

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

As we enter the second week of the federal government shutdown, we write to you with immediate urgency to call the House back into session, join the negotiating table with Democrats, and commit to protecting the health care of over 24 million Americans¹ – we must end this dangerous and entirely avoidable shutdown of our government. Your decision to cancel votes this week is actively threatening the livelihood of millions as Congress wastes precious time not engaging in meaningful conversations to address the health care crisis our constituents face as a direct result of the Big Ugly Law's cruel cuts to Medicaid and your refusal to extend the Affordable Care Act's Enhanced Premium Tax Credits. According to the Congressional Budget Office, over 15 million Americans will lose their health care as a result of the Republican cuts of \$1 trillion to Medicaid and the additional cuts to the Affordable Care Act in the Big Ugly Law.

Most immediately, permanently extending the Affordable Care Act's Enhanced Premium Tax Credits will stave off the looming health care affordability crisis that all of our constituents are facing. Without immediate and bipartisan action by Congress, Americans who purchase health insurance through ACA marketplaces nationwide will be priced out of coverage.

It's misleading to claim that Congress has until December 31 to act on extending the credits – as you know, open enrollment for ACA marketplaces begins on November 1, which means that insurers had to file rates by mid-August and many marketplaces have already begun notifying American families of premium increases. The remaining marketplaces that have not started these notifications will be doing so in the coming days. *Time is short.* Congress cannot afford to wait until December 31 or even November 1 – by then, too many Americans will be forced to make the decision to forgo health care coverage because they simply can't afford it.

Let us remind you that for every American who makes the difficult decision to go without health coverage, the costs to our health care system – and to all of us – increase. Without preventative care, Americans turn up more frequently in emergency rooms, which are already strained. Uninsured emergency room visits cost individuals and the government more than if the patients had health insurance – and often lead to more dangerous health outcomes. Frankly, following the passage of the disastrous Big Ugly Law, our hospitals cannot afford to take on this additional burden. It is in the best interest of our health care system, patients, and the federal government to expeditiously extend the ACA tax credits.

We've heard story after story from our constituents – and yours too – about the detrimental impact of losing these credits and their inability to afford a 114% increase in their premiums.² We have heard from small business owners who need cancer treatments, caregivers who look after family members with disabilities, and

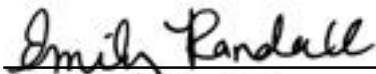
1 <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/over-24-million-consumers-selected-affordable-health-coverage-aca-marketplace-2025>

2 <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/aca-marketplace-premium-payments-would-more-than-double-on-average-next-year-if-enhanced-premium-tax-credits-expire/>

single parents struggling to make ends meet, all of whom have one thing in common – they will simply be unable to afford their health insurance without the ACA enhanced premium tax credits. A family of four making \$125,000 will see their health care costs increase by \$7,700 on average. A 60-year-old couple making \$80,000 will see their health care costs increase by \$17,500 on average. The bottom line is that Americans simply cannot afford these increases, and your inaction in this crucial moment is absolutely unacceptable. It is a dereliction of your duty to the American people to refuse to meet with us and negotiate.

Despite the fact that you've canceled votes two weeks in a row, Democrats have shown up here in D.C. during the shutdown, ready to work with you, negotiate in good faith, and find a bipartisan path forward to lower health care costs and keep care within reach for every family. As Speaker of the House, we implore you, on behalf of the American people, to bring the House back in session and join us at the negotiating table.

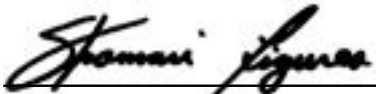
Sincerely,



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



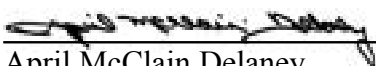
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



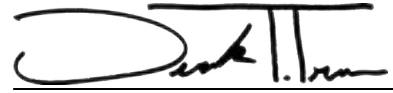
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



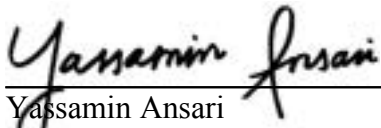
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



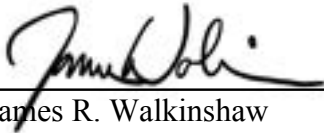
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



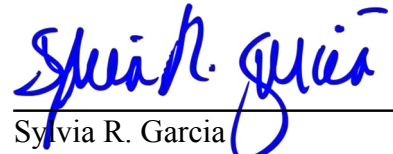
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



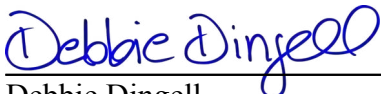
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



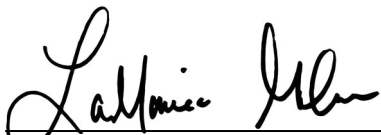
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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Terri A. Sewell
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LaMonica McIver
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Veronica Escobar
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Ayanna Pressley
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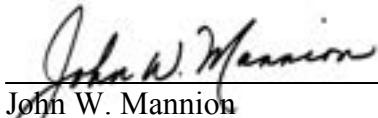
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
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Delia C. Ramirez
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John W. Mannion
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Wesley Bell
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Kevin Mullin
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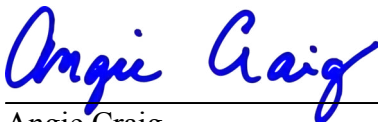
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



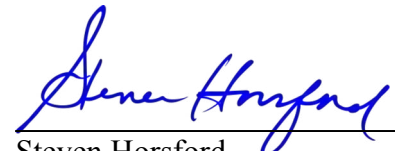
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
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Angie Craig
Member of Congress



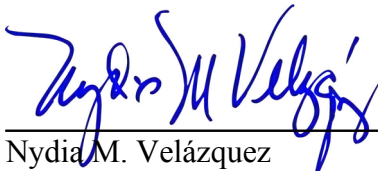
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



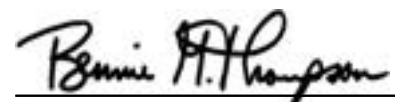
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
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Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



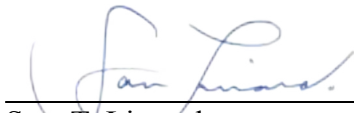
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



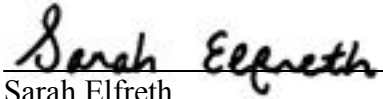
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



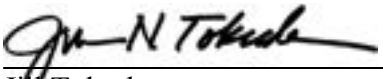
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



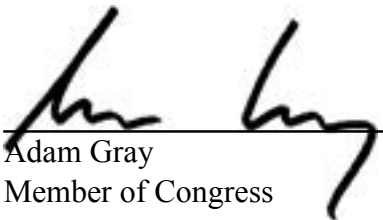
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



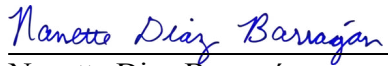
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



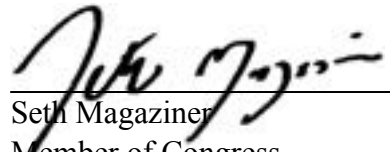
Jim Tokuda
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Adam Gray
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



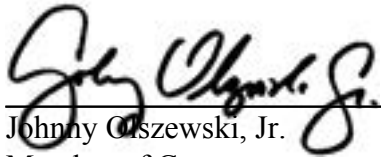
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



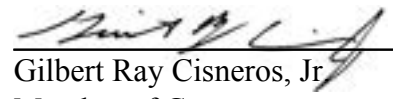
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



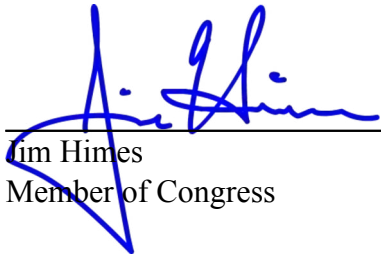
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



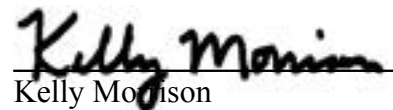
Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



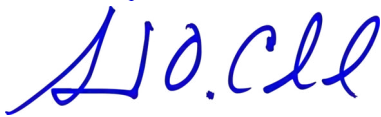
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tim Himes
Member of Congress



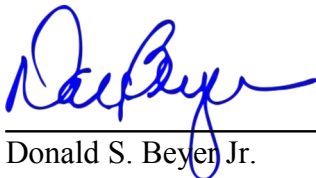
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



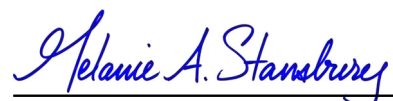
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



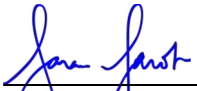
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



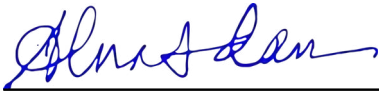
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



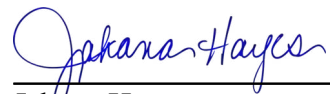
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



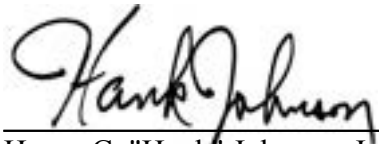
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



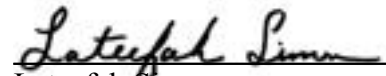
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



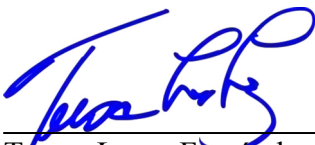
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



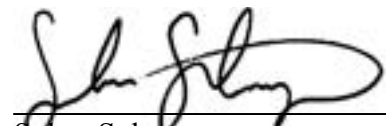
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



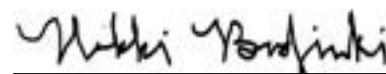
Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



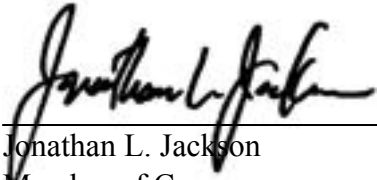
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



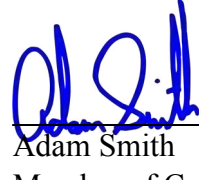
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



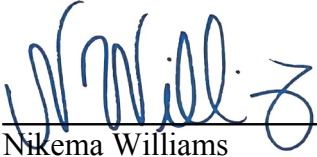
Al Green
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



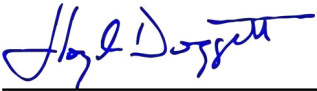
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



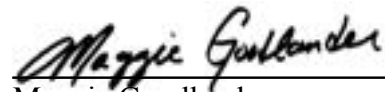
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



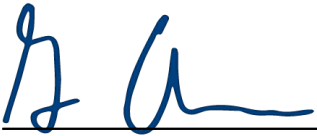
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



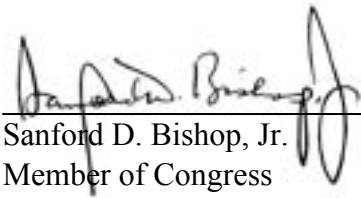
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



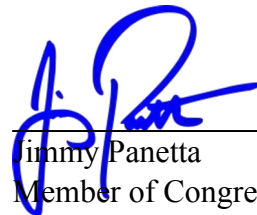
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Timmy Panetta
Member of Congress



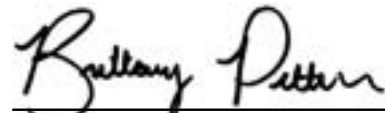
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



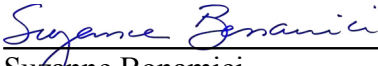
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



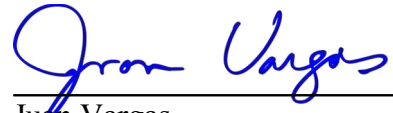
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



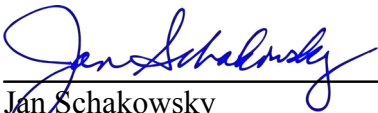
Jason Crow
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



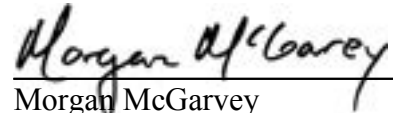
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



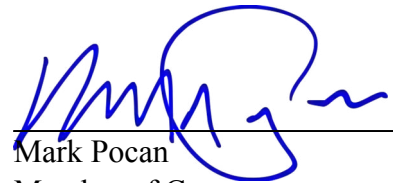
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



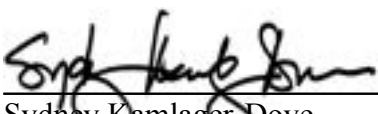
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



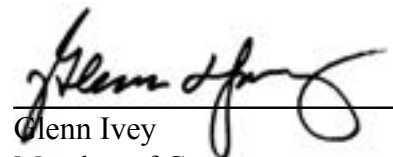
Maxine Dexter
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Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



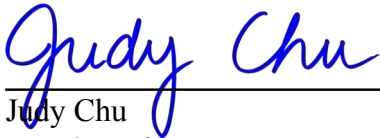
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



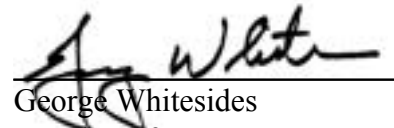
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



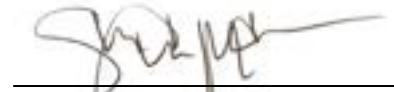
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



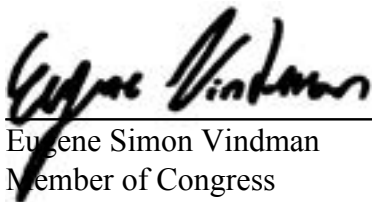
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress




Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



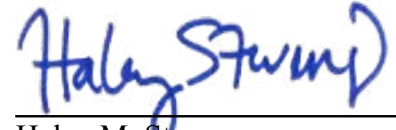
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress




Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



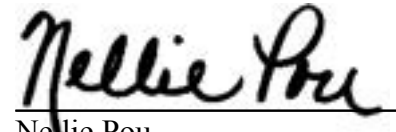
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



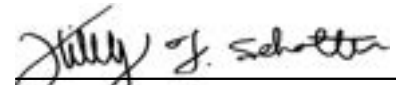
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



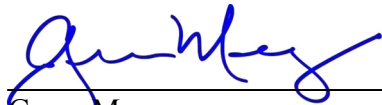
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress




Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



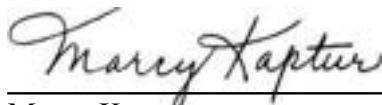
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



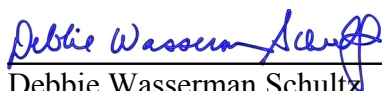
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress




Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



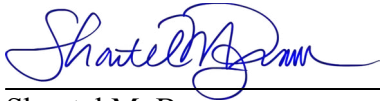
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



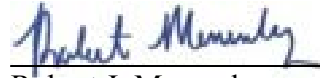
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



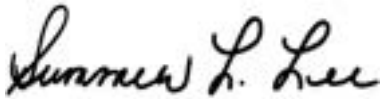
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress