

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Blackburn:

We write to you as members of Congress who are deeply concerned with the way the Select Panel is conducting itself, specifically in its recent attempts to investigate how researchers acquire fetal tissue.

As you may know, after more of than two months of reviewing the joint inquiry, a grand jury in Texas recently cleared Planned Parenthood of any wrongdoing. Instead, the grand jury indicted two of the anti-abortion activists from the Center for Medical Progress for felonies committed in the course of making hidden-camera videos. Despite continued and repeated affirmation that Planned Parenthood broke no laws and did nothing wrong, the Select Investigative Panel has continued to endanger healthcare providers and patients with its extreme rhetoric claiming that Planned Parenthood is selling baby parts.

Equally concerning are the investigations into scientists doing research that uses fetal tissue. We are particularly concerned by the recent reports that the select panel had issued 11 subpoenas to medical supply companies and laboratories that will seek the names of researchers, graduate students, laboratory technicians, and administrative personnel involved with fetal tissue research. This misuse of subpoena power is clearly aimed at not only stopping the progress of crucial medical research, but personally intimidating the scientists who are engaged in this life-saving work.

As members of Congress who understand the importance of medical research and on behalf of the millions of Americans who are waiting for the cures to Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, and the many other diseases awaiting a cure, we feel compelled to condemn these dangerous tactics. This body has spent more than enough taxpayer money doing the bidding of the National Republican Congressional Committee. It is clear that this Panel serves no other purpose than to carry out politically-motivated attacks on Planned Parenthood and it should be dissolved immediately.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Sam Farr

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

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Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

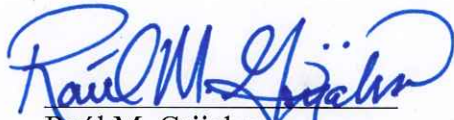
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



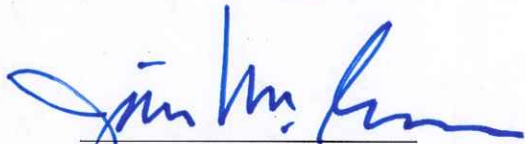
Eliot L. Engel
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



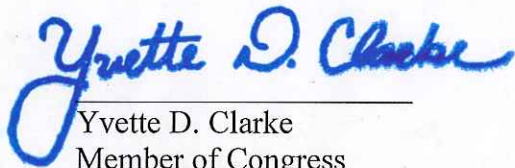
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



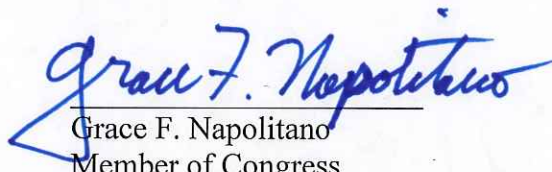
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



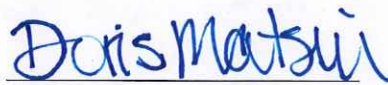
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



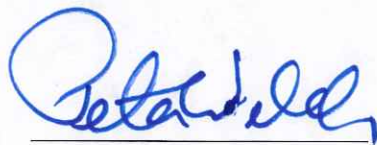
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



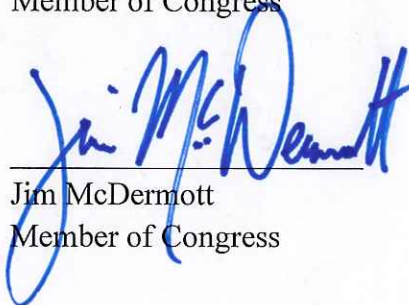
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



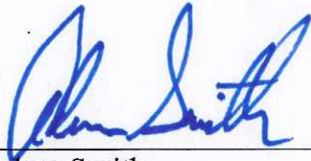
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



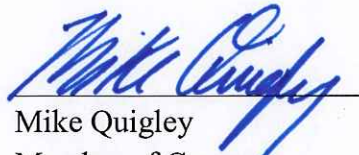
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



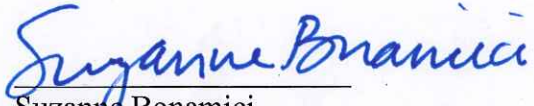
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress




Adam Smith
Member of Congress



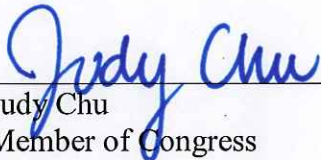
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



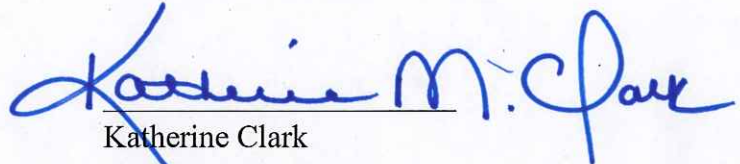
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



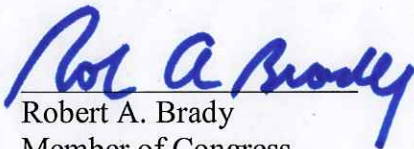
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



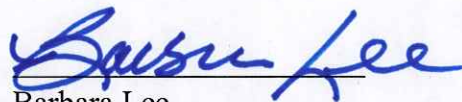
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



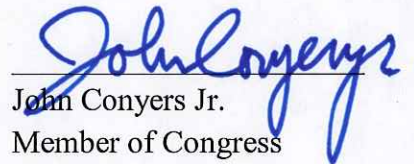
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



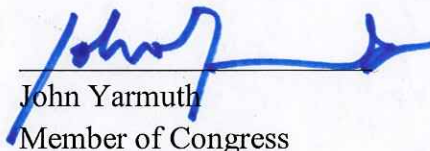
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



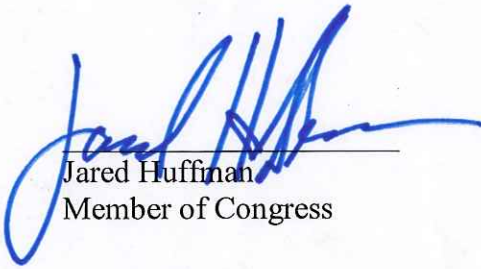
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



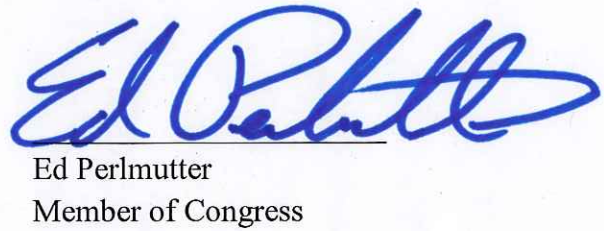
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



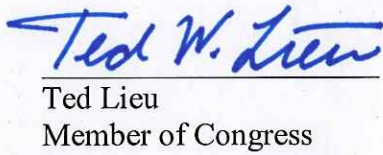
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



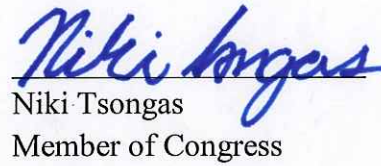
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress




Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



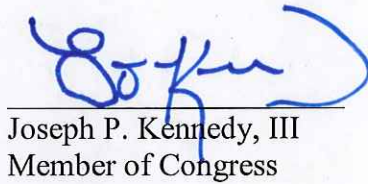
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



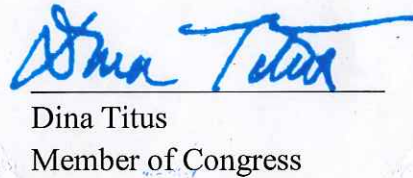
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



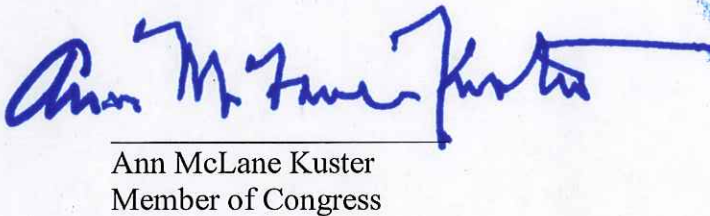
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



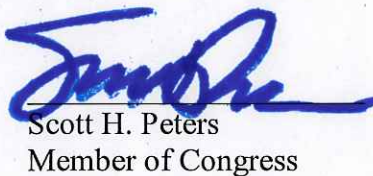
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



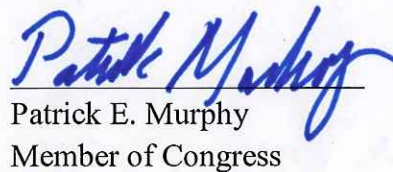
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



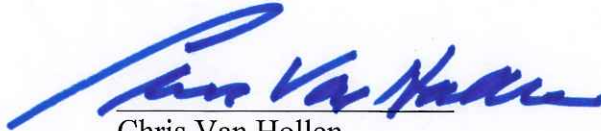
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



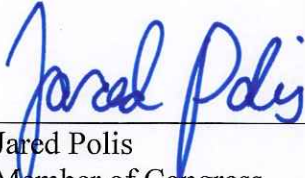
Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



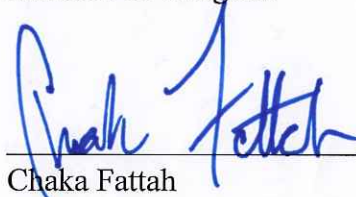
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



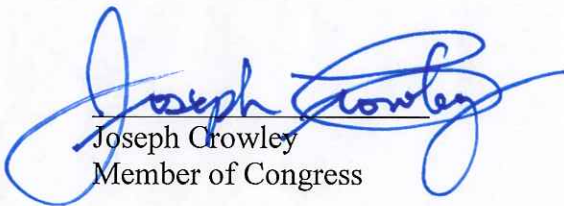
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



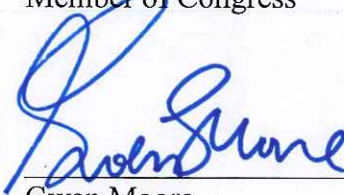
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



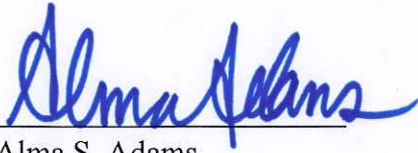
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



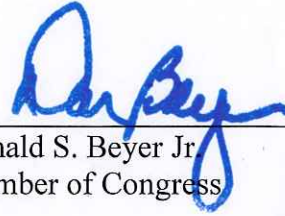
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



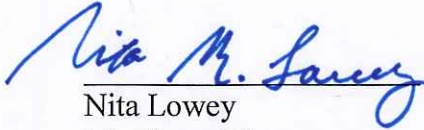
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



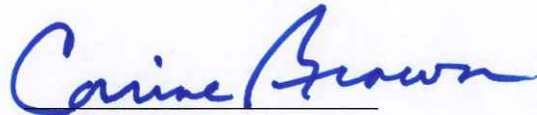
Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



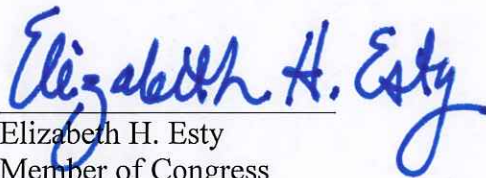
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



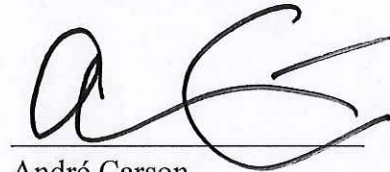
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



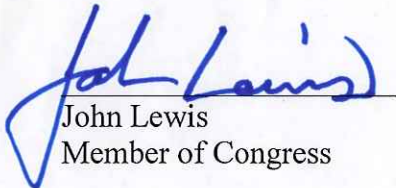
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



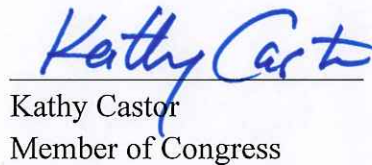
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



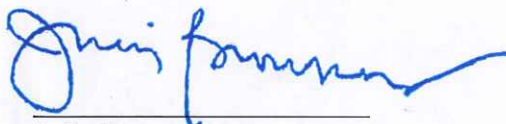
André Carson
Member of Congress



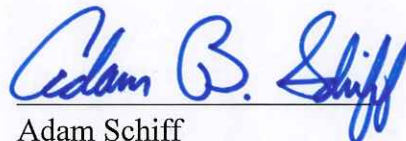
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



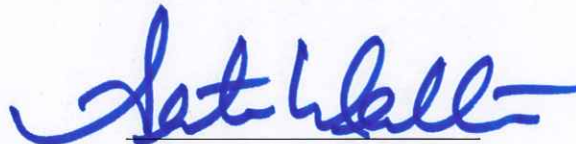
Julia Brownley
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Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



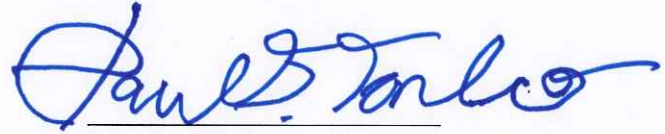
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



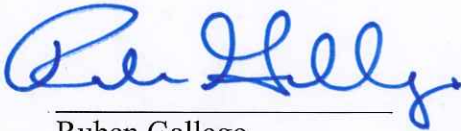
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



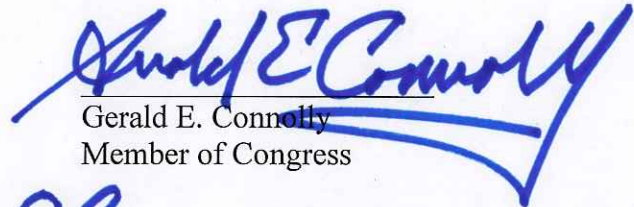
Donald Norcross
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Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



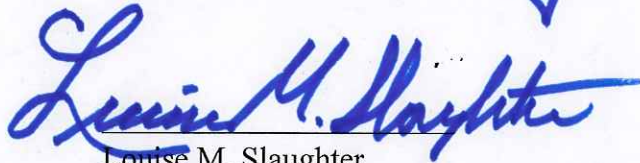
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



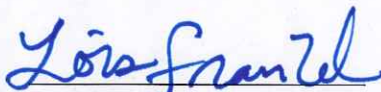
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



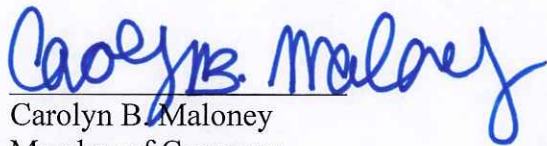
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress