

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2007

The Honorable John Olver
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
and HUD Appropriations
2358 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
and HUD Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Knollenberg:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$454 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year 2008. As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that over \$3.5 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS. In light of budget realities, however, we ask for \$454 million to help those in the greatest need.

While major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and necessities such as housing. Individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to, and benefit from, complex drug treatments which often require special dietary needs. Homeless or unstably housed HIV infected persons experience higher viral loads and more hospitalizations than those who are stably housed. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care.

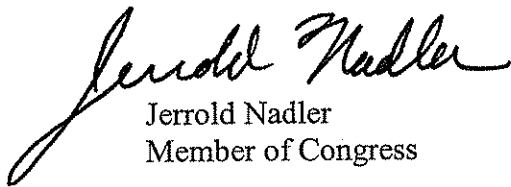
At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with HIV/AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably-priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility so that states and communities can implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with HIV/AIDS.

In FY 2007 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to over 67,000 households in 122 jurisdictions across 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia through competitive and formula grants. Unfortunately, the demand for housing accommodations for people living with HIV/AIDS continues to greatly outweigh the resources currently available.

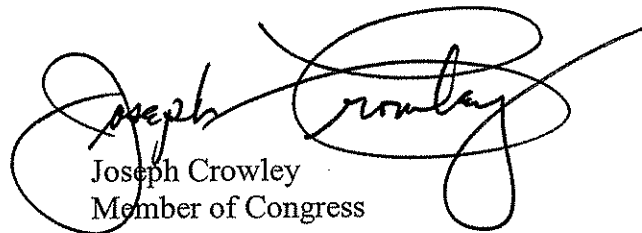
Recent studies show that people with housing are at a much lower risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS. The HOPWA program offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability necessary to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality in this nation. We therefore urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of \$454 million for HOPWA in the FY 2008 VA/THUD appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

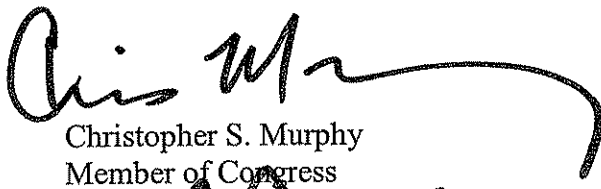
Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



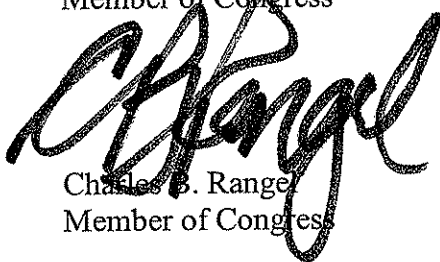
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



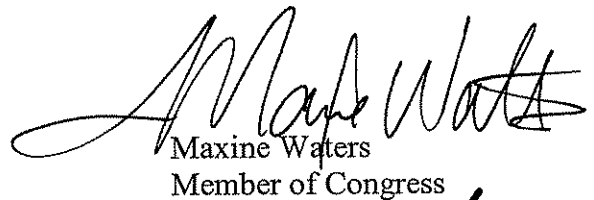
Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress



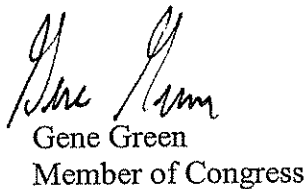
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



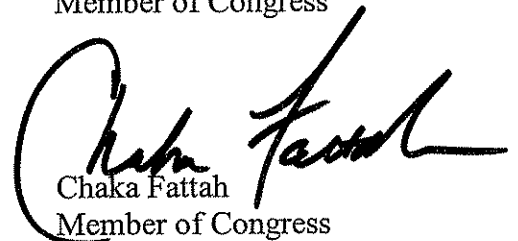
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



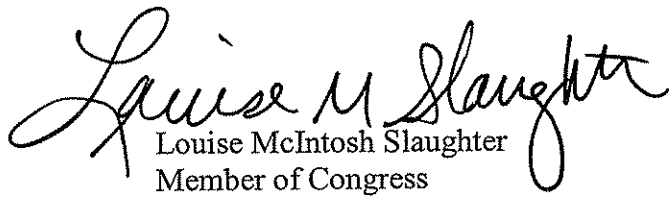
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress




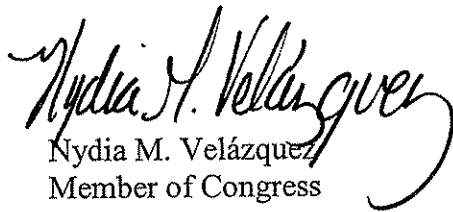
Gene Green
Member of Congress

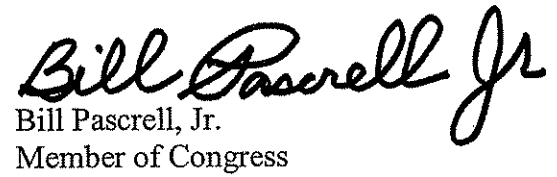


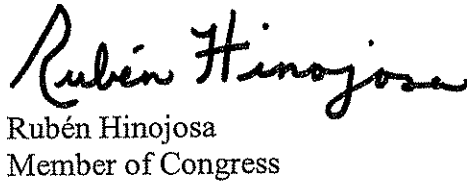
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

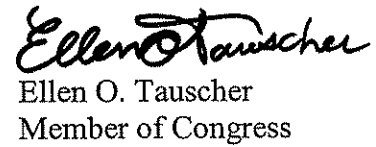

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress

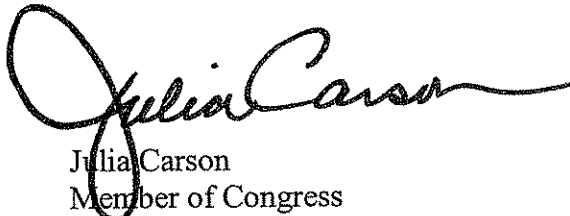

Norman D. Dicks
Member of Congress

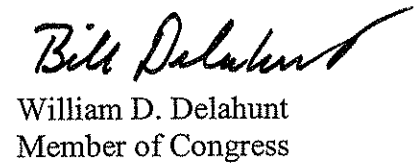

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

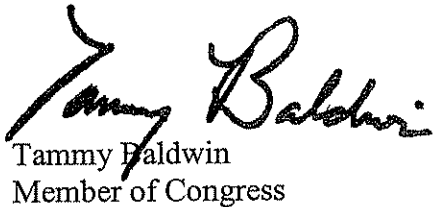

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

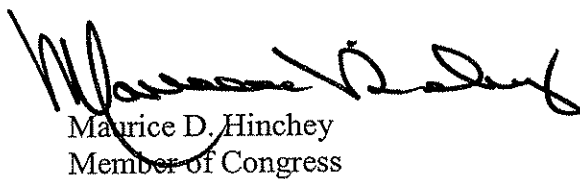

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

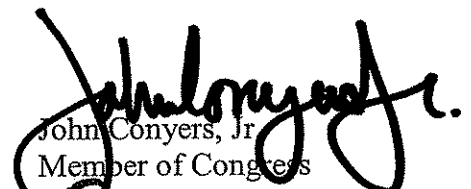

Julia Carson
Member of Congress

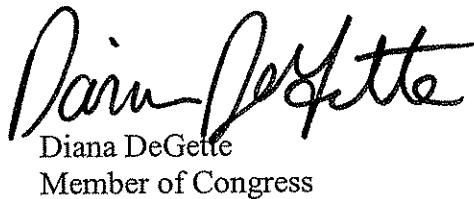

William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress

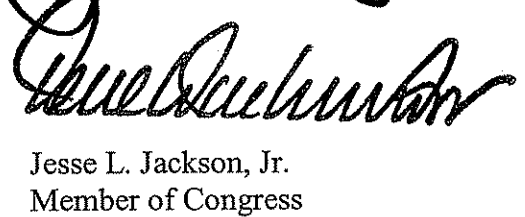

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

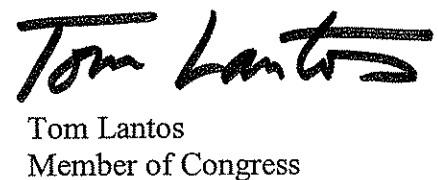

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

Howard L. Berman
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Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne
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George Miller
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
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Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

