Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

Each year, approximately 32,000 Americans die from gun violence—the highest number in the developed world. As gun-related deaths and injuries continue to wreak havoc in our districts, more and more Americans are joining with scientists and members of the public health community to demand decisive action from their elected leaders to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the high incidence of gun violence, we should all be able to agree that our response should be informed by sound scientific evidence. That's why we are asking you to take one simple step to prevent future tragedies by removing the language that creates a chilling effect on federally funded gun violence research at the Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal year 2017 appropriations legislation.

As you are aware, annual policy riders—known as the "Dickey Amendments" and "Rehberg Amendments"—have in practice prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies falling under the Department of Health and Human Services from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health.

Whether it is horrific mass shootings or the often unreported gun violence that occurs every day in towns and cities across America—the call to action is clear. Instead of continuing with the status quo, let's allow the research community to investigate evidence-based solutions that could help prevent gun violence while still protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners. We strongly urge you to direct the House Appropriations Committee to not include any riders in appropriations legislation that freeze gun violence research.

Sincerely,

DAVID E. PRICE

ROBIN KELLY

MIKE QUIGLEY

ROSA DELAURO

NITA LOWEY

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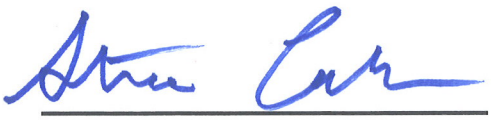
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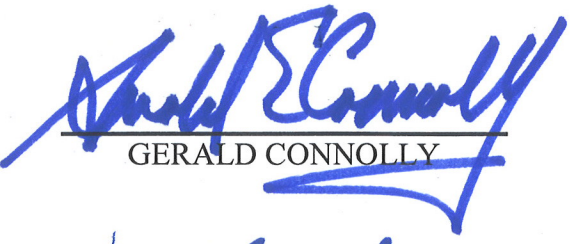
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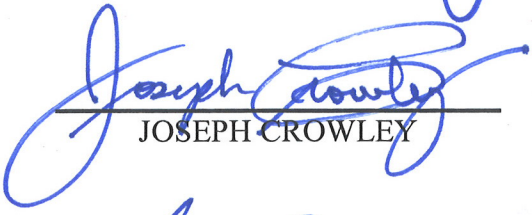
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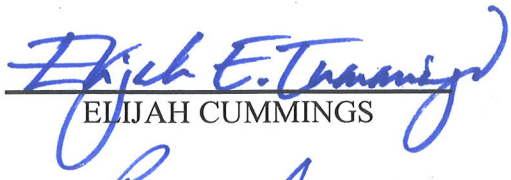
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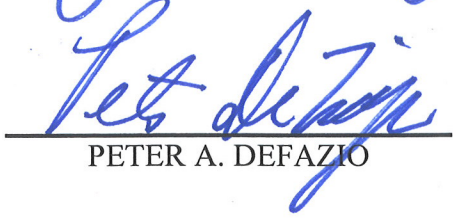
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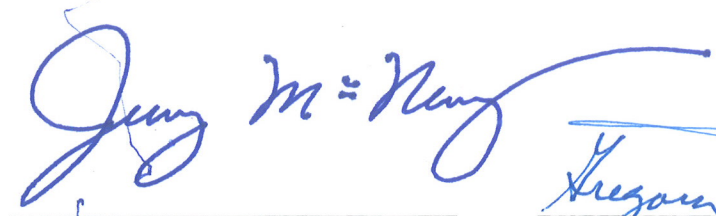

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~~GREGORY~~ W. MEEKS

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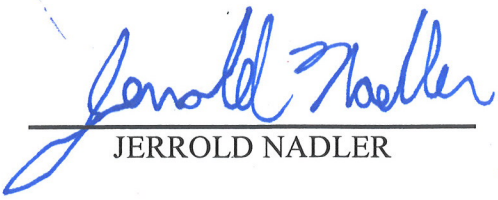

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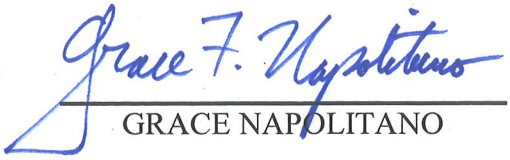

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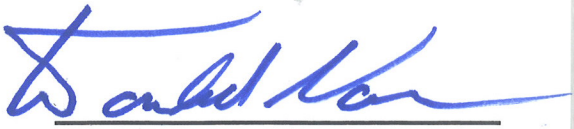
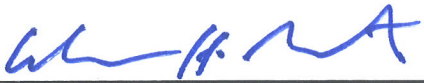


DONALD NORCROSS



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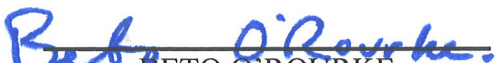

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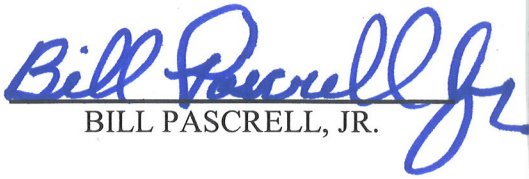

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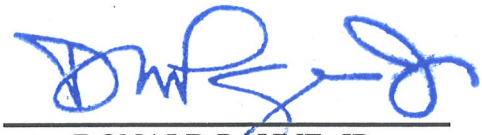

DONALD PAYNE, JR.

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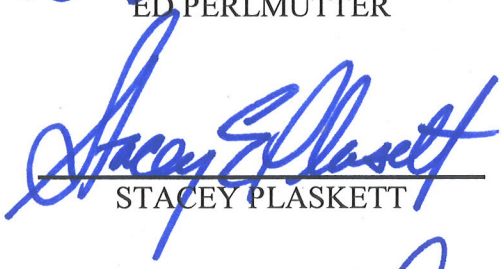

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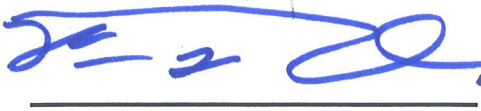

CEDRIC RICHMOND

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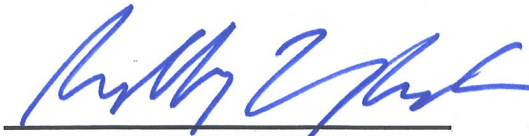
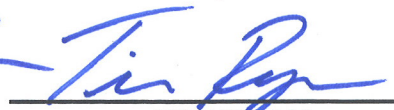


BOBBY L. RUSH



TIM RYAN

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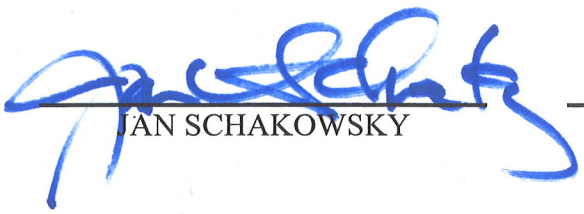

JAN SCHAKOWSKY

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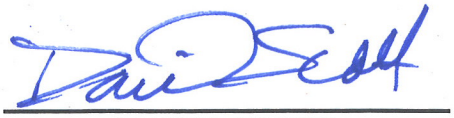

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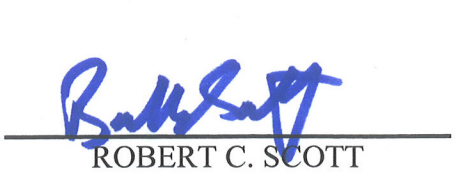

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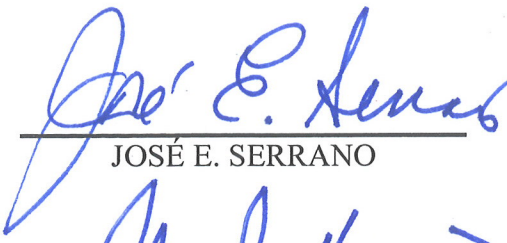

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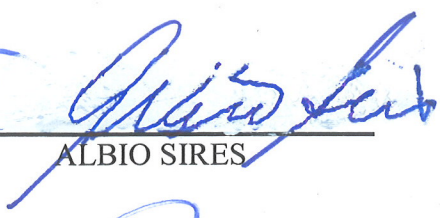

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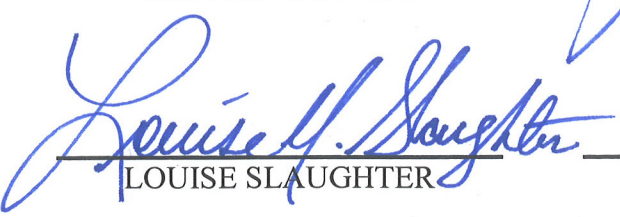

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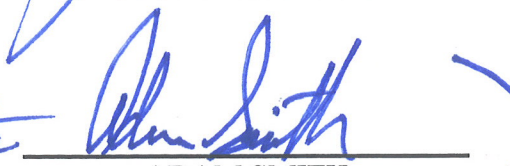
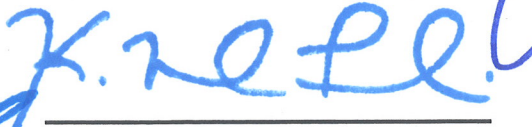


ADAM SMITH

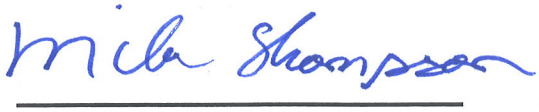
JACKIE SPEIER

ERIC SWALWELL



MARK TAKAI

MARK TAKANO



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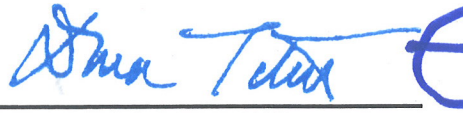
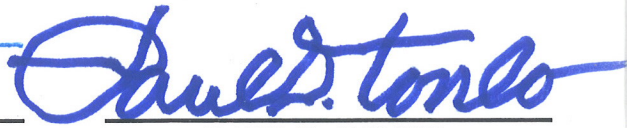


DINA TITUS



PAUL D. TONKO

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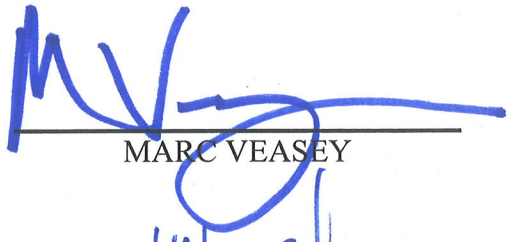

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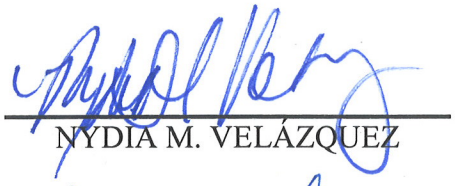

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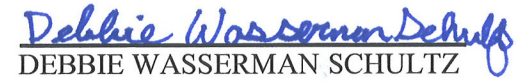
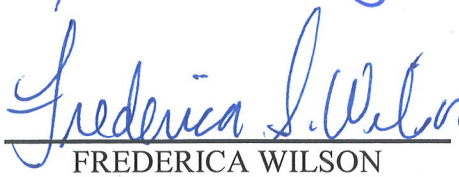


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN



FREDERICA WILSON

JOHN A. YARMUTH