

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
*Chair, Consumer Protection
and Commerce*
Environment and Climate Change
Oversight and Investigations

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

SENIOR CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

May 1, 2019

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GLENVIEW, IL 60025
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Fax: 847-328-3425

Acting Commissioner Nancy A. Berryhill
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Dear Commissioner Berryhill,

We are dismayed that the Social Security Administration has pursued anti-labor policies in contract negotiations with the union representing its 45,000 employees, the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE).

We are deeply concerned that the Social Security Administration may have deliberately precipitated a breakdown in negotiations by insisting on proposals that are both extreme and similar in anti-union tone to certain provisions of Executive Orders 13836, 13837, and 13839. They include:

- 1) eviction of the union from its tiny offices in SSA buildings;
- 2) confiscation of all computers, laptops and printers used by employees in their representational duties; and
- 3) denying employees, in their capacity as union representatives, the ability to assist other employees on work time unless management agrees in advance to allow them to do so.


Such extreme proposals make it appear that the Social Security Administration is seeking to circumvent the order of the United States District Court, that enjoined many provisions of the Executive Orders.

We insist that the Social Security Administration return to the bargaining table and resume collective bargaining with the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE) Social Security employees. If implemented by SSA, these proposals will diminish labor protections and the collective bargaining rights that Congress intended, and will have a severe, destabilizing effect on agency operations and employee morale and SSA's ability to deliver timely and efficient services to the elderly and persons with disabilities.

We strongly urge SSA to return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair labor contract in good faith with the American Federation of Government Employees. We look forward to hearing from you soon as to what actions SSA is taking to ensure its compliance with the District Court's order and a plan to return the parties to the bargaining table for bona fide good faith bargaining.

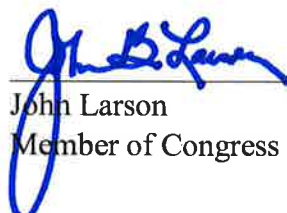
Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

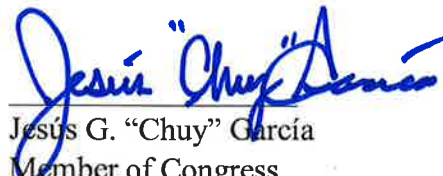

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

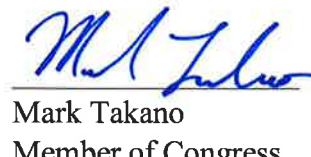

John Larson
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

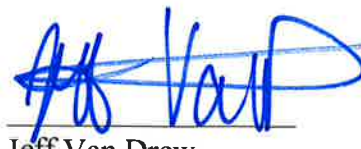

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

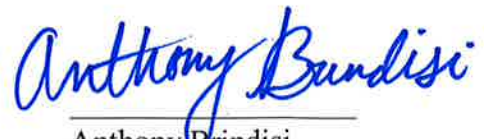

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress

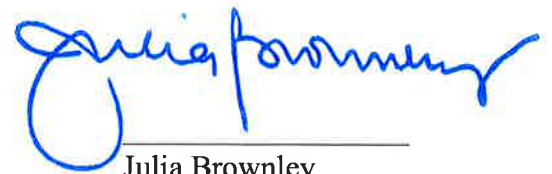

Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress


Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

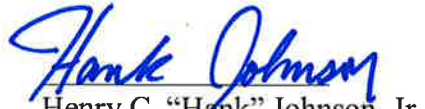

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress

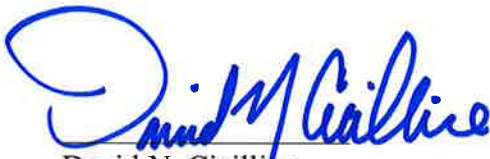

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



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


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

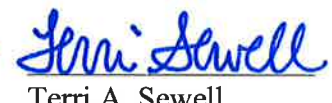

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

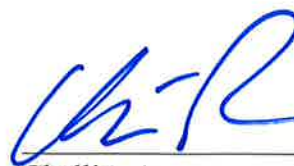

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

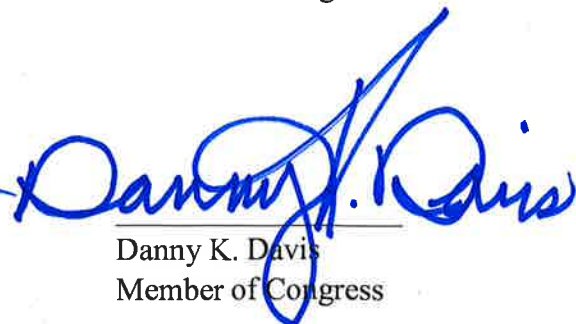

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Katie Hill

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Katie Porter

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Barragan
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress


Dina Titus


Dina Titus
Member of Congress


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress


Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

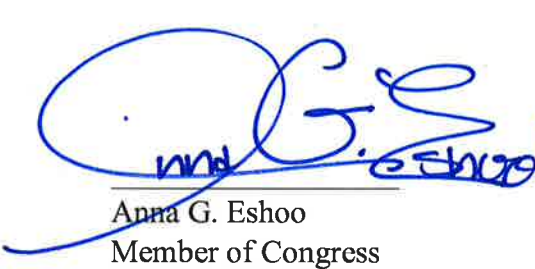

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Thomas Suozzi
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

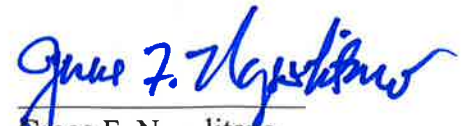

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress


Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

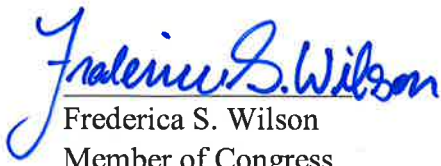
 

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



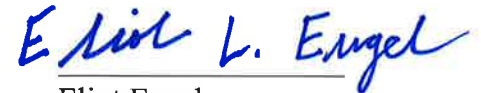
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress




Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

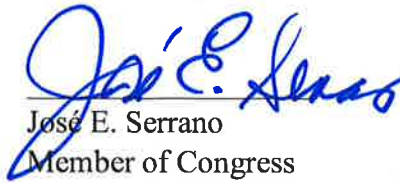


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

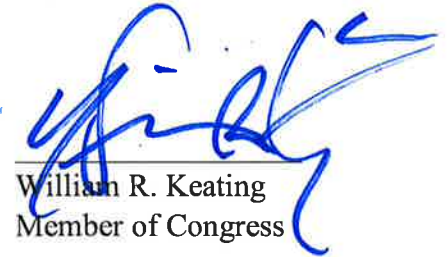
Bill Foster
Member of Congress




José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



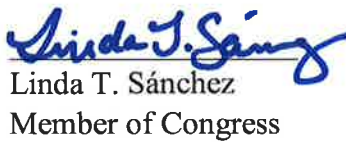
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



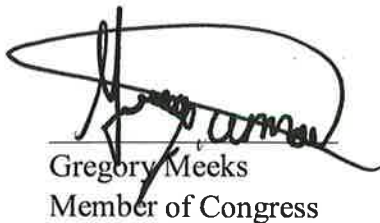
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



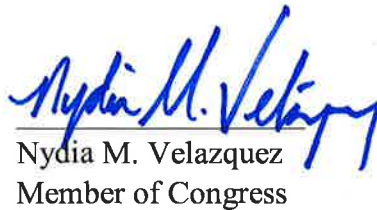
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



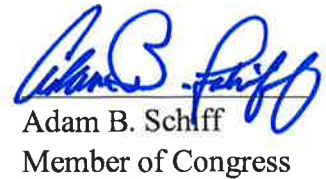
Don Young
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress



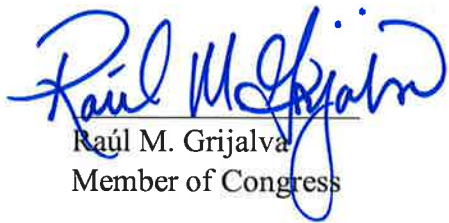
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



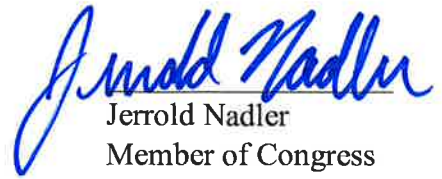
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



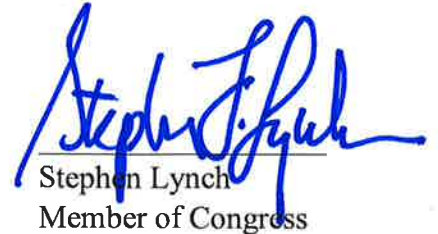
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



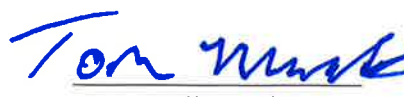
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



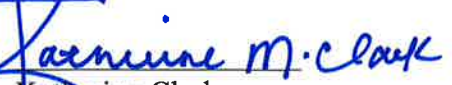
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



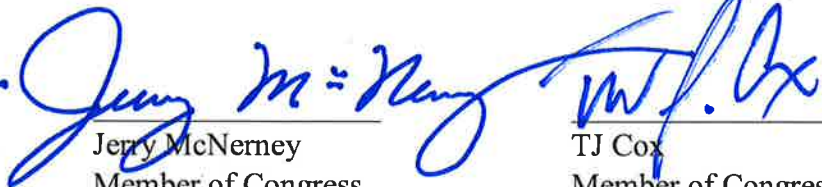
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

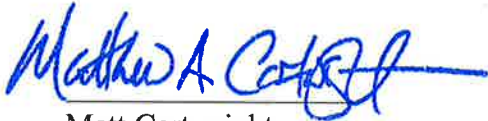


A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress




Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

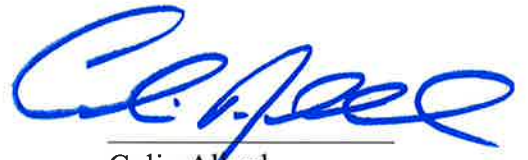
TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Colin Allred
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress