

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip, U.S. Senate
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leaders McCarthy and McConnell, and Majority Whip Cornyn:

As you know, on Monday, January 25th, 2016, a Texas grand jury exonerated Planned Parenthood and instead, indicted the creators of highly edited, deceptive videos designed to undermine our nation's largest provider of women's health care on felony charges of tampering with government records. In addition to the Texas grand jury, twelve other states have concluded independent investigations and cleared Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing.

In light of overwhelming evidence that the House and Senate's taxpayer-funded efforts to undermine Planned Parenthood are based purely on political pandering, not facts, we write today to again encourage that Congressional Republicans disband the House Select Investigative Committee, end all ongoing Congressional investigations examining Planned Parenthood, and stop to political efforts to undermine women's access to health care.

The willful misuse of federal resources to push an anti-women and anti-abortion agenda in the Congress is both inappropriate and wasteful. Since July 15, 2015, when the Center for Medical Progress first released deceptive, edited videos designed to discredit Planned Parenthood, Congressional Republicans have launched five separate investigations into Planned Parenthood, four in the House and one in the Senate. The House has voted five times and the Senate three times to defund Planned Parenthood, and House Republicans held a five-hour hearing with Planned Parenthood's CEO, Cecile Richards, in which her attempts to provide informed responses were repeatedly rebuffed.

The inappropriate political nature of Congressional Republican attacks on Planned Parenthood is especially stark in light of overwhelming evidence clearing Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing. Twelve states—Kansas, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Indiana, Nevada, Washington, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri and South Dakota—have concluded independent state investigations and cleared Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing. An additional eight states—California, Iowa, Delaware, Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Virginia, and Colorado—have declined to even investigate, citing a lack of evidence of wrongdoing in the first place.

These House and Senate “investigations” not only undermine taxpayers’ trust in Congress’s integrity, but they also put women and families at risk. Already, the House Select Investigative Committee has engaged in a widespread “document collection” process that is undermining the privacy and safety of patients, healthcare providers, and scientists seeking cures through medical research—while wasting valuable federal resources in the process.

The Select Committee’s targeting of women who have received abortions, and the doctors that provide them with such care, is dangerous and a deeply concerning violation of patient privacy and the public trust.

As the Republican District Attorney of Harris County said, “[W]e must go where the evidence leads us. All the evidence uncovered in the course of this investigation was presented to the grand jury.” Unfortunately, the House Select Committee does not wish to focus on the evidence, including the concerning number of illegal activities in which the perpetrators chose to engage

We urge you to use this as an opportunity to:

- disband the taxpayer funded Select Investigative Committee on Planned Parenthood and all other ongoing Congressional investigations;
- fully reimburse U.S. taxpayers the more than \$400,000 that Republicans wasted to create the Committee;
- and put an end to the partisan political attempts to appeal to extreme conservatives by undermining women’s health and rights.

Our country faces serious challenges when it comes to issues like supporting working families, creating good jobs, and boosting wages. The families and communities we represent rightly want us focused on efforts like these—not political attempts to undermine women’s access to health care and investigate their personal health care decisions. We urge you to listen to them.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator

Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

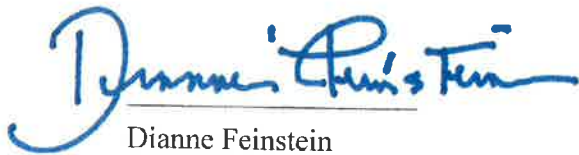
CC: Chairman Blackburn, Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Upton, Chairman Chaffetz, and Chairman Grassley



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



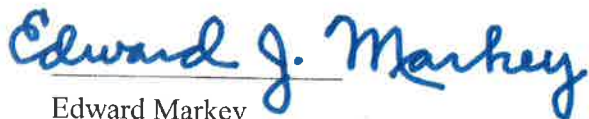
Al Franken
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Edward Markey
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



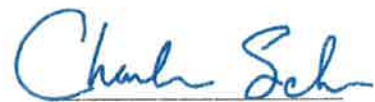
Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



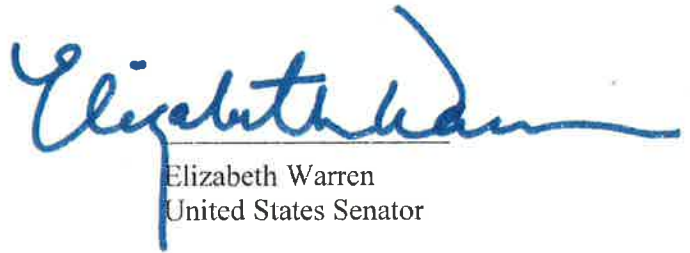
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Charles Schumer
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

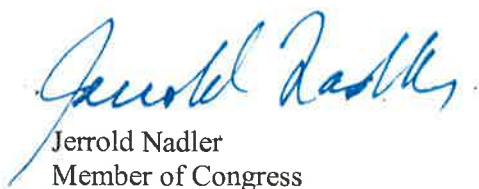


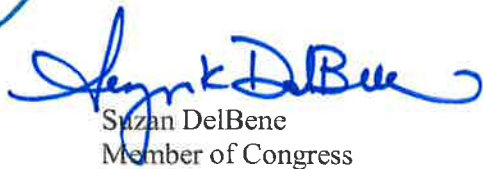
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harry Reid". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Harry Reid
United States Senator


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

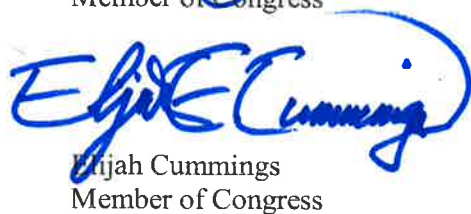

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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress


Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Elijah Cummings
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John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

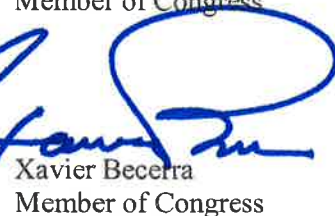

Alma Adams
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Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

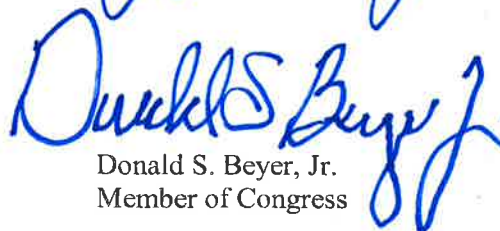

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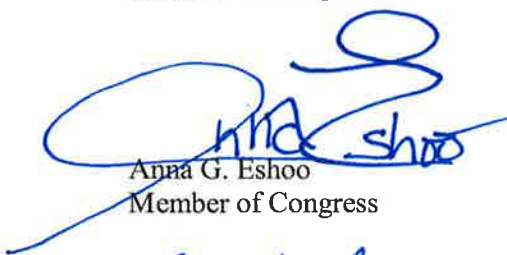

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Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

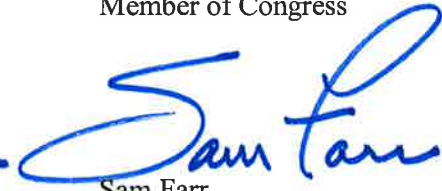

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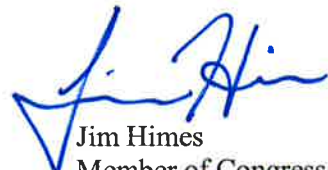

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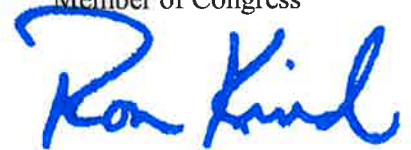
Joe P. Kennedy III
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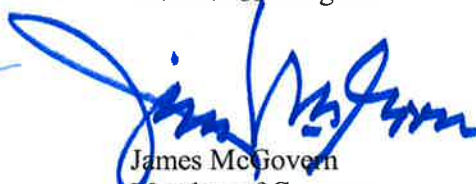
Doris Matsui
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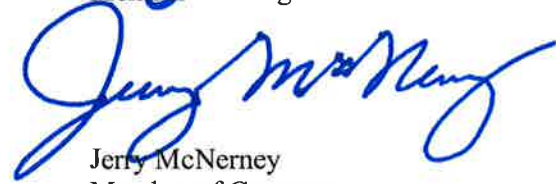
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Gwen Moore
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Seth Moulton
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Patrick Murphy
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Grace Napolitano
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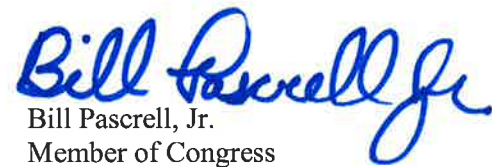
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Chellie Pingree
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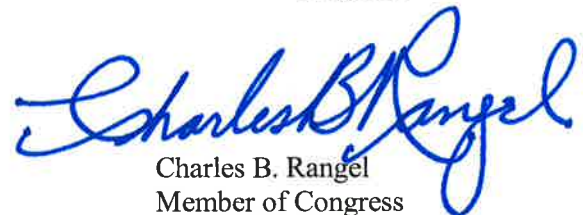
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Kathleen Rice
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Loretta Sánchez
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



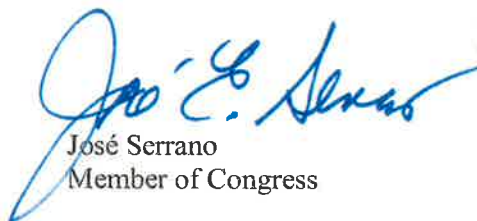
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David Scott
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Bobby Scott
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José Serrano
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Terri Sewell
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Brad Sherman
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takai
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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Bennie Thompson
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Dina Titus
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Paul D Tonko Norma Torres

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Pete Visclosky

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Tim Walle

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Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
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