

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

December 20, 2017

Mick Mulvaney, Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

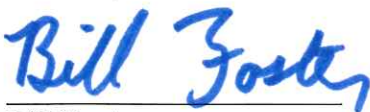
We write to express our concerns about recent reports that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to remove certain words and phrases from its budget documents. We are troubled by the potential impact on the CDC's ability to fulfill its mandate to protect public health, as well as Congress's ability to set budget priorities and review accurate budget documents.

If, as reported, the CDC has been instructed to remove language including "evidence-based," "science-based," "vulnerable," "entitlement," "transgender," "fetus," and "diversity" from its budget requests and supporting materials, this raises serious concerns about the ability of the CDC to carry out its mission to defend the health of all Americans. The work that the CDC and the rest of HHS do is too important to ask that the budget requests for critical public and global health programs be censored just because certain terms make the Administration uncomfortable.

Furthermore, we are also deeply troubled by the implications for Congress's ability to fulfill its responsibility and prerogative to provide funding for government programs if there are inaccurate presentations in agency budget requests. Congress must have access to clear, accurate budget requests that do not obscure the nature of programs. Arbitrary and politically motivated changes to language pose a great risk to that process.


We urge you to retract any directive to eliminate particular phrases from the CDC's budget requests and refrain from making similar directives in the future. It is in America's best interest to ensure that the CDC and all agencies are able to fulfill their missions without political obstruction or censorship.


Sincerely,



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

CC: Eric D. Hargan, Acting Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services  
Brenda Fitzgerald, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention


  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress


  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

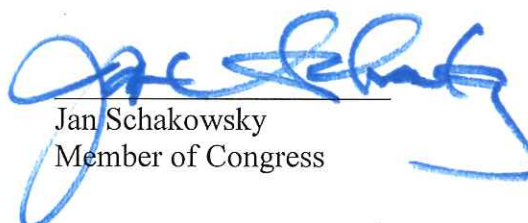
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress


  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress


  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

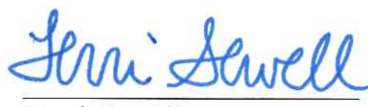
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

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

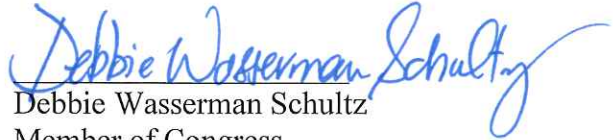
  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



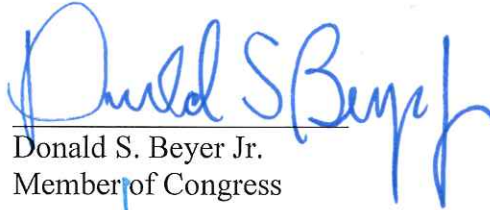
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



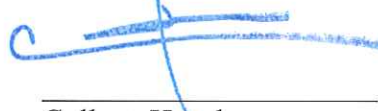
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



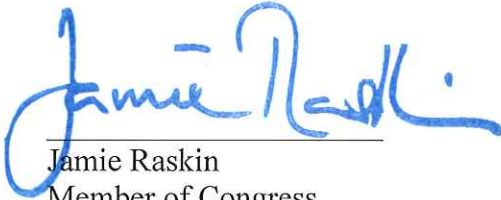
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



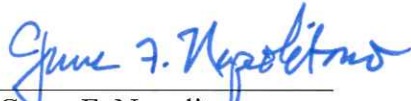
Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

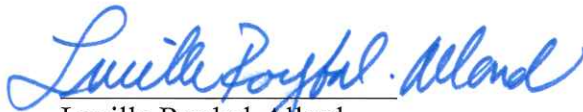


André Carson  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress





Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



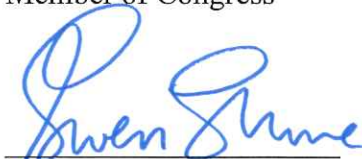
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress




Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



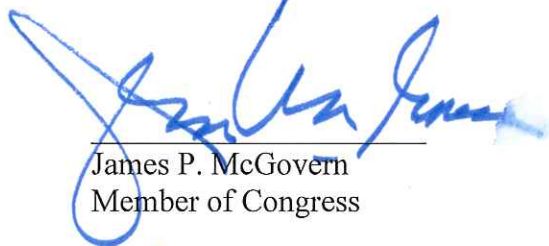
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



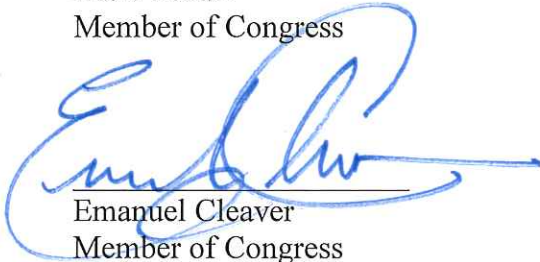
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



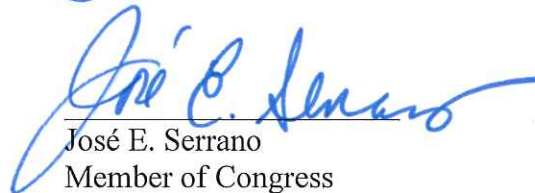
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



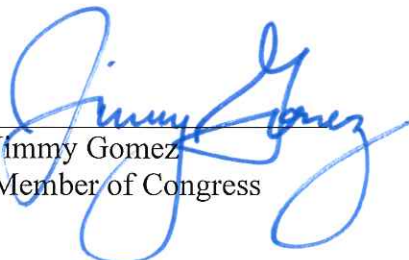
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



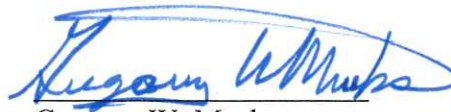
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

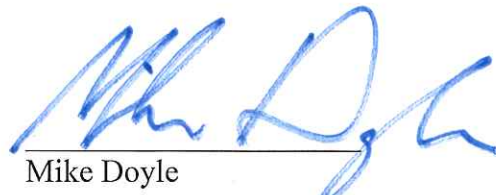


Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

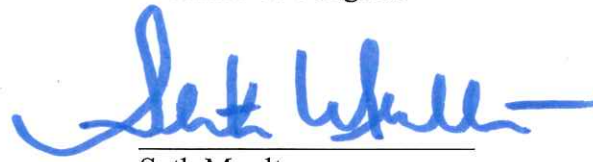


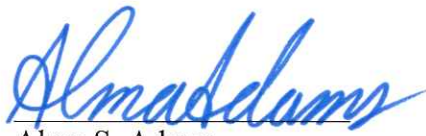
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

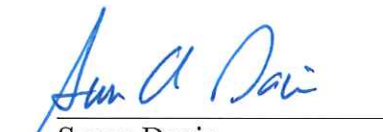
  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

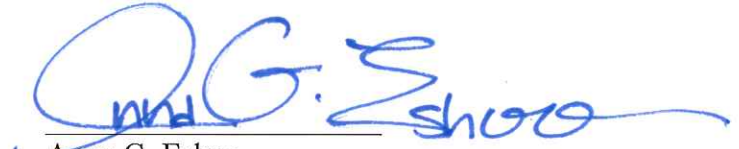
  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress


  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

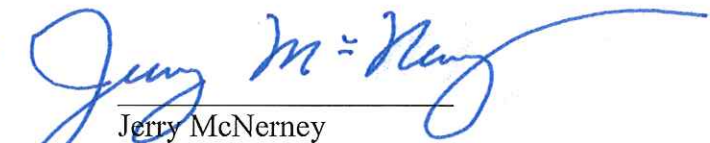
  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress


  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress


  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress


  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress


  
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress


  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress


  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress


  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress


  
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

  
David Price  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

  
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress