

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations  
Room S128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
Room S146-A, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

Given the recent announcement that the U.S. is sending military personnel to West Africa to combat the Ebola outbreak, we respectfully request that the Committee provide \$88 million in the continuing resolution currently under consideration by the Committee, to continue the vital and timely work of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to fight the current Ebola crisis in West Africa.

From the requested \$88 million, \$30 million would go directly to the CDC for on-the-ground operations, including supplies and protective gear, and to increase the current staff, from 100 to 150 epidemiologists and intelligence officers who are currently tracing the spread of the disease in Africa. It would also pay for CDC support staff in the U.S. working directly with the team in West Africa.

The additional \$58 million of the request would help the CDC and BARDA accelerate development and testing of the experimental drug ZMapp, which has shown promise in fighting the Ebola epidemic. It would also help keep the development and manufacturing of two Ebola vaccines on track.

This funding is essential to continue the CDC presence in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria and provide these countries the expertise and equipment support to save lives and bring an end to the deadliest and largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded. The United States has already obligated \$175 million to the crisis and committed U.S. military personnel to develop a 25-bed field hospital in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to help health workers fight Ebola. Sustained U.S. financial support and involvement is also critical to support the stable governance of these nations, which is jeopardized by the current crisis. Without additional funding the CDC, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense and other United States agencies would need to continue to pull funds from other vital work and programs, including other crises around the world.

Despite the significant and lifesaving work already done by the governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria, the World Health Organizations and the on-the-ground non-profit organizations, there is a drastic need for the United States to continue to supply knowledgeable medical professionals and equipment to strengthen quality of care and surveillance for case finding and contact tracing as well as support laboratory testing to develop treatments and vaccinations.

The current Ebola crisis is not an isolated disease outbreak in rural communities; it is a regional health, humanitarian and security crisis that needs the support of the international community to bring the outbreak to an end and ensure the stability of impacted countries. We urge you to make these powerful investments in global health security and fight the current Ebola outbreak.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS


Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM

Member of Congress

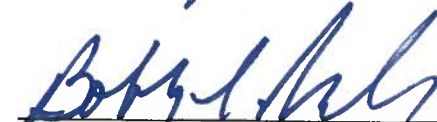
  
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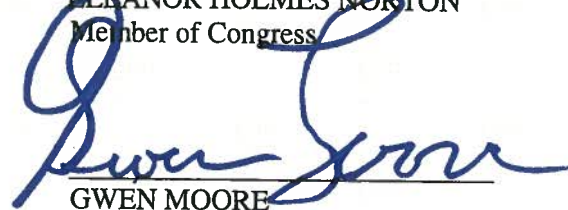
  
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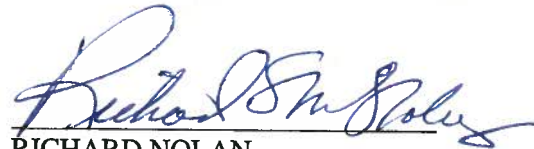
  
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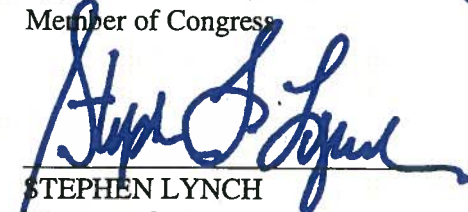
  
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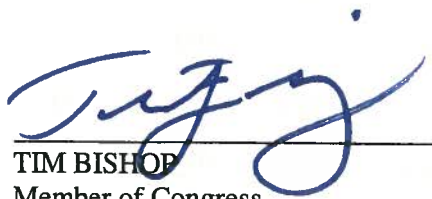
  
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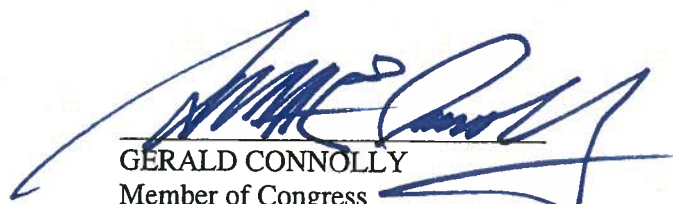
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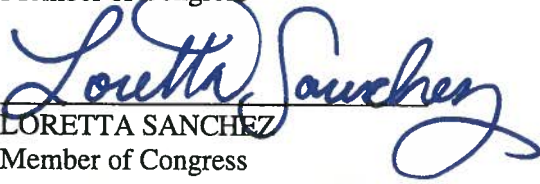


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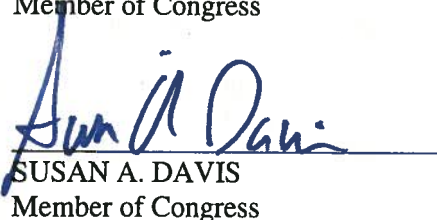
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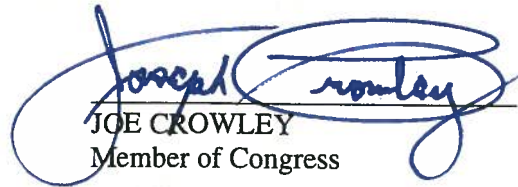
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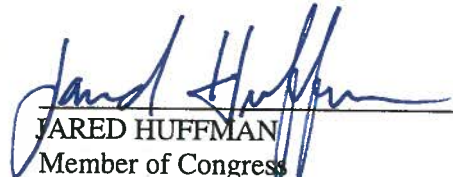
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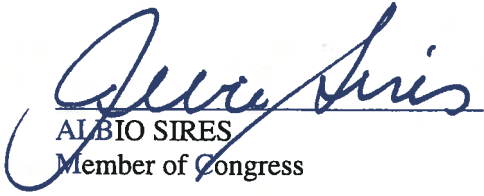
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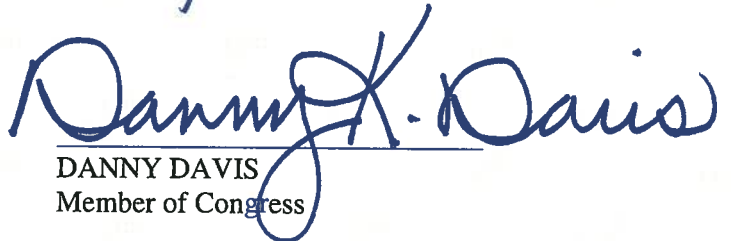
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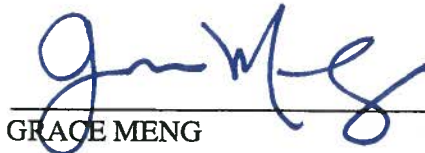
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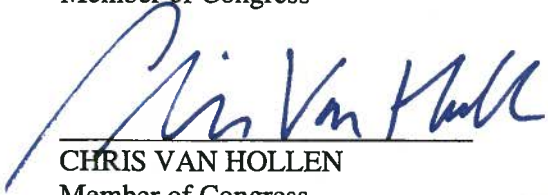
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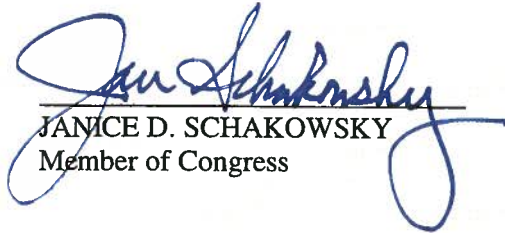
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