Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2014

President Yoweri Museveni
President of Uganda
P.O. Box 25497
Kampala, Uganda

Dear President Museveni:

We write to express our grave concern about last month's passage of the "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" by the Ugandan Parliament. We reiterate the position previously articulated by Members of Congress that this bill violates human rights standards, particularly for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Ugandans. If adopted, this bill could result in a direct threat to the life and liberty of LGBT individuals and anyone perceived to be LGBT as well as their friends, families, and allies. We are further concerned that this bill is part of a larger trend of government restrictions on civil society organizations and passage of legislation that erodes the human rights of all Ugandans.

As you are aware, the protection of fundamental human rights is a cornerstone of American democracy and our relations with foreign countries. Many of us who have worked to expand bilateral relations between our two countries – including through passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) – are concerned about how this bill could affect future relations. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, if it becomes law, would intensify the criminalization of consensual same-sex relations and impose unacceptable penalties on LGBT persons, those who speak out about the experiences and rights of LGBT individuals, and potentially those who provide support or services to the LGBT population.

Worldwide, anti-LGBT stigma is correlated with increased vulnerability to HIV infection, and passing legislation that codifies such stigma could seriously undermine Uganda's HIV/AIDS relief efforts. Despite the country's largely successful campaign against HIV/AIDS through the 1990s, Uganda is among a minority of African nations currently experiencing an increase in HIV infections. According to the World Health Organization, Uganda's prevalence rate increased 9 percent between 2001 and 2010. During fiscal year 2011, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) invested $323.4 million in Uganda's HIV/AIDS relief efforts. This represents a steady increase in financial commitment nearly every year since PEPFAR's inception, and we are concerned for the future viability of this program should the Anti-Homosexuality Bill become law.

You have reiterated that you do not support the persecution of, or discrimination against, LGBT people, and we are concerned that the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill will prevent the

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Ugandan government from fulfilling this commitment, representing a significant lapse in respect for human rights in Uganda, and reinforcing a worrisome trend of restricting human rights.

We believe that advancing the human rights of LGBT persons is central to the United States' commitment to promoting human rights. We believe that human rights violations should not be tolerated, and we respectfully urge you to prevent the Anti-Homosexuality Bill from becoming law.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

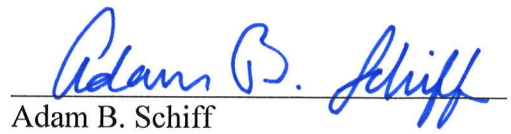
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

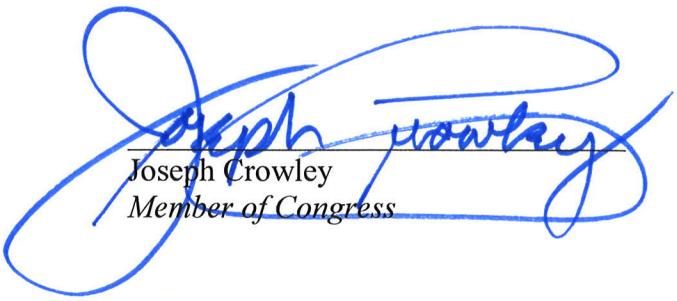
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

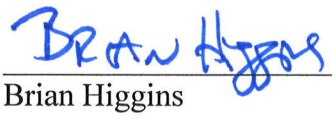


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

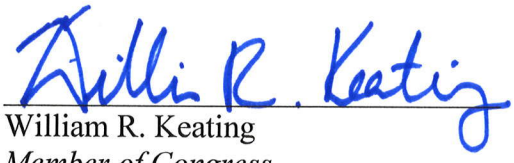


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

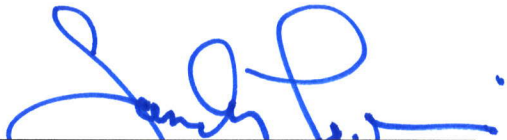
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

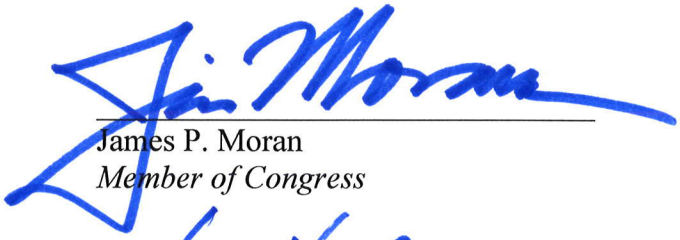


William R. Keating
Member of Congress

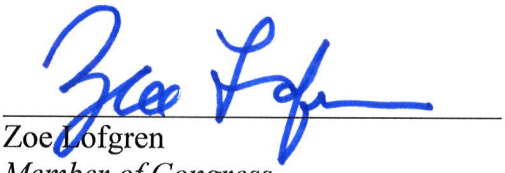


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



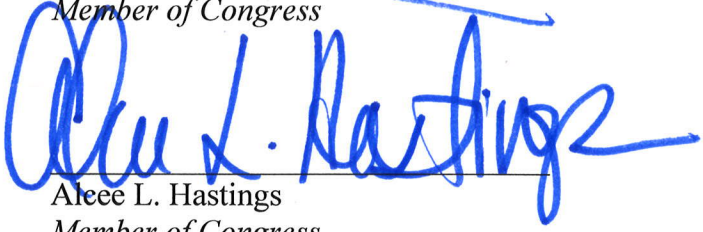
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



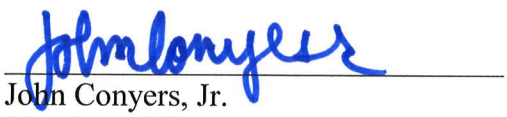
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

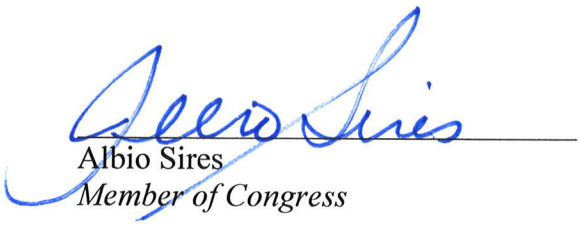


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

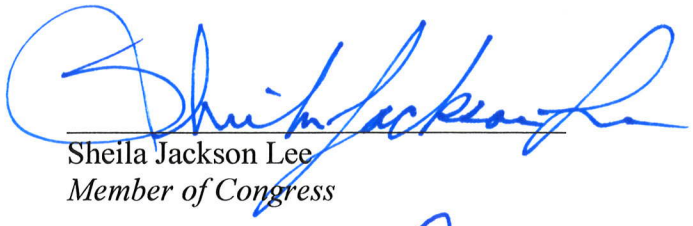
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



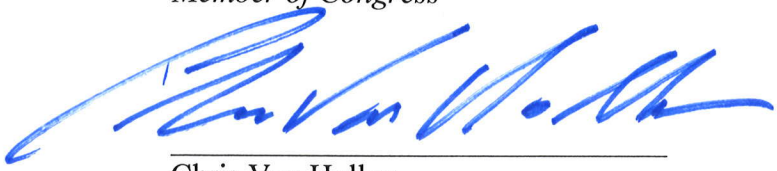
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

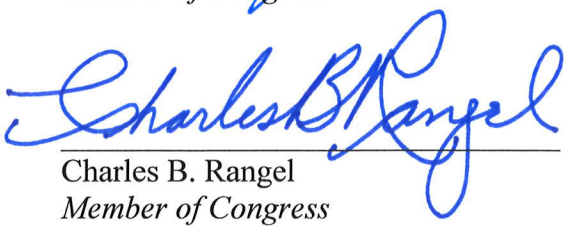
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



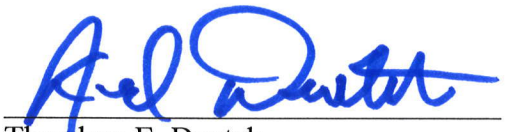
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



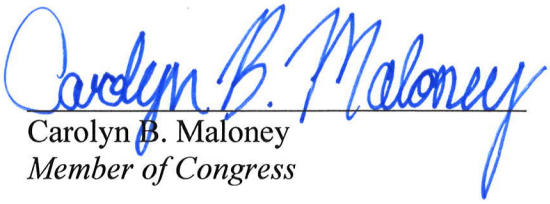
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



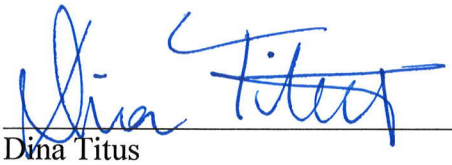
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



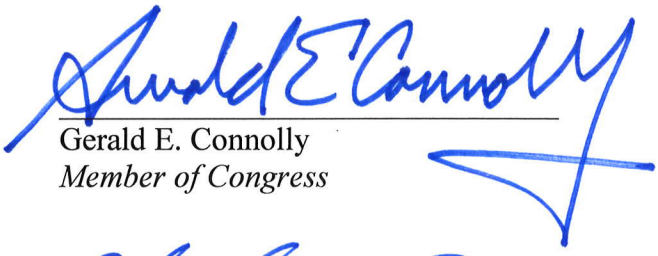
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



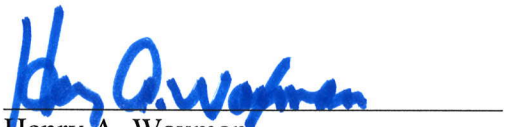
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

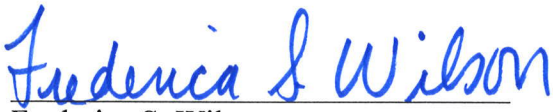


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

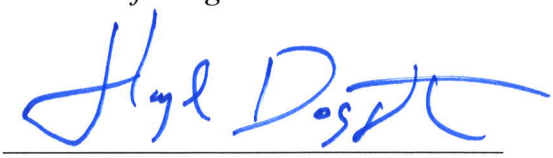


Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

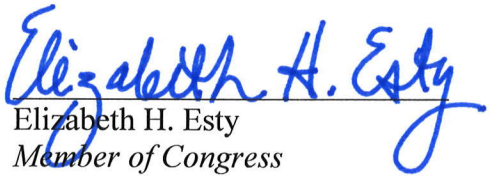
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



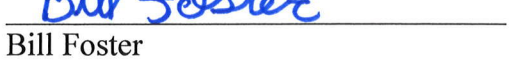
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



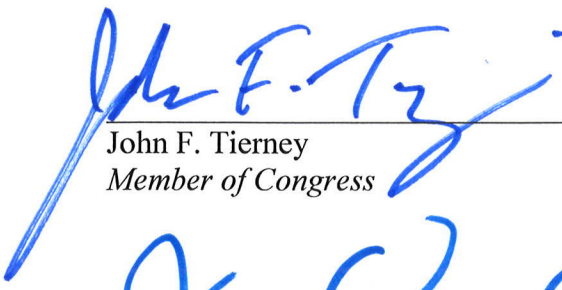
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



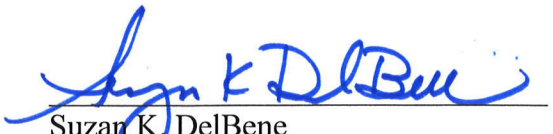
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



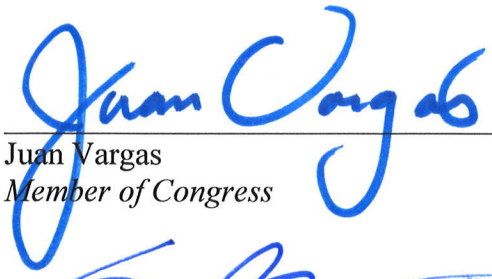
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



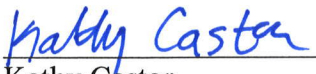
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

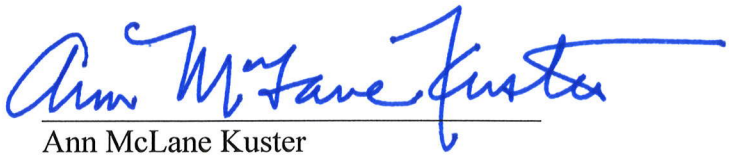


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

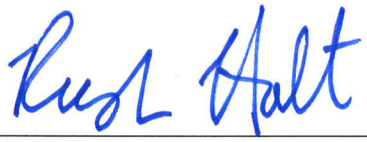
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

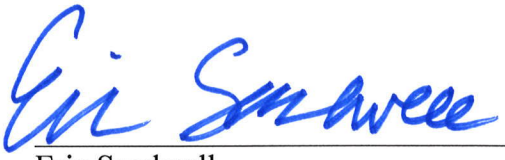
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



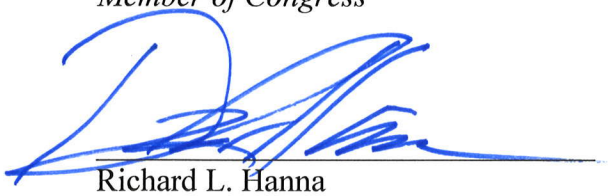
Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

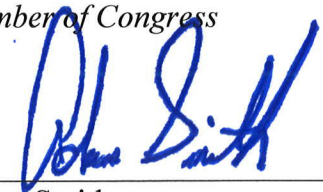
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



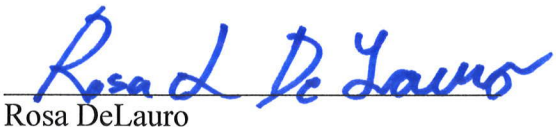
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

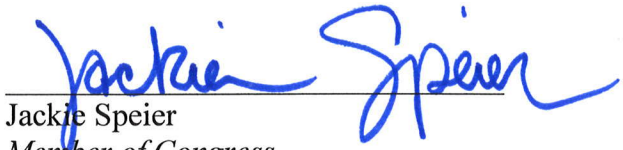
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

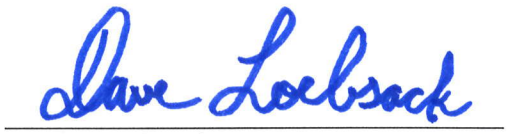
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

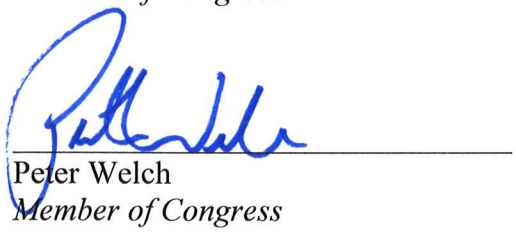
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress