

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to urge you to expedite the confirmation of Dr. Vivek Murthy for Surgeon General of the United States. The Ebola epidemic continues to spread across West Africa and has now recently resulted in the first death and two cases of Ebola transmission in the United States. Given the public's increasing fears regarding the spread of the disease, it is imperative that we confirm a Surgeon General who will play a significant role in educating the American public about the disease and how to best protect their health.

The United States and other world leaders, NGOs, and international public health organizations have committed significant resources to combat this epidemic; yet the virus continues to spread at an alarming rate. Though the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the United State is low, the possibility of exposure and the number of cases increasing in the United States requires a strong response from the Government. The American public would benefit from having a Surgeon General to disseminate information that is desperately needed.

The Surgeon General can also work to amplify the Center for Disease Control's actions, reassure the American people, and combat misinformation here at home. As the epidemic continues in Africa, many individuals in the United States are eager to know what their government is doing to protect them and what is being done to ensure their safety.


The Senate has an opportunity to confirm an eminently qualified physician to be our Surgeon General. This position has been vacant for over a year — even though President Obama nominated Dr. Vivek Murthy in November 2013.


Dr. Murthy is supported by the nation's preeminent health and physician groups, including the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Diabetes Association, and over 50 other organizations. Dr. Murthy is also backed by leading representatives of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities that have previously urged the Senate to prioritize his confirmation, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

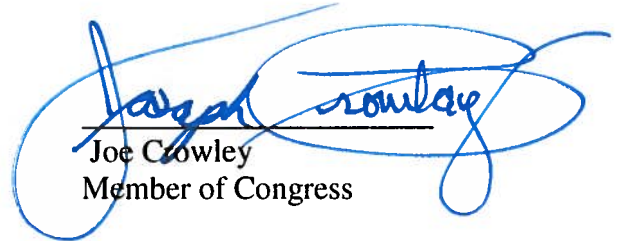
The Ebola scare that is permeating the public health conscious should be an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the disease and our nation's response to it. Dr. Murthy comes with a distinguished record of excellence that is greatly needed at this time, and we urge you to confirm him as soon as possible.


Respectfully,


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Ami Bera M.D.
Member of Congress

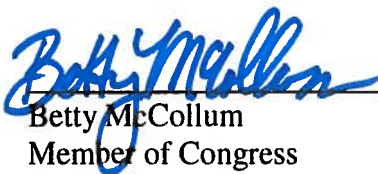

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

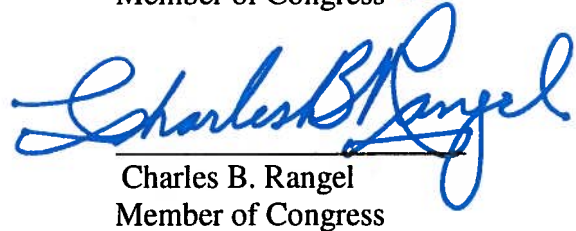

Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

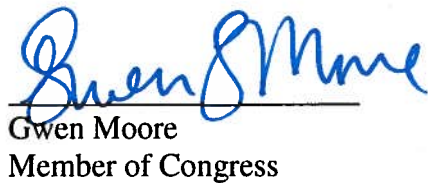

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

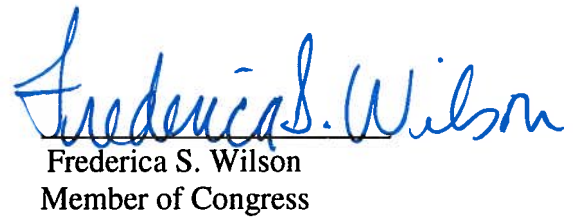

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

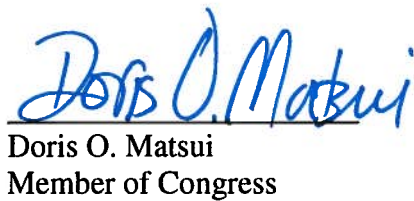

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

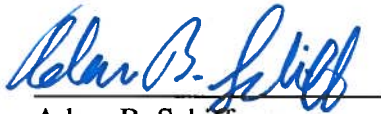

Charles B. Rangel
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Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



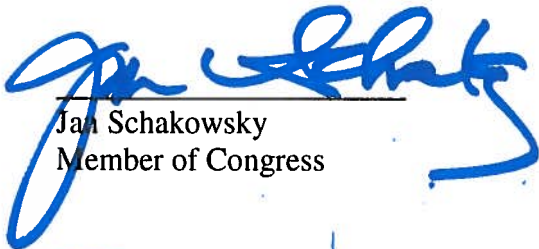
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Mike Quigley
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Jan Schakowsky
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Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



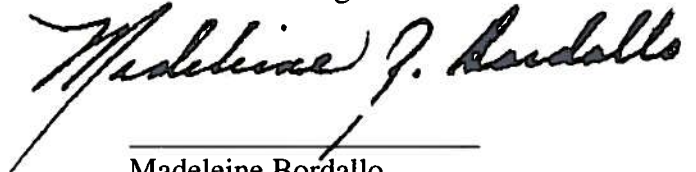
Tony Cárdenas
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Julia Brownley
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Madeleine Bordallo
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Earl Blumenauer
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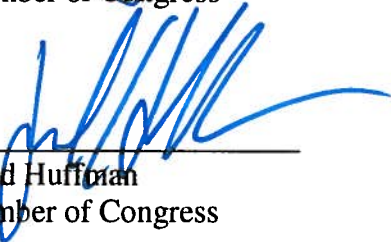
John Conyers Jr.
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Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress




Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



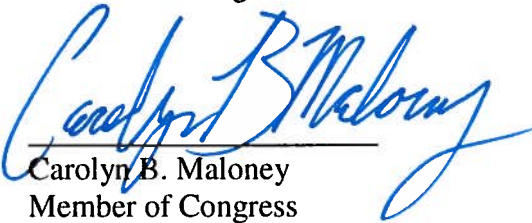
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress


Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

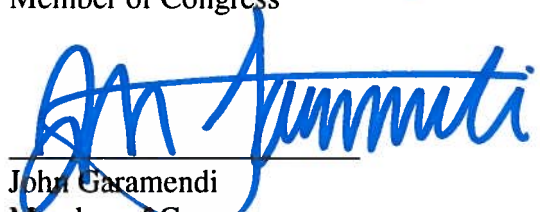

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

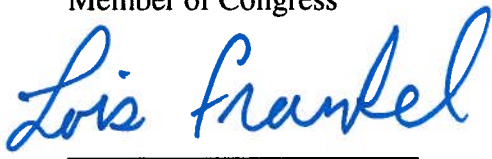

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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John Garamendi
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Lois Frankel
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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Carolyn McCarthy
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Al Green
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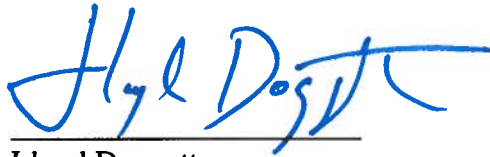
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



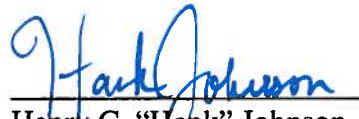
Joaquín Castro
Member of Congress




Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



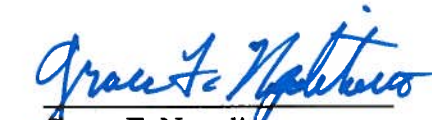
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



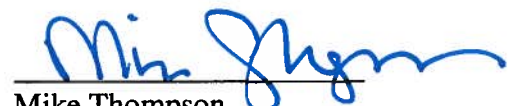
Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



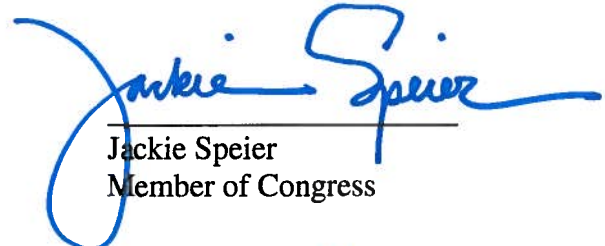
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



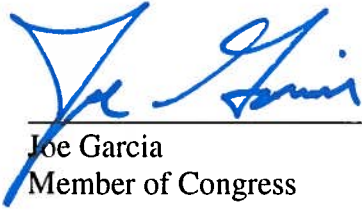
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



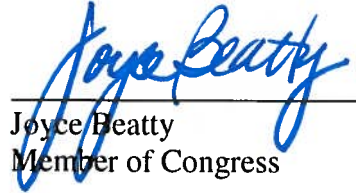
Eni Faleomavaega
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Anna Eshoo
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Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



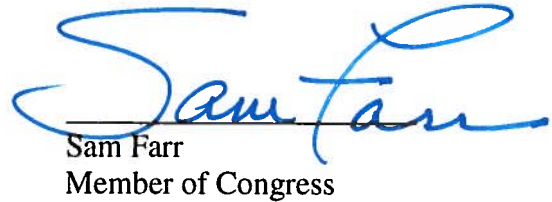
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



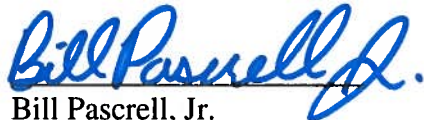
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress