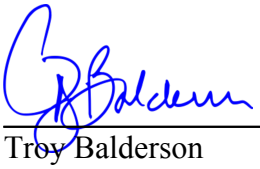
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



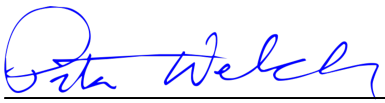
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator