

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

May 16, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-237 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

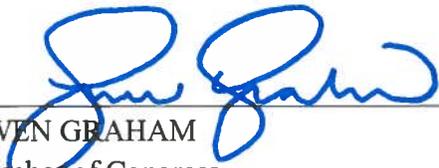
We write to you today to express our extreme concern over the increasing threat posed by the Zika virus. As you know, there are significant challenges associated with combating Zika, and we must act swiftly to ensure that we have all of the necessary tools at our disposal, including robust funding to support research and response efforts. That is why we support the administration's full request of \$1.9 billion in emergency appropriations to combat this international public health threat. We strongly urge you to bring such legislation to the floor.

In recent months, it has become evident that we do not have a comprehensive understanding of the Zika virus—how it works and what its immediate and long-term health implications are. As it continues to spread, it is imperative that we make immediate, sustained investments in research that, hopefully, will yield a Zika vaccine, diagnostic method and guide our continued response strategy. We are encouraged by the research being done across the country, including in many of our districts, but there is still much we do not understand. Until we have these answers, we must prioritize robust funding for Zika research.

Zika has spread rapidly in other parts of the world and we are seeing the same pattern here in the U.S. There are at least 503 reported cases of Zika in the U.S. to date and at least 701 reported cases in U.S. territories. Among these, pregnant women account for 113 cases. This number will continue to rise until Congress acts. Given the neonatal neurological implications of this virus, it is unconscionable to further delay action on this very critical issue.

We must not underestimate just how destructive invasive pests and diseases can be. We are gravely concerned about the implications of this virus and, for this reason, research and response efforts have our full and steadfast support. We urge you to give this your full and fast consideration and ask that you bring to the floor legislation to provide \$1.9 billion in emergency appropriations for Zika.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GWEN GRAHAM  
Member of Congress



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GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress



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JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress



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DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress



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PATRICK MURPHY  
Member of Congress



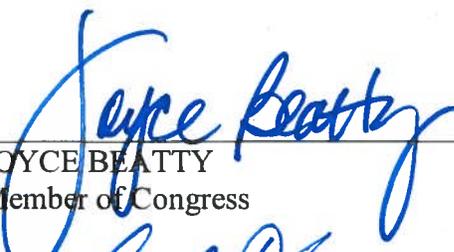
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FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress



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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



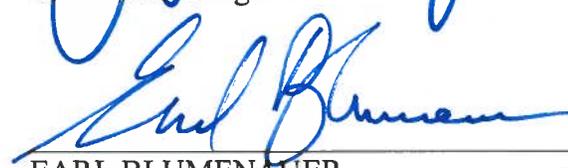
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JOYCE BEATTY  
Member of Congress



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AMI BERA  
Member of Congress



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EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



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CHERI BUSTOS  
Member of Congress



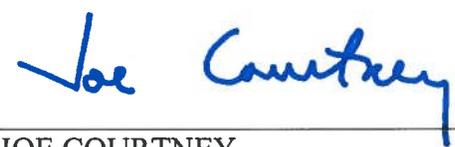
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KATHY CASTOR  
Member of Congress



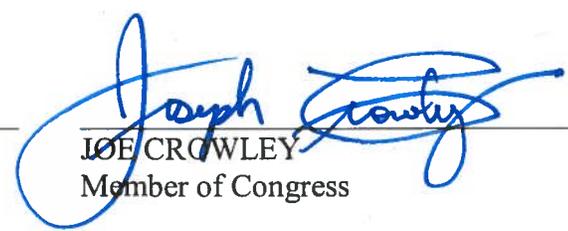
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KATHERINE CLARK  
Member of Congress



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JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



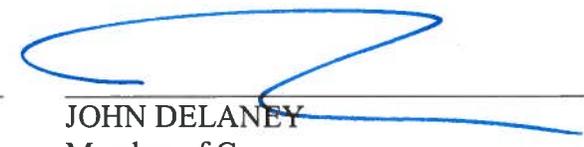
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JOE CROWLEY  
Member of Congress



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SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



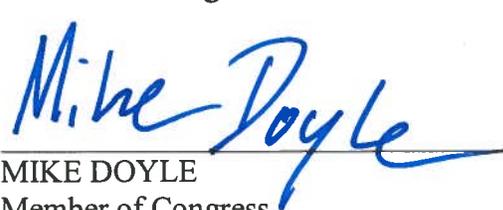
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JOHN DELANEY  
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MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress



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MIKE DOYLE  
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL  
Member of Congress



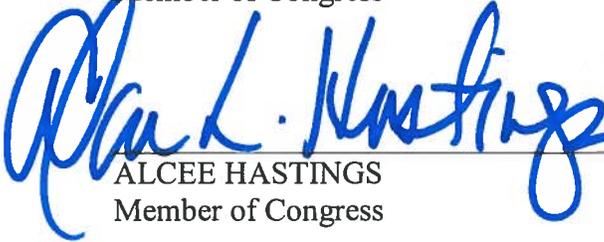
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KYRSTEN SINEMA  
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*Niki Tsongas*

NIKI TSONGAS  
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CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
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*Juan Vargas*

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*Peter Welch*

PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress

*Pete Aguilar*

PETE AGUILAR  
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LOIS FRANKEL  
Member of Congress



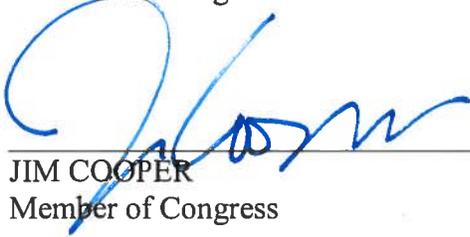
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DON BEYER  
Member of Congress



JIM COOPER  
Member of Congress



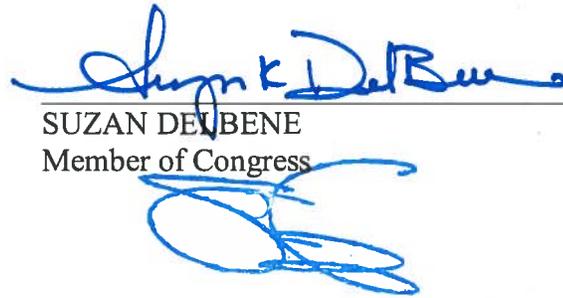
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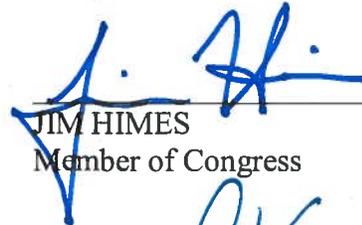


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Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
Member of Congress



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STEVE COHEN  
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NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ  
Member of Congress



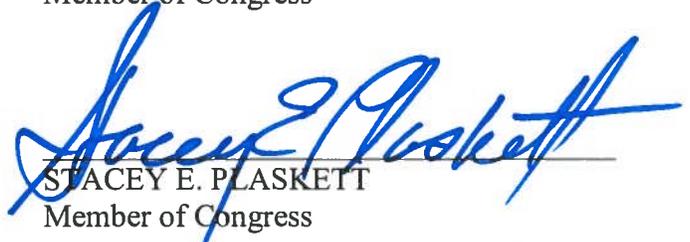
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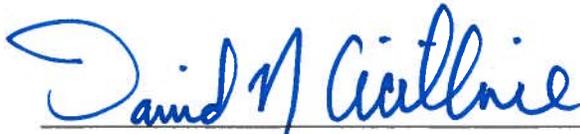
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BRIAN HIGGINS  
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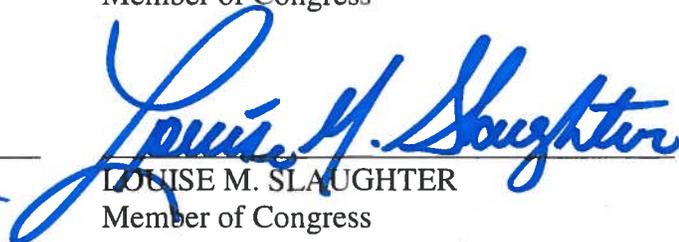
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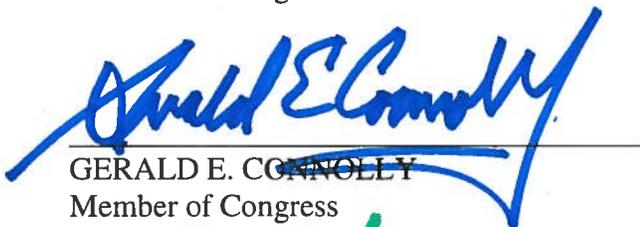
  
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress

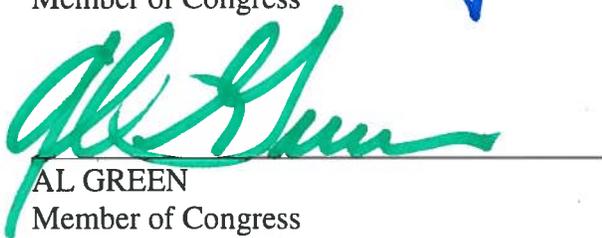
  
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GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
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