

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

May 6, 2019

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of State's decision to suspend development and humanitarian assistance for Central America's "Northern Triangle" countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The suspension of this aid will not only undermine longstanding bipartisan policy goals in Central America, but also represents a willful disregard for congressional intent. We call on you to immediately reverse this policy decision.

Beginning in 2015, in response to the growing number of Central American children and families arriving at our Southern Border, Congress has provided, on a bipartisan basis, a substantial increase in assistance to these countries. This assistance, which was largely delivered through non-governmental organizations, was not a blank check: it came with a robust set of conditions to ensure that the region's governments did their part to address the root causes of migration; 75 percent of Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 assistance for the central governments is subject to these conditions.

Millions of dollars in aid provided to communities through non-governmental organizations is now in jeopardy. Multiple programs that are demonstrating results—reducing violence at the local level, helping young people find jobs, and reducing the rates of malnutrition in rural areas—will be forced to close their doors. Non-governmental organizations and U.S. governmental entities who have made commitments to local partners will be forced to renege on those commitments.

As a result, a significant investment by American taxpayers will go to waste. Progress made on reducing violence and poverty will be reversed, more children and families from the Northern Triangle will be forced to flee their communities, and the situation at our border will get worse, not better. Additionally, United States influence in Central America will decline, and our global competitors, especially China, will reap the benefits.

Again, we strongly urge you to change course, and we welcome a discussion about how we can work together to effectively address the root causes of migration and avoid creating a true crisis at our southern border.

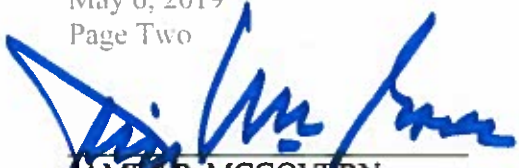
Sincerely,



NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
Committee on Foreign Affairs



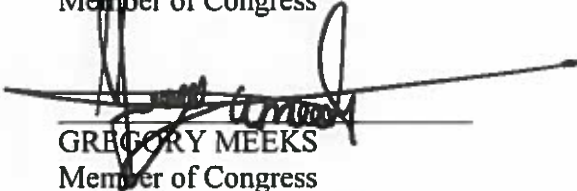
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress



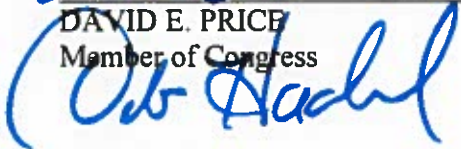
ANDY LEVIN
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress



DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress



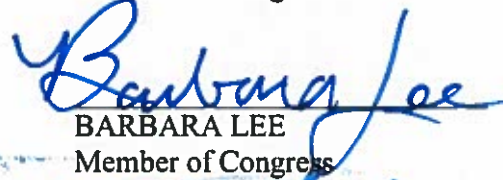
JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress




ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



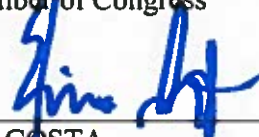
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress



CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



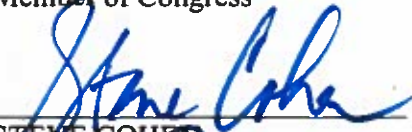
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



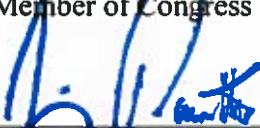
SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



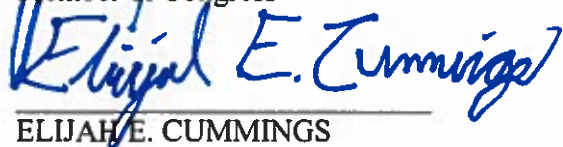
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Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



CHRIS PAPPAS
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FREDERICA S. WILSON
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JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN RICE
Member of Congress



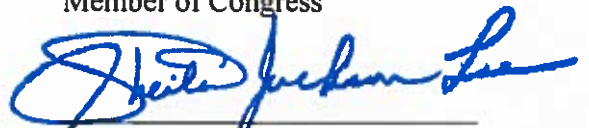
DEAN PHILLIPS
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GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress




SHEILA JACKSON LEE
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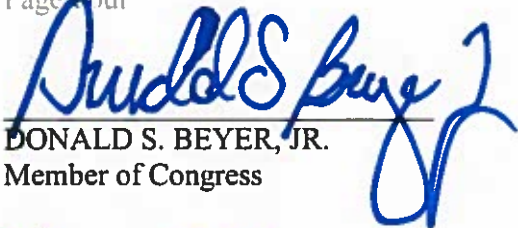
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress



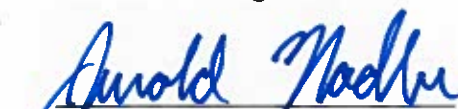
JARED HUFFMAN
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Member of Congress

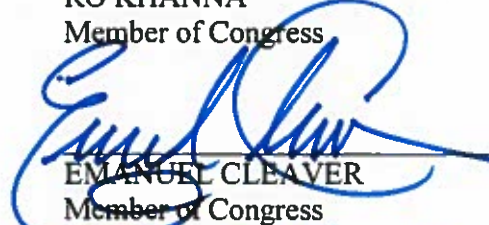

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

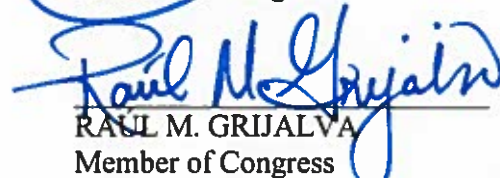

ZOE LOFGREN
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Member of Congress


JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress


RO KHANNA
Member of Congress


EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

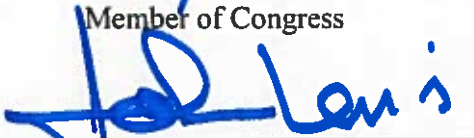

DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress

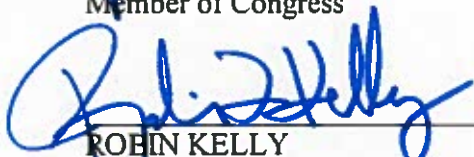

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Member of Congress


FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



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TJ COX
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Member of Congress



ROBIN KELLY
Member of Congress

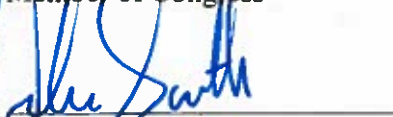

DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

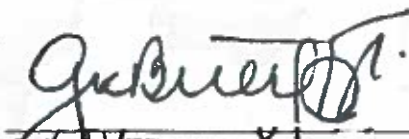

PETER A. DEFAZIO
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J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

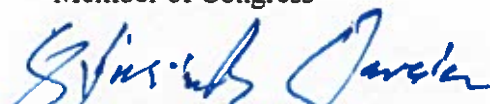

DIANA DEGETTE
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G. K. BUTTERFIELD
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GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
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LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress



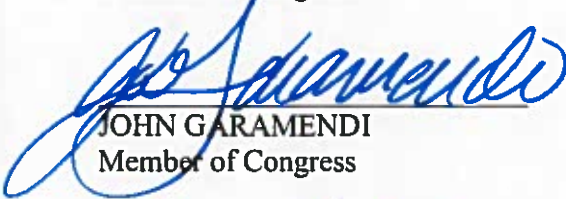
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Member of Congress



JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



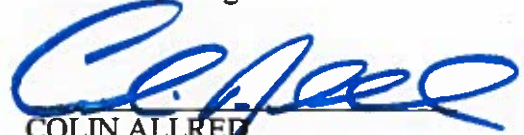
DAVE LOEBSACK
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HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress



COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress



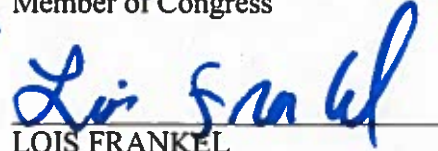
SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



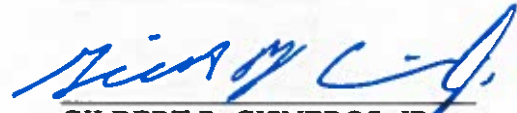
TONY CARDENAS
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LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



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WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress

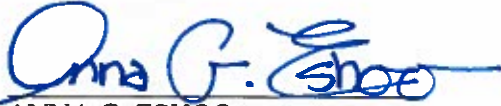
The Secretary of State

May 6, 2019

Page Seven



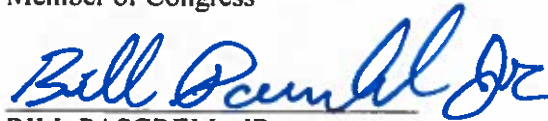
XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
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ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



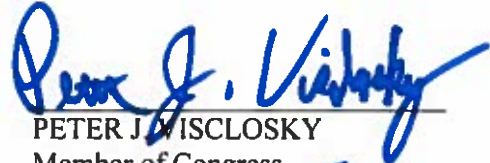
BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



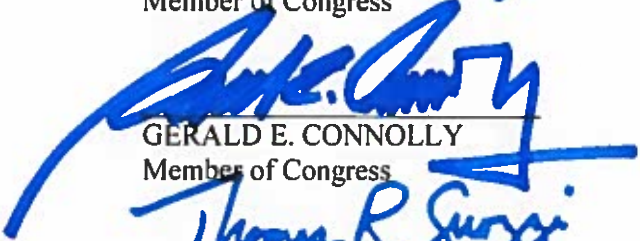
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KAREN BASS
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GERALD E. CONNOLLY
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THOMAS R. SUOZZI
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BRAD SHERMAN
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