William J. Jefferson
William J. Jefferson
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress


Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

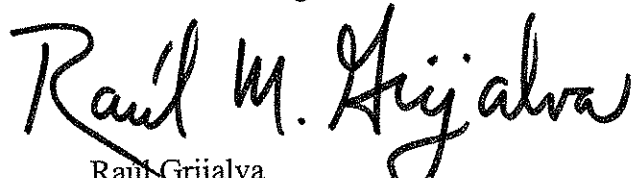
Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Member of Congress




Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



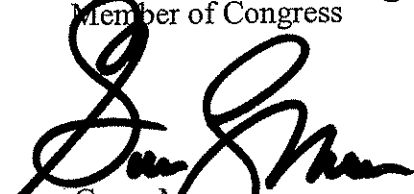
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



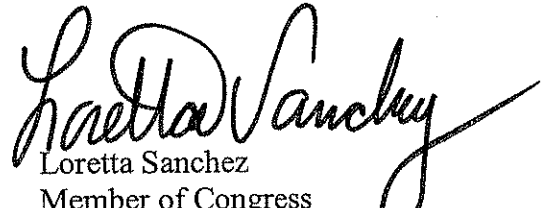
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress




Gwen Moore
Member of Congress




Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress




Sam Farr
Member of Congress




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




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



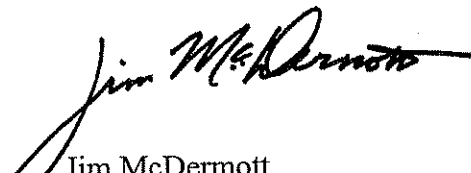
Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



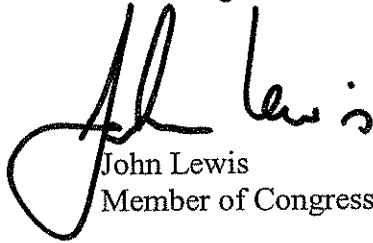
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



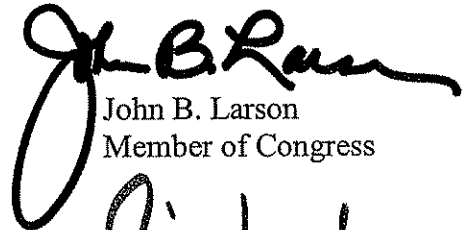
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



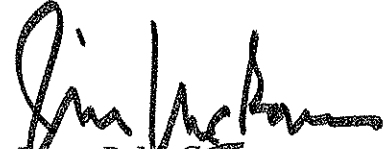
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



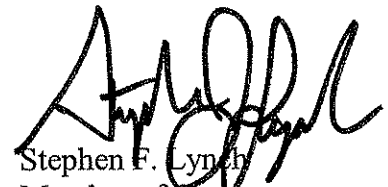
Al Green
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



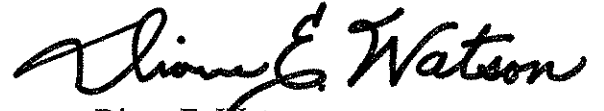
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Artur Davis
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress



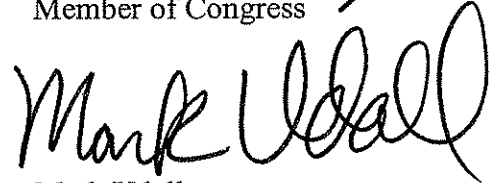
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
Member of Congress