

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to thank you and express our appreciation for your recent decision to grant "deferred action," protection from deportation, and work permits to certain young people who call the United States home and who are not an enforcement priority for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

We welcome the opportunity to ensure that our constituents who fit the criteria for relief are among the estimated 800,000 individuals whose lives will forever be changed as a result of your leadership. DREAMers coming forward to apply will mark a new chapter, but not the last chapter, in a long struggle for inclusion in society. The new policy represents an important down payment toward achieving broader reforms in the future.

The implications of your policy are already reverberating well beyond those who are potentially eligible for deferred action. With this announcement, you have changed the public discourse about immigration and immigrants, and our communities are now excited and hopeful. Even those who attack immigrants for political purposes are second guessing their negative posture toward the young immigrants you are protecting. You have opened the door to reform, and people of all political stripes recognize that change is coming and is inevitable.

We recognize that there are those who will want to take the power of discretion away from you and the Executive branch. Like you, we agree that you are on solid moral and legal ground and we will do everything within our power to defend your actions and the authority that you, like past Presidents, can exercise to set enforcement priorities and better protect our neighborhoods and our nation.

Despite this vital reprieve for a deserving group of promising individuals, we also understand that it does not diminish the need for a permanent solution and comprehensive immigration reform. Mr. President, we stand committed to fixing the broken immigration system once and for all, and we are ready to fight for a permanent solution that benefits all children and families, the economy, our national security and our nation.

We thank you again for your actions on behalf of DREAMers. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the policy's success and to use it as a stepping stone for broader relief and future legislative action.

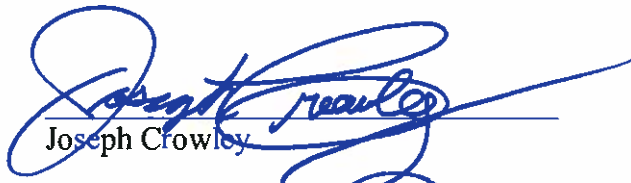
Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez



Zoe Lofgren



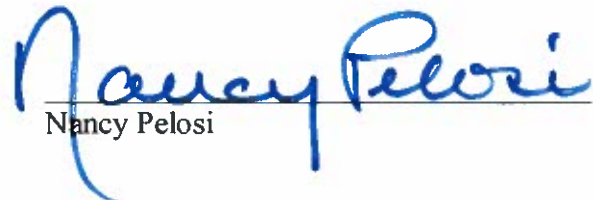
Joseph Crowley



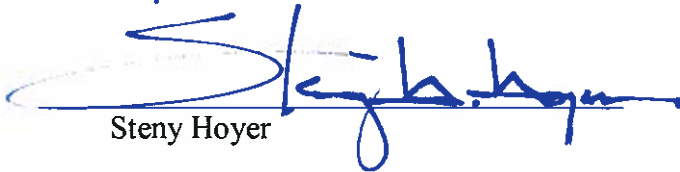
Judy Chu



Xavier Becerra



Nancy Pelosi



Steny Hoyer



John Conyers, Jr.



Howard Berman



Lucille Roybal-Allard



Charles A. Gonzalez



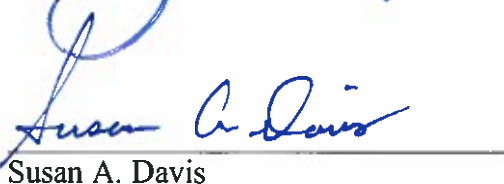
Michael M. Honda



Jared Polis



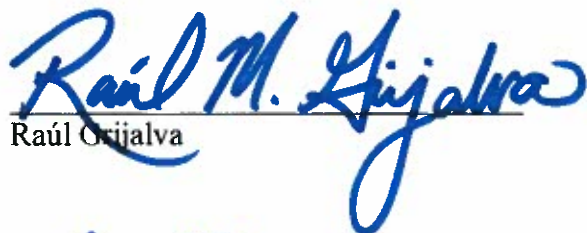
Barbara Lee



Susan A. Davis



Gene Green

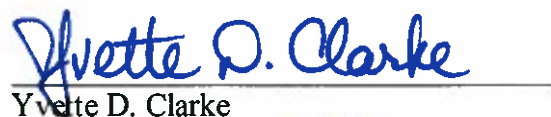

Raúl Grijalva


Rubén Hinojosa

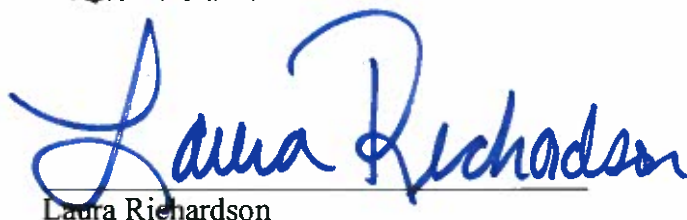

James P. Moran

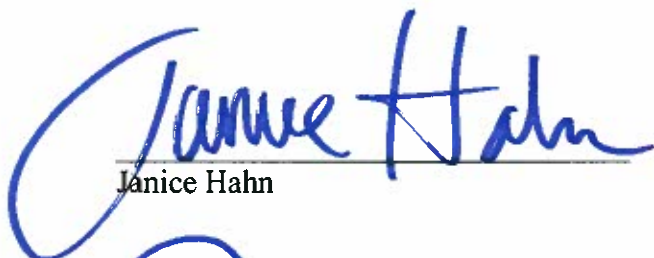

Lois Capps


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Yvette D. Clarke


Bill Pascrell, Jr.

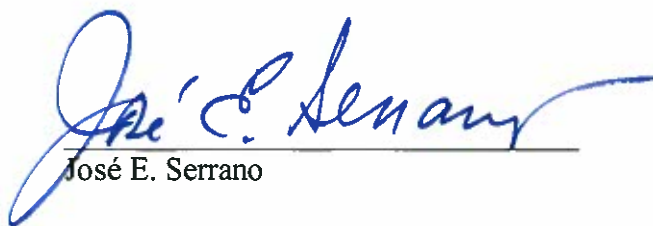

Laura Richardson


Janice Hahn


Silvestre Reyes


Peter Welch


Hansen Clarke


José E. Serrano


Terri Sewell


Betty McCollum


Jerrold Nadler



Bob Filner



Bobby L. Rush



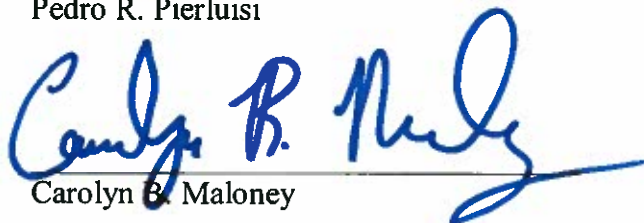
Dennis Cardoza



Pedro R. Pierluisi



Frederica Wilson



Carolyn B. Maloney



Charles B. Rangel



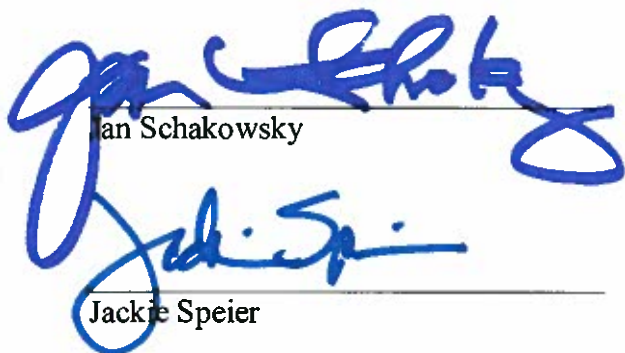
Gwen Moore



Edolphus "Ed" Towns



Louise M. Slaughter



Jan Schakowsky



Ted Deutch



Chaka Fattah



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Rick Larsen

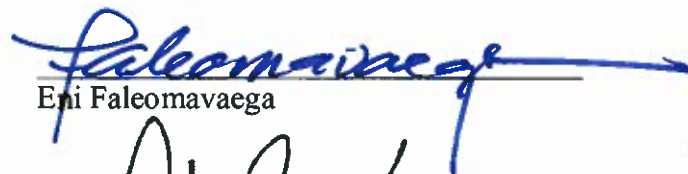


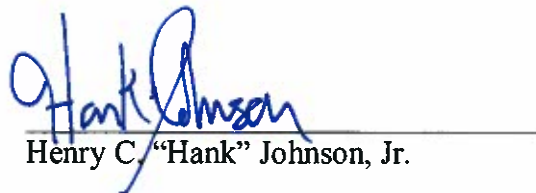
Maxine Waters

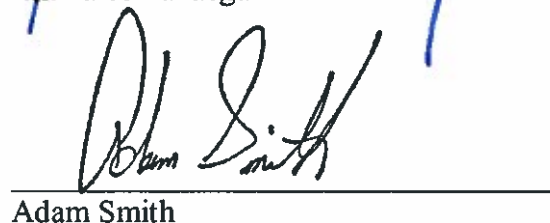


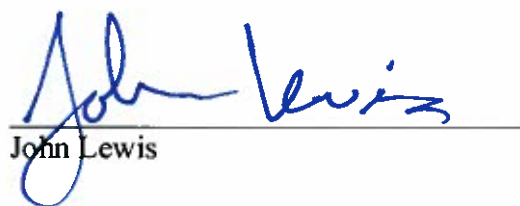
Jim McDermott


George Miller

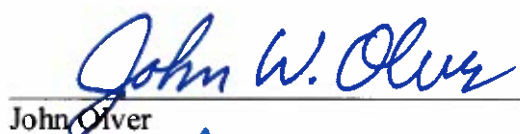

Eni Faleomavaega


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

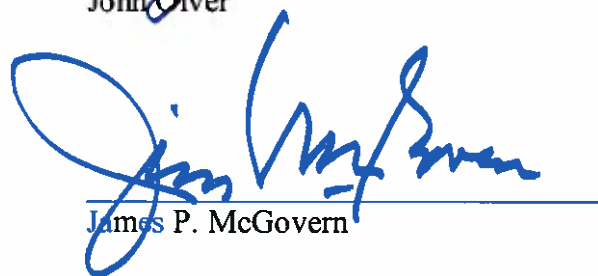

Adam Smith


John Lewis


Al Green


John Oliver


Grace F. Napolitano

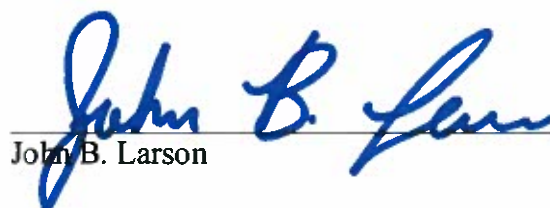

James P. McGovern


Earl Blumenauer


Joe Baca


John Garamendi


Rush Holt


John B. Larson


Robert A. Brady


Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.


Doris O. Matsui


Sam Parr


Keith Ellison


Gary C. Peters


Fortney "Pete" Stark


Eliot L. Engel



Dennis J. Kucinich


Lynn Woolsey


Lloyd Doggett


Ed Pastor


Corrine Brown


Maurice Hinchey

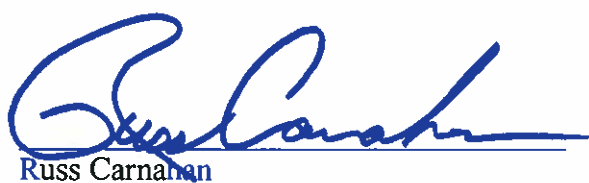

Linda Sánchez


Albio Sires

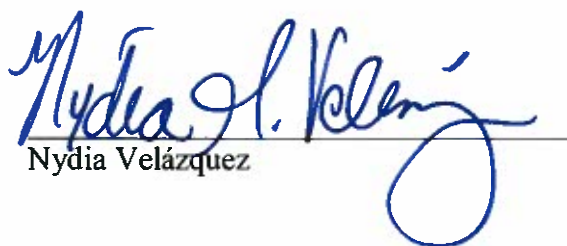

Gregory Meeks


Mike Quigley


Loretta Sanchez


Russ Carnahan


Danny K. Davis


Nydia Velázquez


Nita Lowey

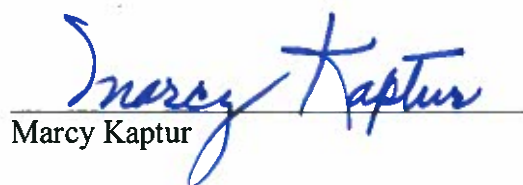

Chris Van Hollen

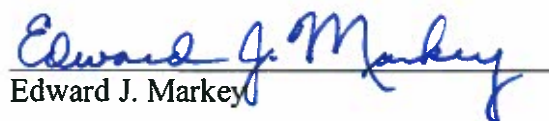

Mike Thompson


Steve Israel


Anna Eshoo


Diana DeGette


Marcy Kaptur


Edward J. Markey

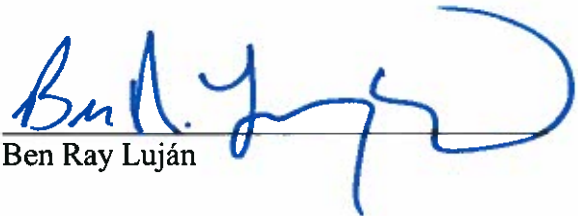

David Cicilline



Henry A. Waxman

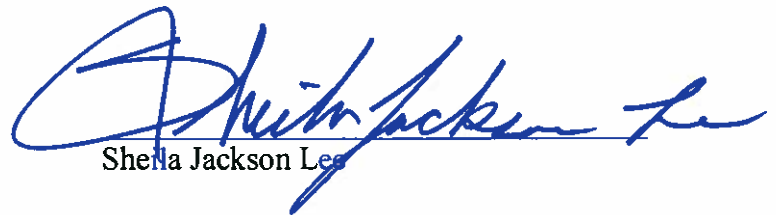

Karen Bass

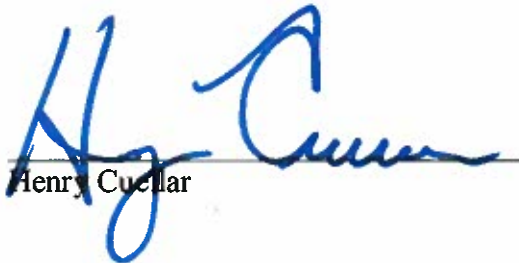

Barney Frank


Jim Costa


Ben Ray Luján


Steve Cohen


Shella Jackson Lee


Henry Cuellar


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott