

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2016

Dr. Francis Collins, Director
National Institutes of Health
1 Center Drive, Room B1-118
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

We write to thank you for your attention to Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), and encourage you to continue to strengthen the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) efforts in ME/CFS biomedical research.

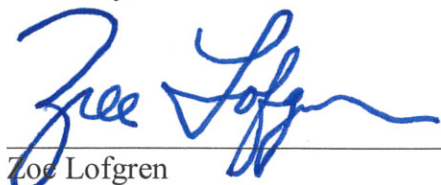
As you know, ME/CFS is a complex, debilitating, and chronic disease afflicting 1 to 2.5 million Americans. It costs individuals, the U.S. health care system, and our economy an estimated \$17-\$24 billion annually. Yet, as the Institute of Medicine noted in its report, "Beyond Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Redefining an Illness," there has been "remarkably little research funding" to date to discover its cause or possible treatments.

A number of us sent you a letter in March of 2014 to express support for ME/CFS research and are heartened by your commitment to advance diagnosis, treatment, and a cure for ME/CFS through a reinvigorated Trans-NIH ME/CFS Working Group (Working Group) housed within the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and new intramural and extramural research programs that will bring new investigators into the field.

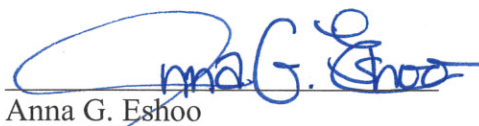
We encourage the Working Group to consider in a timely manner the input received through its recent Request for Information (RFI) regarding emerging needs, opportunities, and strategies for ME/CFS research and research training. We also ask that you provide us with the current status of this planning effort and the specific intramural and extramural activities planned for the rest of FY 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



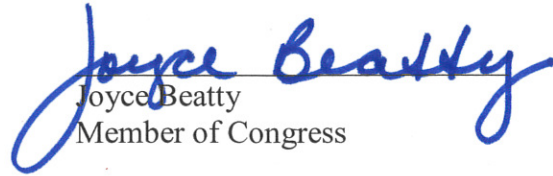
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



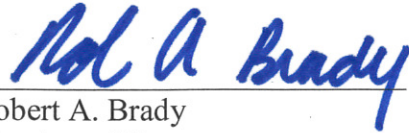
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



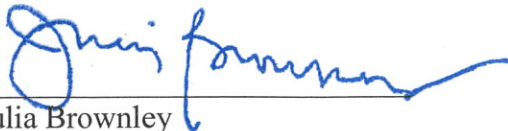
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



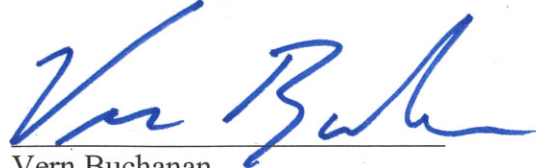
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



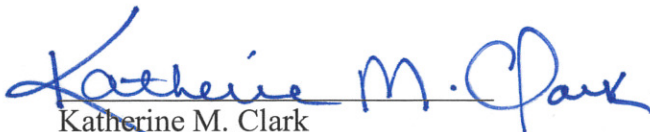
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



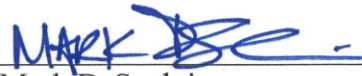
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



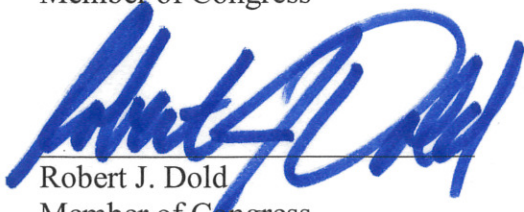
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



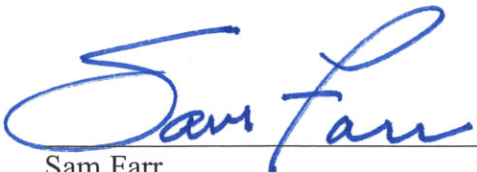
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



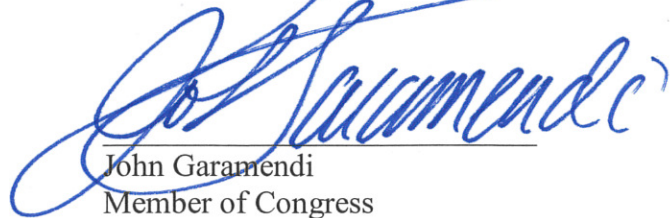
Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



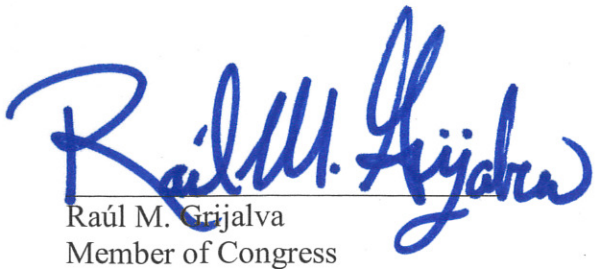
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

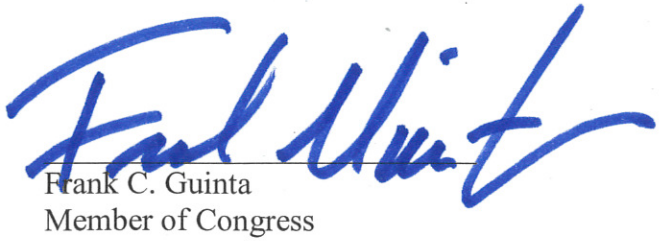


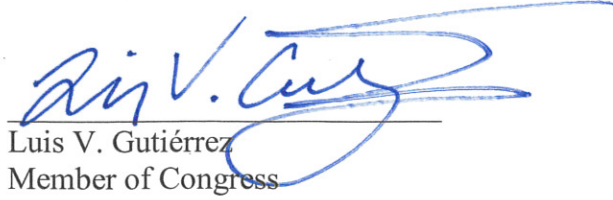
Sam Farr
Member of Congress

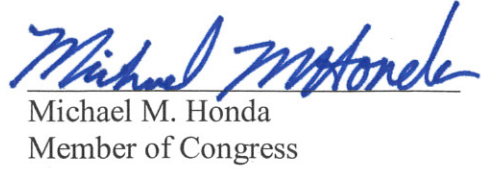


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

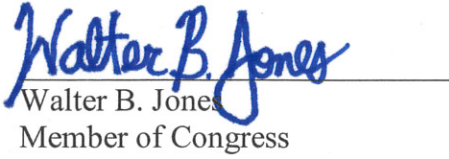

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress

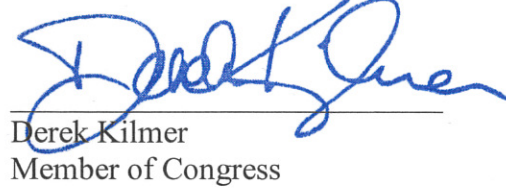

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

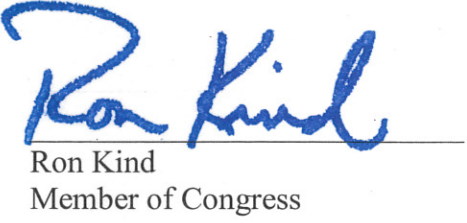

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

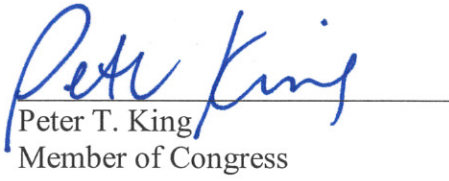

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

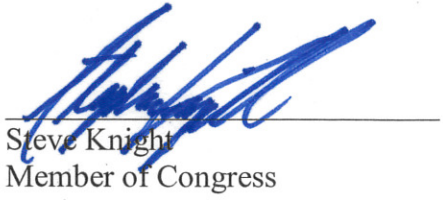

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress

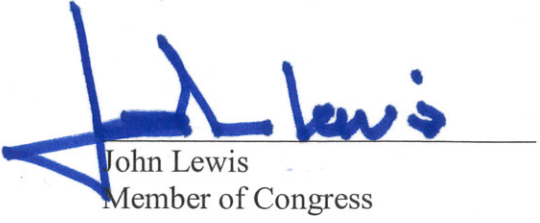

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

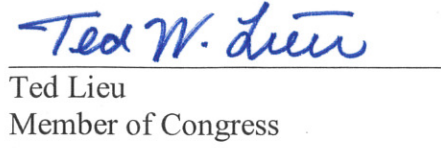

Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress

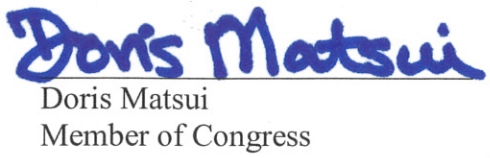

Steve Knight
Member of Congress

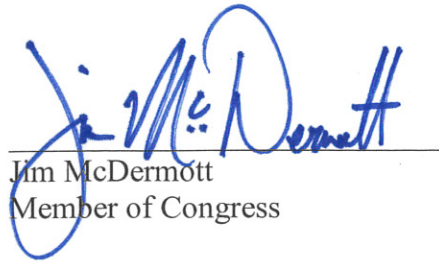

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress

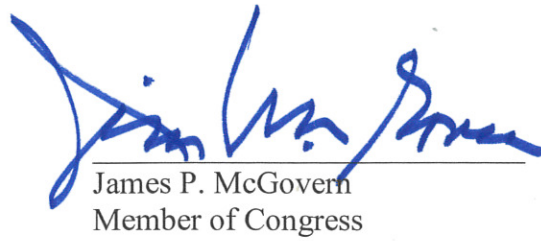

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress


Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



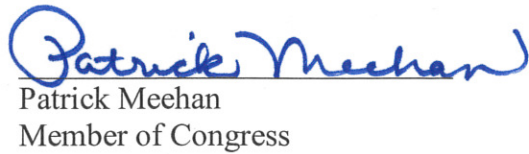
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



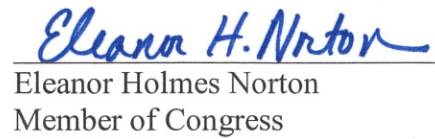
David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



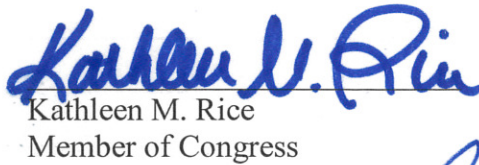
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



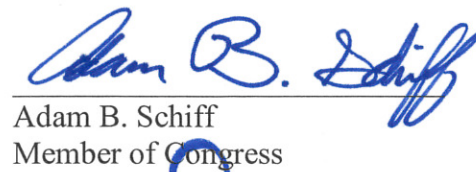
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



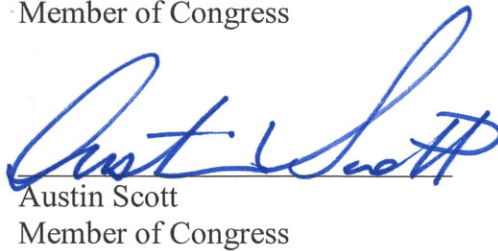
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



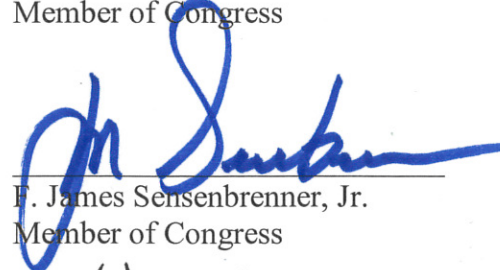
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



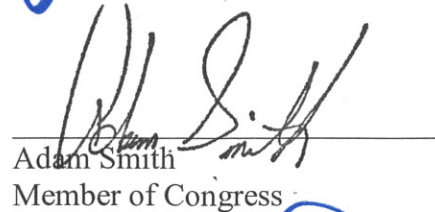
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



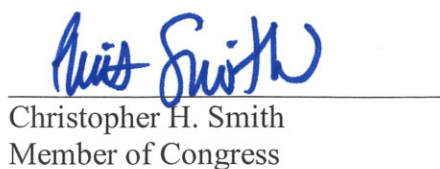
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



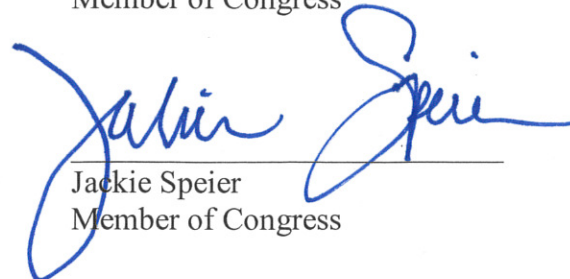
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



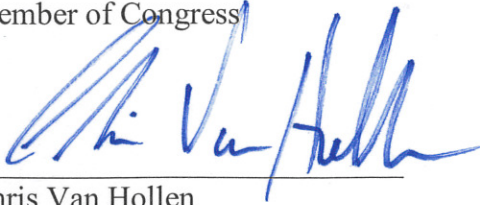
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



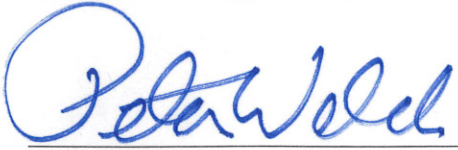
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress