



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TELEPHONE: (202) 662-3547

FAX: (202) 662-3560

TO:

Ann O'Leary

FIRM:

CITY/STATE:

FAX NUMBER:

456-2871

FROM:

HELEN BLANK, Director, Child Care Division,
Children's Defense Fund, Department of Programs and Policy

DATE: *4-5-2000*

TIME:

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):

COMMENTS:

This was sent on Friday

If you have any problems receiving this fax, please contact Delanee Wijesekera at (202) 662-3544.

March 31, 2000

The Honorable David R. Obey
Committee on Appropriations
H218 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young/ Chairman Porter/ Ranking Member Obey:

As you proceed with the difficult task of setting equitable funding levels for the many programs under your jurisdiction, we urge you to address the severe gap in child care funding in this country. We ask that in your Labor-HHS-Education appropriation for FY 2001, you provide the \$817 million increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant's (CCDBG) discretionary funds included in the President's budget.

This year, Congress has a unique opportunity to secure these desperately-needed funds for working parents struggling to afford child care. We respectfully ask that you provide the additional \$817 million and make this funding available in October, 2000, while maintaining the current set-asides for child care quality, school age care, and resource and referral. In addition, we ask you to restore the set-asides for the improvement of infant care and research.

This increase is vital to helping low-income, working parents afford quality child care. The average annual cost of child care ranges from over \$3,000 to almost \$8,000 per child, far beyond the reach of low- and moderate- income families. Furthermore, as millions of families have left the welfare rolls for work, low-income families' need for child care has grown tremendously. Yet at current funding levels, the CCDBG serves only one in ten eligible children. Despite this growing need, the CCDBG's discretionary account has not seen a significant increase since Congress passed welfare reform four years ago. Although funding for quality improvement received a modest increase in 1998, Congress has provided no new discretionary funds to serve more children.

Since its enactment in 1990, the CCDBG has been the major source of financial assistance to help low-income parents pay for child care and enjoys broad support in Congress and among the Governors. CCDBG funds are provided through flexible grants so that states can design their own programs and parents can choose the type of arrangements that best suit the needs of their children. To help hard-working parents stay self-sufficient and to ensure safe and stimulating environments for millions of children, we urge you to provide the \$817 million increase in FY 2001 and to restore the set-asides for infant care and research. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin, MC

Rosa L. DeLauro, MC

Constance A. Morella, MC

Benjamin A. Gilman, MC

1. Ben Cardin
2. Rosa DeLauro
3. Constance Morella
4. Ben Gilman
5. Jesse Jackson, Jr., MC
6. Robert T. Matsui, MC
7. Pete Stark, MC
8. Carolyn B. Maloney, MC
9. Michael R. McNulty, MC
10. Richard E. Neal, MC
11. Dale Kildce, MC
12. Jim Moran, MC
13. Ellen Tauscher, MC
14. Chakah Fattah, MC
15. Maurice D. Hinchey, MC
16. William D. Delahunt, MC
17. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, MC
18. John M. Spratt, MC
19. John Conyers, MC
20. Carolyn McCarthy, MC
21. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, MC
22. Ciro D. Rodriguez, MC
23. Lois Capps, MC
24. Carlos Romero-Barcelo, MC
25. Nydia M. Velazquez, MC
26. Sheila Jackson-Lee, MC
27. Bernard Sanders, MC
28. George Miller, MC
29. Lynn Woolsey, MC
30. Nick Rahall, MC
31. Donald Payne, MC
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33. Lloyd Doggett, MC
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36. Shelley Berkley, MC
37. Michael P. Forbes, MC
38. Corrine Brown, MC
39. Sherrod Brown, MC
40. Anna G. Eshoo, MC
41. John B. Larson, MC
42. Julia Carson, MC
43. Henry Waxman, MC
44. Barney Frank, MC
45. Lucille Roybal-Allard, MC

46. Matthew G. Martinez, MC
47. Anthony D. Weiner, MC
48. Martin T. Meehan, MC
49. William J. Coyne, MC
50. Gene Green, MC
51. Neil Abercrombie, MC
52. Edolphus Towns, MC
53. Frank Pallone, Jr., MC
54. Robert A. Weygand,
55. Melvin Watt, MC
56. Loretta Sanchez, MC
57. Sam Gejdenson, MC
58. Robert C. Scott, MC
59. Martin Frost, MC
60. Michael E. Capuano, MC
61. Albert R. Wynn, MC
62. Jim Davis, MC
63. Tom Lantos, MC
64. Nancy Pelosi, MC
65. Eleanor Holmes Norton, MC
66. Lynn N. Rivers, MC
67. Patrick J. Kennedy, MC
68. Louise M. Slaughter, MC
69. Patsy T. Mink, MC
70. Pat Danner, MC
71. Ted Strickland, MC
72. Sander M. Levin, MC
73. Martin O. Sabo, MC
74. Tony P. Hall, MC
75. Karen L. Thurman, MC
76. Ruben Hinojosa, MC
77. Diana DeGette, MC
78. Bruce F. Vento, MC
79. Silvestre Reyes, MC
80. Tammy Baldwin, MC
81. Tom Udall, MC
82. Brian Baird, MC
83. John E. Baldacci, MC
84. Thomas Barrett, MC
85. William O. Lipinski, MC
86. Elijah Cummings, MC
87. Xavier Becerra, MC
88. Ron Kind, MC
89. Robert Brady, MC

90. Eddie Bernice Johnson, MC
91. Gerald D. Kleczka, MC
92. Ken Bentsen, MC
91. Lane Evans, MC
93. Eva M. Clayton, MC
94. Charles B. Rangel, MC
95. Steven R. Rothman, MC
96. Adam Smith, MC
97. Charles A. Gonzalez, MC
98. John F. Tierney, MC
99. Debbie Stabenow, MC
100. David E. Price, MC
101. Bart Stupak, MC
102. James T. Walsh, MC
103. Steny Hoyer, MC
104. Earl Pomeroy, MC
105. Jay Inslee, MC
106. Jack Quinn, MC
107. Barbara Lee, MC
108. Robert Wexler, MC
109. Jim McGovern, MC
110. Zoe Lofgren, MC
111. David Wu, MC
112. Eliot Engel, MC
113. Jim McDermott, MC
114. Carrie P. Meek, MC
115. John Lewis
116. James T. Walsh, MC
117. John Joseph Moakley, MC
118. Major R. Owens
119. Rick Boucher
120. William Clay



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

STOPPED

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

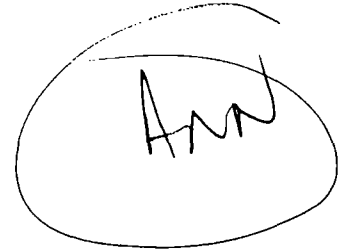
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003

April 5, 2000

COMMISSIONER
COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
STEERING COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Mr. Bruce N. Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Second Floor, West Wing
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Reed:

As we work to provide critical supports for families struggling to balance the demands of employment and parenthood, I was pleased that President Clinton requested an \$817 million increase in discretionary funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). I want to inform you of efforts in the House of Representatives to include this CCDBG increase in the FY 2001 appropriations legislation for the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education Departments.

Enclosed please find a bipartisan letter from me and 120 of my colleagues to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education expressing support for the Administration's requested increase in the CCDBG. Bipartisan support for this increase in both the House and Senate affords us a unique opportunity to secure these much-needed funds. I hope that Congress and the Administration will work to ensure action on this measure this year.

I thank you for your efforts on behalf of children in this country and I look forward working with you on this important issue as we proceed with the FY 2001 budget.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

BLC:sw

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2000

Chairman C.W. Bill Young
Committee on Appropriations
H218 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young:

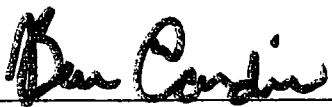
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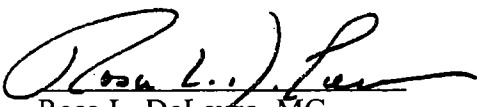
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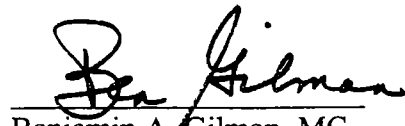
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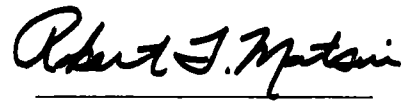

Benjamin L. Cardin, MC


Rosa L. DeLauro, MC

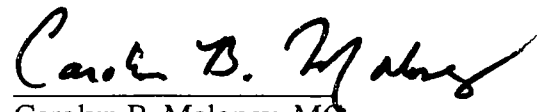

Constance A. Morella, MC

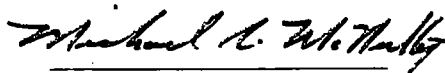

Benjamin A. Gilman, MC

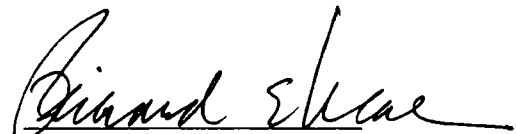

Jesse Jackson, Jr., MC


Robert T. Matsui, MC


Pete Stark, MC

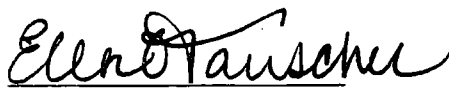

Carolyn B. Maloney, MC

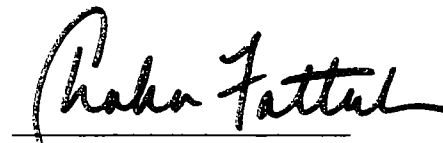

Michael R. McNulty, MC

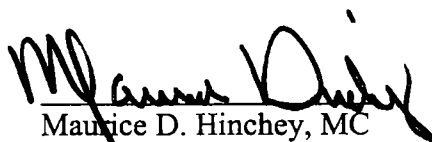

Richard E. Neal, MC


Dale Kildee, MC

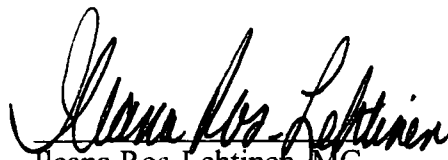

Jim Moran, MC


Ellen Tauscher, MC

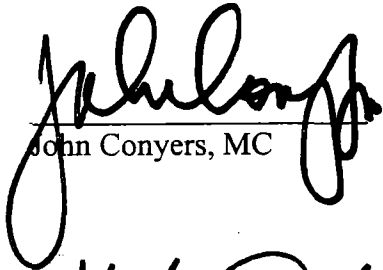

Chaka Fattah, MC


Maurice D. Hinchey, MC

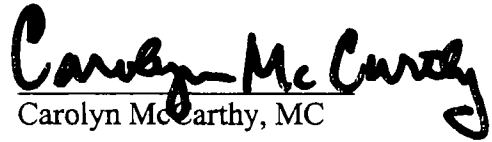

William D. Delahunt, MC


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, MC

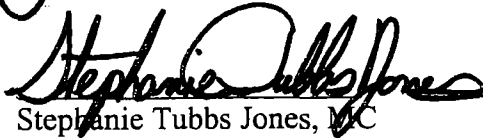

John M. Spratt, MC



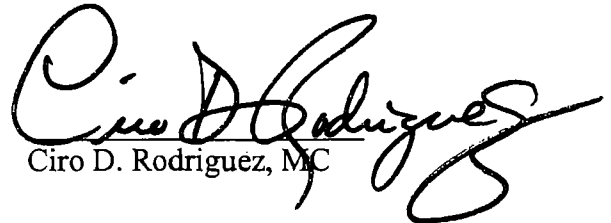
John Conyers, MC



Carolyn McCarthy, MC



Stephanie Tubbs Jones, MC



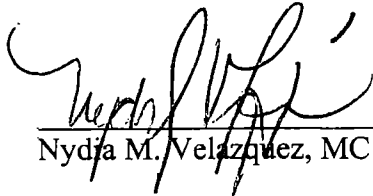
Ciro D. Rodriguez, MC



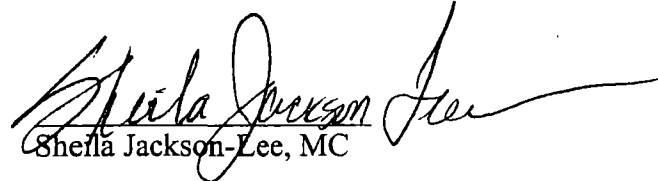
Lois Capps, MC



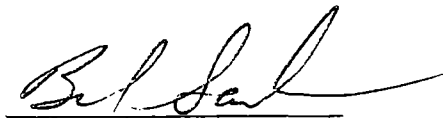
Carlos Romero-Barcelo, MC



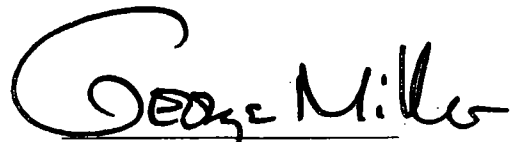
Nydia M. Velazquez, MC



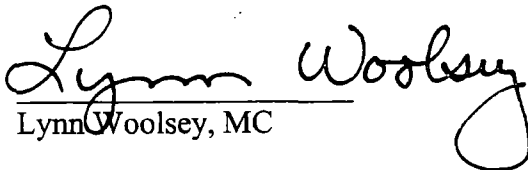
Sheila Jackson-Lee, MC



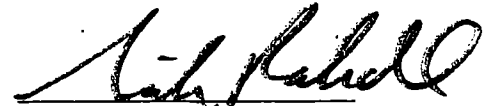
Bernard Sanders, MC



George Miller, MC



Lynn Woolsey, MC



Nick Rahall, MC



Donald Payne, MC



Thomas H. Allen, MC



Lloyd Doggett, MC



Peter DeFazio, MC



Janice D. Schakowsky, MC



Shelley Berkley, MC



Michael P. Forbes, MC



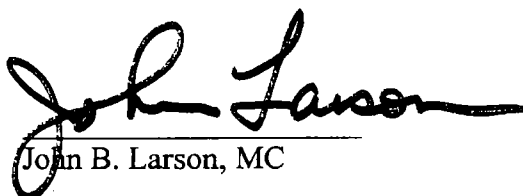
Corrine Brown, MC



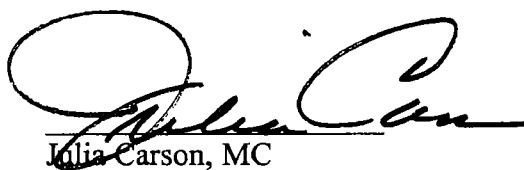
Sherrod Brown, MC



Anna G. Eshoo, MC



John B. Larson, MC



Julia Carson, MC



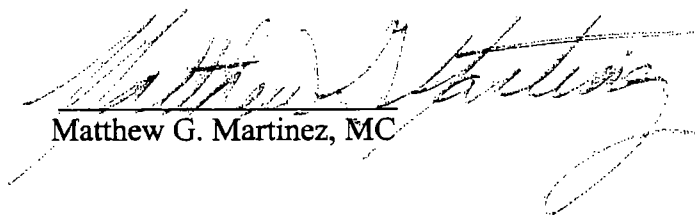
Henry Waxman, MC



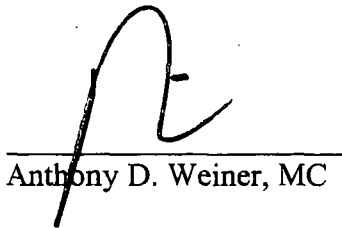
Barney Frank, MC



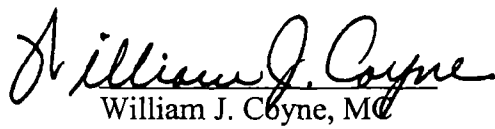
Lucille Roybal-Allard, MC

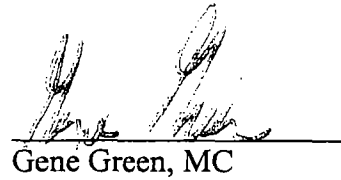


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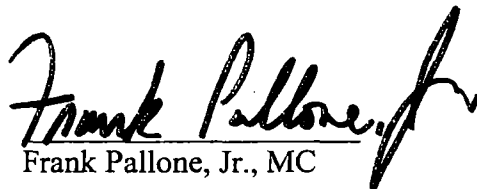

Martin T. Meehan, MC

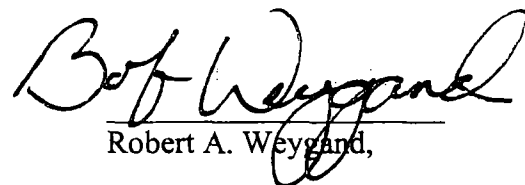

William J. Coyne, MC

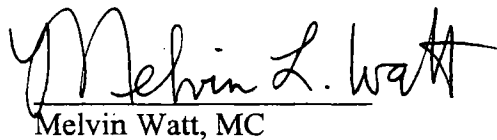

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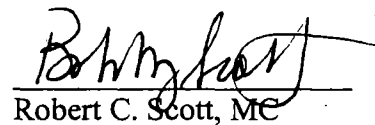

Frank Pallone, Jr., MC


Robert A. Weygand,

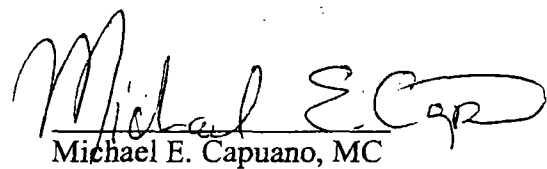

Melvin Watt, MC


Loretta Sanchez, MC

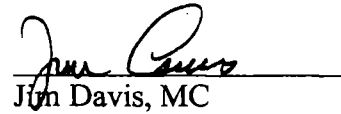

Sam Gejdenson, MC


Robert C. Scott, MC

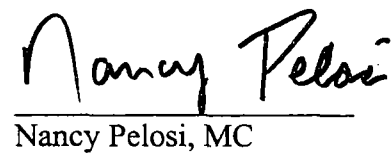

Martin Frost, MC


Michael E. Capuano, MC

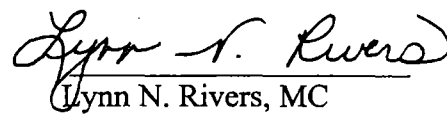

Albert R. Wynn, MC

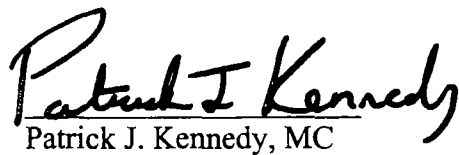

Jim Davis, MC

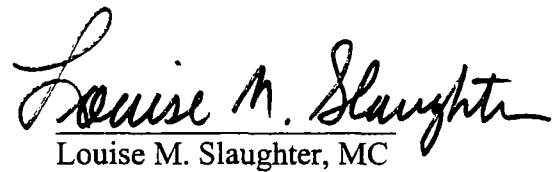

Tom Lantos, MC

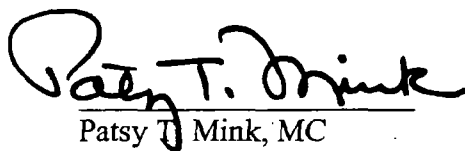

Nancy Pelosi, MC


Eleanor Holmes Norton, MC

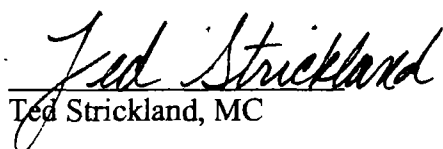

Lynn N. Rivers, MC

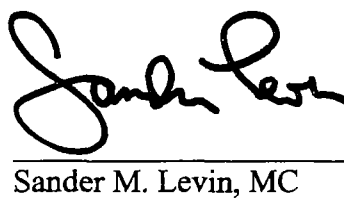

Patrick J. Kennedy, MC


Louise M. Slaughter, MC

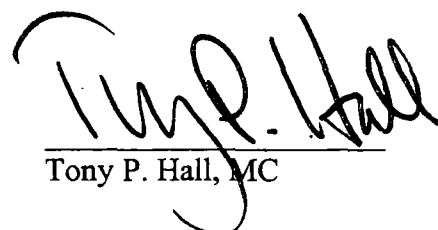

Patsy T. Mink, MC

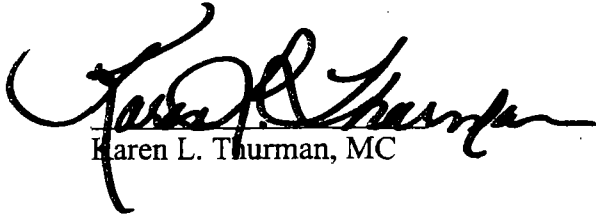

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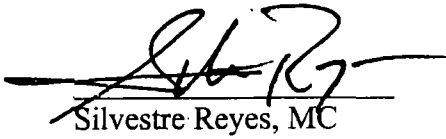

Tony P. Hall, MC

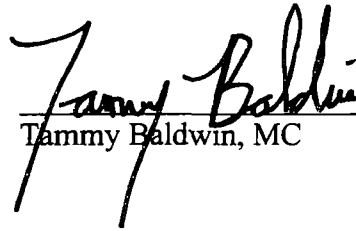

Karen L. Thurman, MC


Ruben Hinojosa, MC

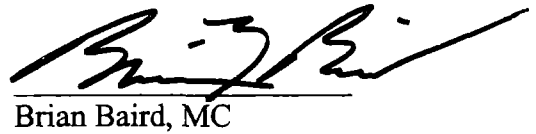

Diana DeGette, MC

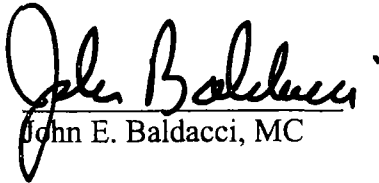

Bruce F. Vento, MC


Silvestre Reyes, MC

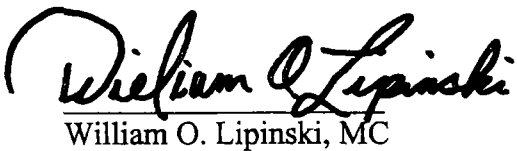

Tammy Baldwin, MC


Tom Udall, MC

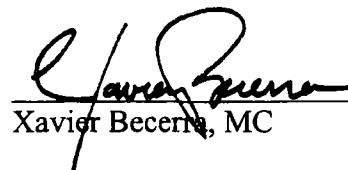

Brian Baird, MC


John E. Baldacci, MC


Thomas Barrett, MC

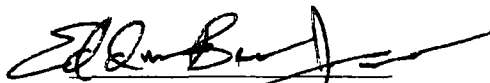

William O. Lipinski, MC

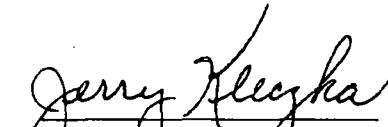

Elijah Cummings, MC


Xavier Becerra, MC

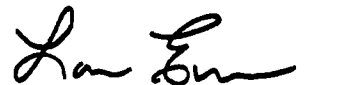

Ron Kind, MC

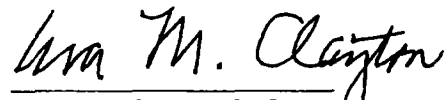

Robert Brady, MC

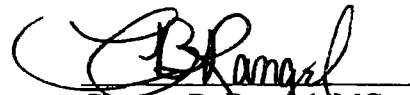

Eddie Bernice Johnson, MC


Gerald D. Kleczka, MC


Ken Bentsen, MC

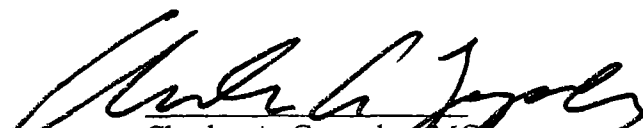

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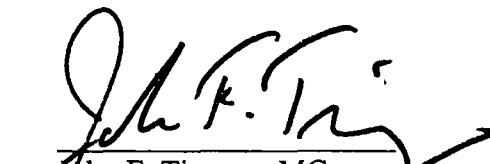

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Charles B. Rangel, MC


Steven R. Rothman, MC

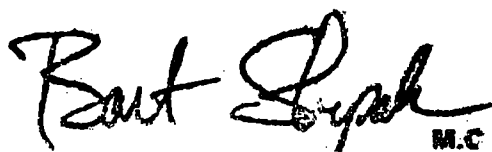

Adam Smith, MC


Charles A. Gonzalez, MC


John F. Tierney, MC


Debbie Stabenow, MC

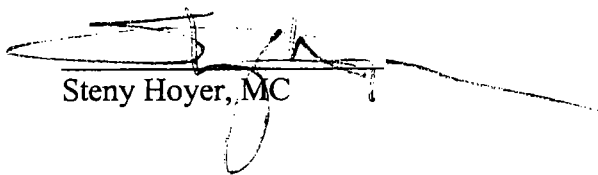

David E. Price, MC



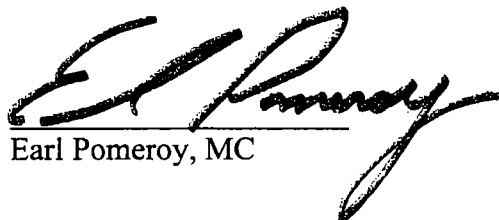
Bart Stupak, MC



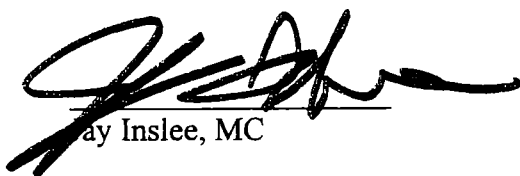
James L. Oberstar, MC



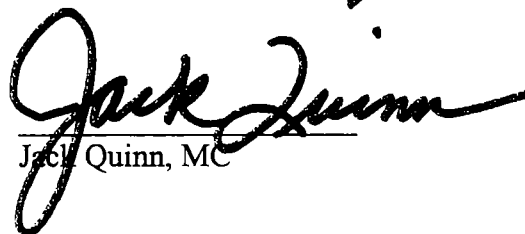
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Earl Pomeroy, MC



Jay Inslee, MC



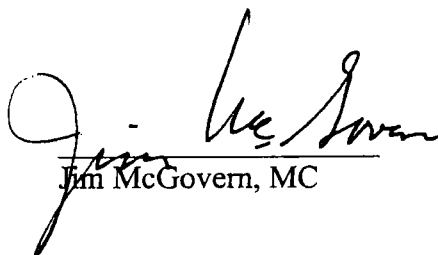
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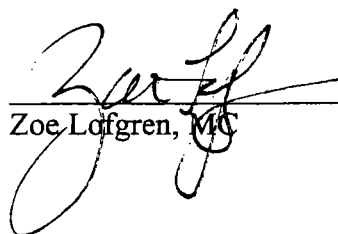
Barbara Lee, MC



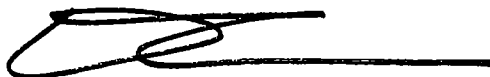
Robert Wexler, MC



Jim McGovern, MC



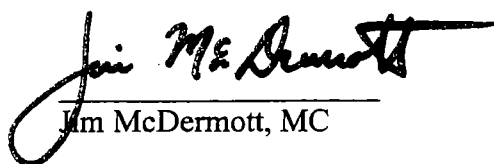
Zoe Lofgren, MC



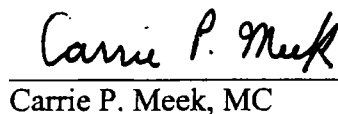
David Wu, MC



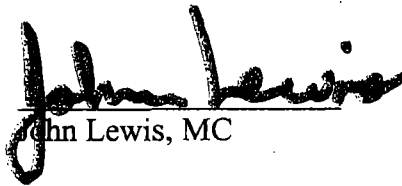
Eliot Engel, MC



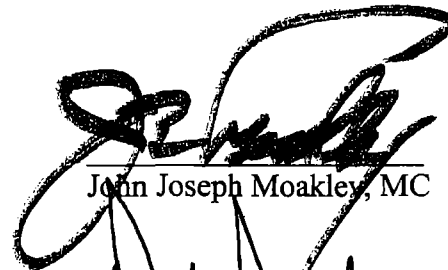
Jim McDermott, MC



Carrie P. Meek, MC



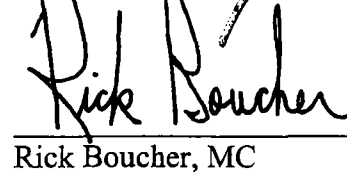
John Lewis, MC



John Joseph Moakley, MC



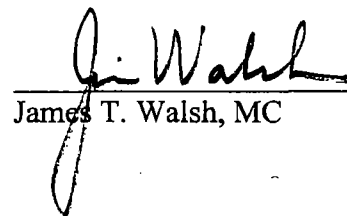
Major R. Owens, MC



Rick Boucher, MC



William Clay, MC



James T. Walsh, MC

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2000

The Honorable David R. Obey
Committee on Appropriations
H218 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Obey:

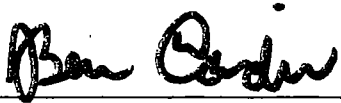
As you proceed with the difficult task of setting equitable funding levels for the many programs under your jurisdiction, we urge you to address the severe gap in child care funding in this country. We ask that in your Labor-HHS-Education appropriation for FY 2001, you provide the \$817 million increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant's (CCDBG) discretionary funds included in the President's budget.

This year, Congress has a unique opportunity to secure these desperately-needed funds for working parents struggling to afford child care. We respectfully ask that you provide the additional \$817 million and make this funding available in October, 2000, while maintaining the current set-asides for child care quality, school age care, and resource and referral. In addition, we ask you to restore the set-asides for the improvement of infant care and research.

This increase is vital to helping low-income, working parents afford quality child care. The average annual cost of child care ranges from over \$3,000 to almost \$8,000 per child, far beyond the reach of low- and moderate- income families. Furthermore, as millions of families have left the welfare rolls for work, low-income families' need for child care has grown tremendously. Yet at current funding levels, the CCDBG serves only one in ten eligible children. Despite this growing need, the CCDBG's discretionary account has not seen a significant increase since Congress passed welfare reform four years ago. Although funding for quality improvement received a modest increase in 1998, Congress has provided no new discretionary funds to serve more children.

Since its enactment in 1990, the CCDBG has been the major source of financial assistance to help low-income parents pay for child care and enjoys broad support in Congress and among the Governors. CCDBG funds are provided through flexible grants so that states can design their own programs and parents can choose the type of arrangements that best suit the needs of their children. To help hard-working parents stay self-sufficient and to ensure safe and stimulating environments for millions of children, we urge you to provide the \$817 million increase in FY 2001 and to restore the set-asides for infant care and research. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin, MC



Rosa L. DeLauro, MC

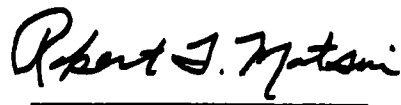


Constance A. Morella, MC



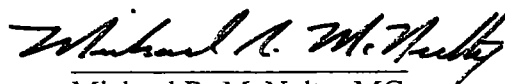
Benjamin A. Gilman, MC

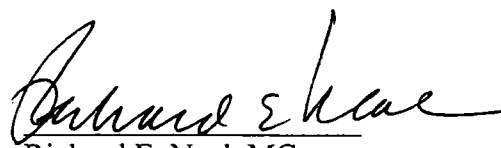

Jesse Jackson, Jr., MC

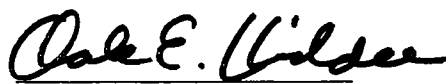

Robert T. Matsui, MC


Pete Stark, MC


Carolyn B. Maloney, MC


Michael R. McNulty, MC


Richard E. Neal, MC

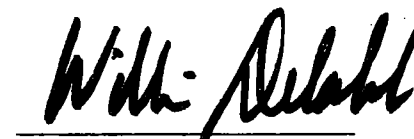

Dale Kildee, MC

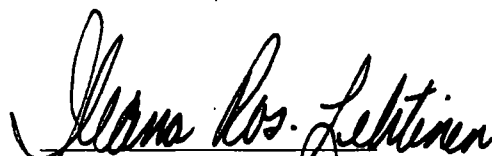

Jim Moran, MC


Ellen Tauscher, MC

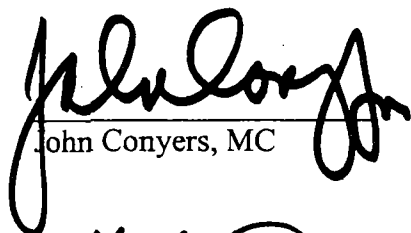

Chaka Fattah, MC


Maurice D. Hinchey, MC

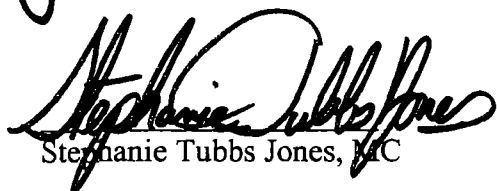

William D. Delahunt, MC

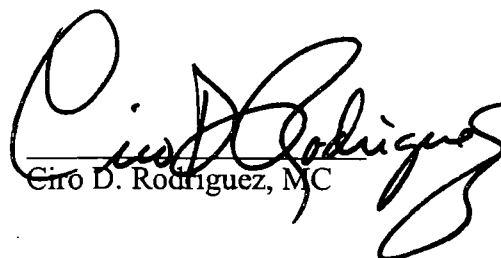

Heena Ros-Lehtinen, MC


John M. Spratt, MC


John Conyers, MC

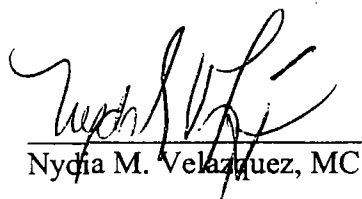

Carolyn McCarthy, MC

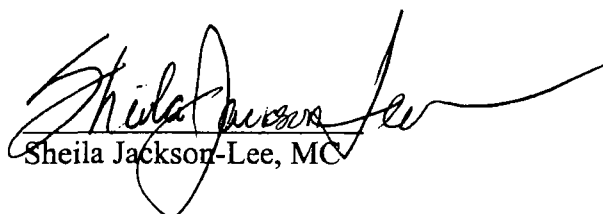

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, MC

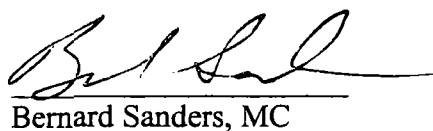

Ciro D. Rodriguez, MC

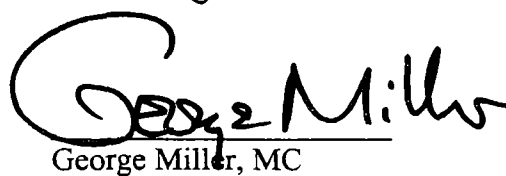

Lois Capps, MC

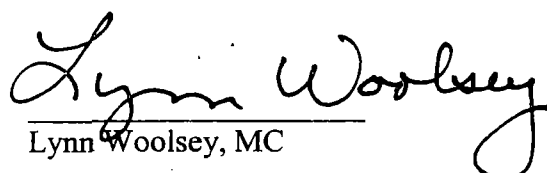

Carlos Romero-Barcelo, MC


Nydia M. Velazquez, MC


Sheila Jackson-Lee, MC


Bernard Sanders, MC


George Miller, MC


Lynn Woolsey, MC


Nick Rahall, MC


Donald Payne, MC


Thomas H. Allen, MC



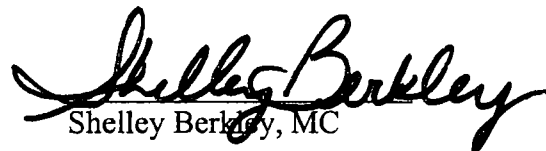
Lloyd Doggett, MC



Peter DeFazio, MC



Janice D. Schakowsky, MC



Shelley Berkley, MC



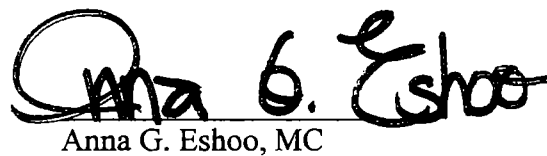
Michael P. Forbes, MC



Corrine Brown, MC



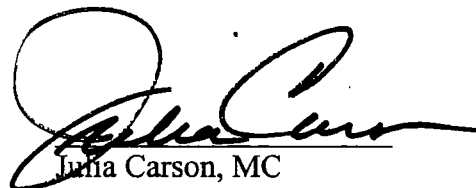
Sherrod Brown, MC



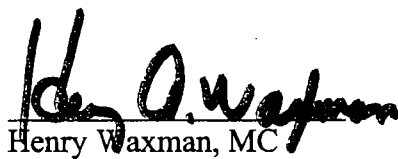
Anna G. Eshoo, MC



John B. Larson, MC



Julia Carson, MC



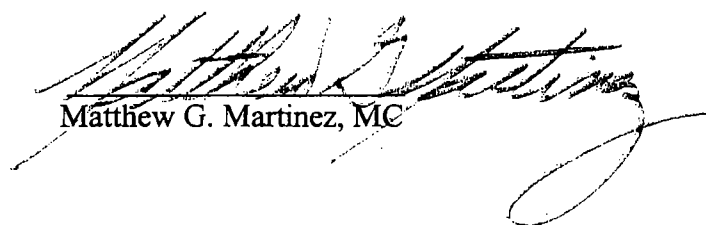
Henry Waxman, MC



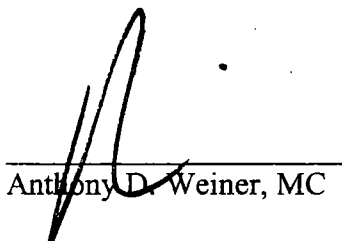
Barney Frank, MC

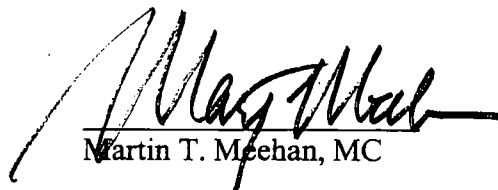


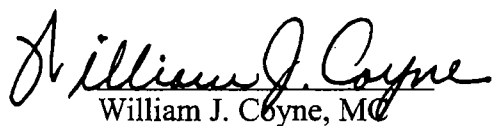
Lucille Roybal-Allard, MC



Matthew G. Martinez, MC

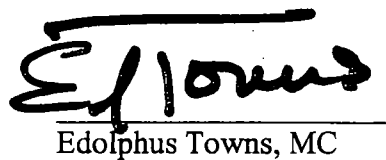

Anthony D. Weiner, MC

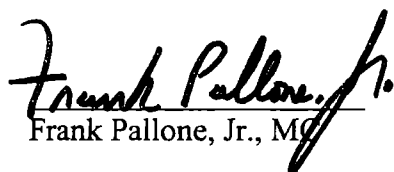

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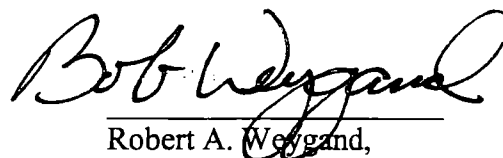

William J. Coyne, MC

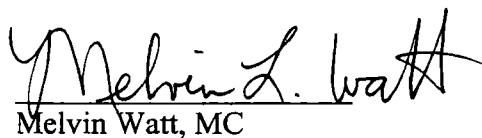

Gene Green, MC


Neil Abercrombie, MC

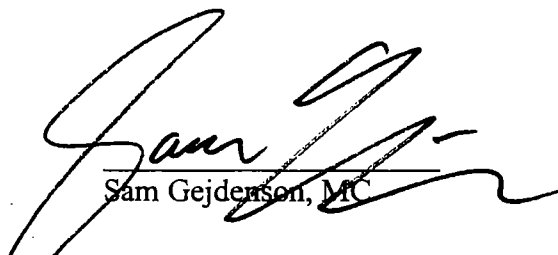

Edolphus Towns, MC


Frank Pallone, Jr., MC


Robert A. Weygand, MC

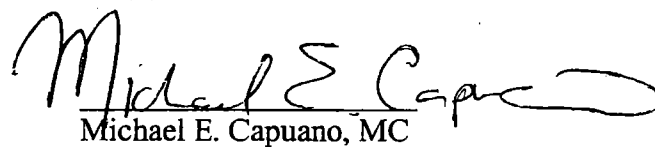

Melvin Watt, MC


Loretta Sanchez, MC


Sam Gejdenson, MC


Robert C. Scott, MC

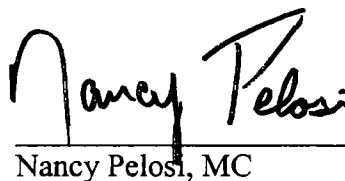

Martin Frost, MC


Michael E. Capuano, MC


Albert R. Wynn, MC

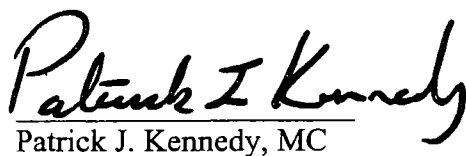

Jim Davis, MC

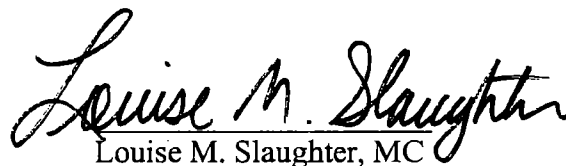

Tom Lantos, MC

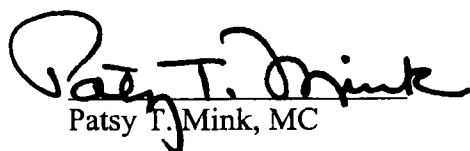

Nancy Pelosi, MC

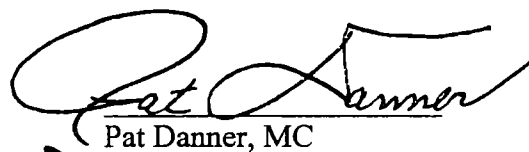

Eleanor Holmes Norton, MC


Lynn N. Rivers, MC

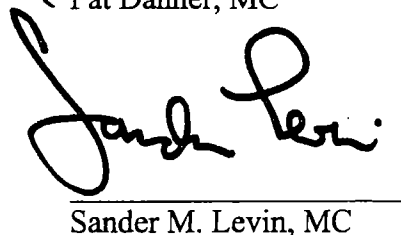

Patrick J. Kennedy, MC


Louise M. Slaughter, MC

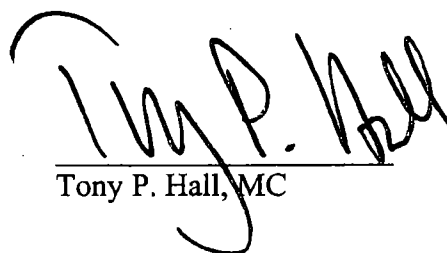

Patsy T. Mink, MC

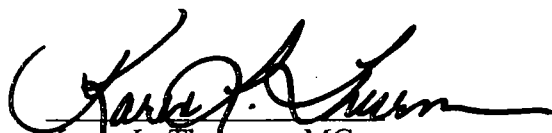

Pat Danner, MC


Ted Strickland, MC


Sander M. Levin, MC

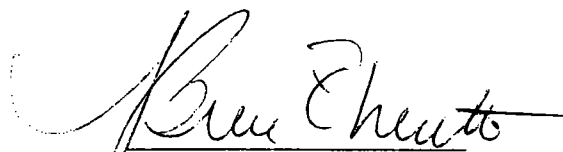

Martin O. Sabo, MC

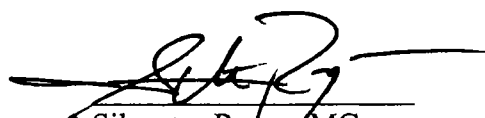

Tony P. Hall, MC

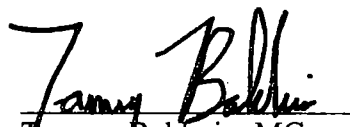

Karen L. Thurman, MC


Ruben Hinojosa, MC

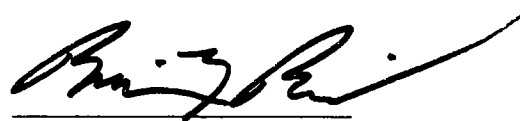

Diana DeGette, MC

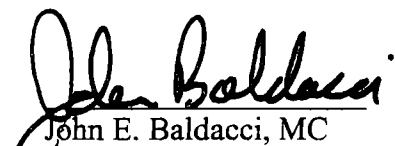

Bruce F. Vento, MC

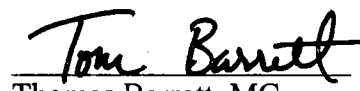

Silvestre Reyes, MC


Tammy Baldwin, MC


Tom Udall, MC

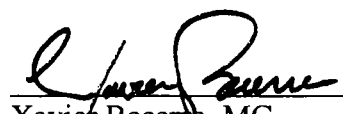

Brian Baird, MC


John E. Baldacci, MC


Thomas Barrett, MC

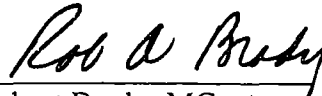

William O. Lipinski, MC


Elijah Cummings, MC

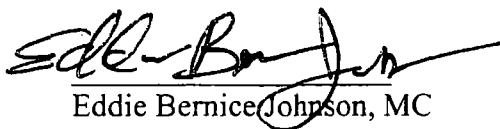

Xavier Becerra, MC



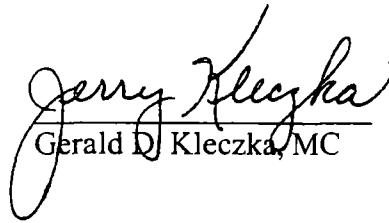
Ron Kind, MC



Robert Brady, MC



Eddie Bernice Johnson, MC



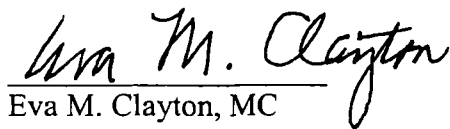
Gerald D. Kleczka, MC



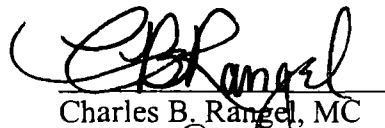
Ken Bentsen, MC



Lane Evans, MC



Eva M. Clayton, MC



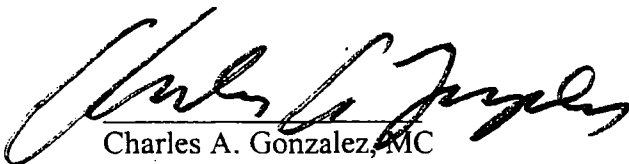
Charles B. Rangel, MC



Steven R. Rothman, MC



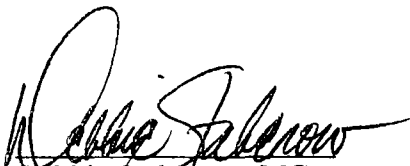
Adam Smith, MC



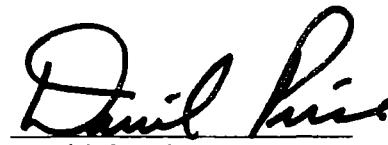
Charles A. Gonzalez, MC



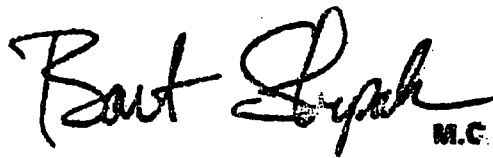
John F. Tierney, MC



Debbie Stabenow, MC



David E. Price, MC

A stylized, handwritten signature of Bart Stupak in black ink.

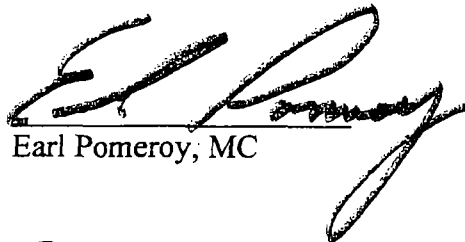
Bart Stupak, MC

A handwritten signature of James L. Oberstar in black ink.

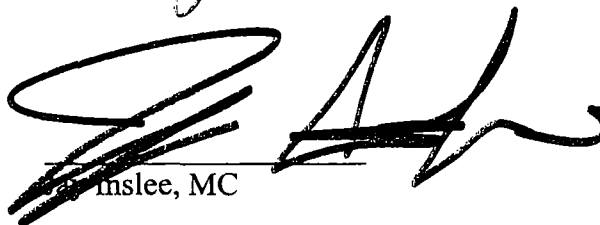
James L. Oberstar, MC

A handwritten signature of Steny Hoyer in black ink.

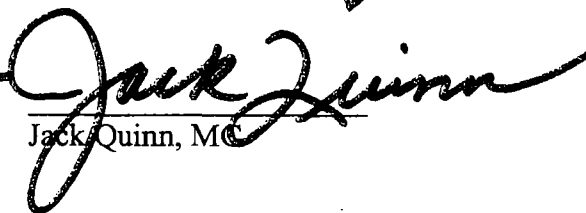
Steny Hoyer, MC

A handwritten signature of Earl Pomeroy in black ink.

Earl Pomeroy, MC

A handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in black ink.

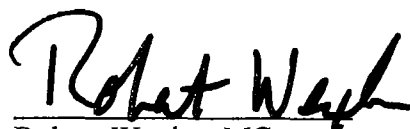
Jay Inslee, MC

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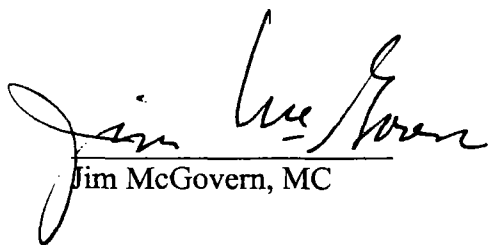
Jack Quinn, MC

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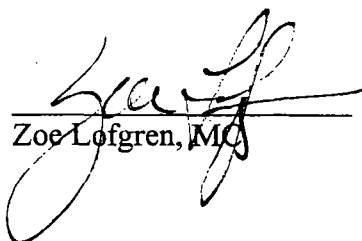
Barbara Lee, MC

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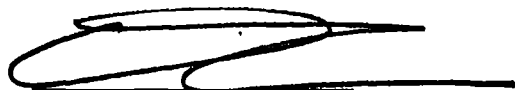
Robert Wexler, MC

A handwritten signature of Jim McGovern in black ink.

Jim McGovern, MC

A handwritten signature of Zoe Lofgren in black ink.

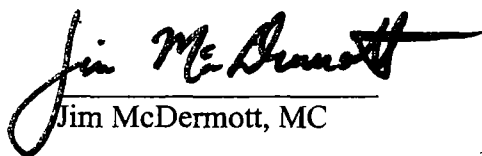
Zoe Lofgren, MC

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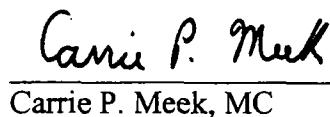
David Wu, MC

A handwritten signature of Eliot L. Engel in black ink.

Eliot Engel, MC

A handwritten signature of Jim McDermott in black ink.

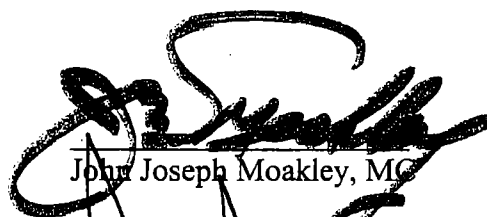
Jim McDermott, MC

A handwritten signature of Carrie P. Meek in black ink.

Carrie P. Meek, MC



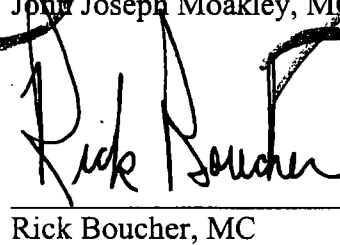
John Lewis, MC



John Joseph Moakley, MC



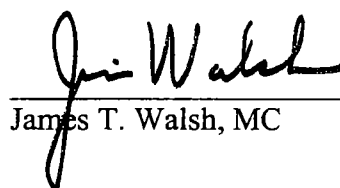
Major R. Owens, MC



Rick Boucher, MC



William Clay, MC



James T. Walsh, MC

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2000

Chairman John Edward Porter
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Porter:

As you proceed with the difficult task of setting equitable funding levels for the many programs under your jurisdiction, we urge you to address the severe gap in child care funding in this country. We ask that in your Labor-HHS-Education appropriation for FY 2001, you provide the \$817 million increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant's (CCDBG) discretionary funds included in the President's budget.

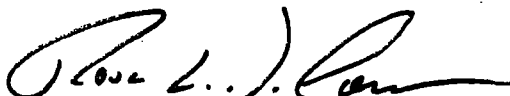
This year, Congress has a unique opportunity to secure these desperately-needed funds for working parents struggling to afford child care. We respectfully ask that you provide the additional \$817 million and make this funding available in October, 2000, while maintaining the current set-asides for child care quality, school age care, and resource and referral. In addition, we ask you to restore the set-asides for the improvement of infant care and research.

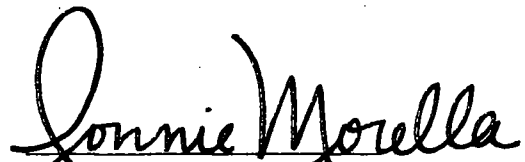
This increase is vital to helping low-income, working parents afford quality child care. The average annual cost of child care ranges from over \$3,000 to almost \$8,000 per child, far beyond the reach of low- and moderate- income families. Furthermore, as millions of families have left the welfare rolls for work, low-income families' need for child care has grown tremendously. Yet at current funding levels, the CCDBG serves only one in ten eligible children. Despite this growing need, the CCDBG's discretionary account has not seen a significant increase since Congress passed welfare reform four years ago. Although funding for quality improvement received a modest increase in 1998, Congress has provided no new discretionary funds to serve more children.

Since its enactment in 1990, the CCDBG has been the major source of financial assistance to help low-income parents pay for child care and enjoys broad support in Congress and among the Governors. CCDBG funds are provided through flexible grants so that states can design their own programs and parents can choose the type of arrangements that best suit the needs of their children. To help hard-working parents stay self-sufficient and to ensure safe and stimulating environments for millions of children, we urge you to provide the \$817 million increase in FY 2001 and to restore the set-asides for infant care and research. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

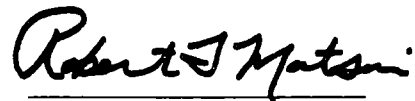

Benjamin L. Cardin, MC

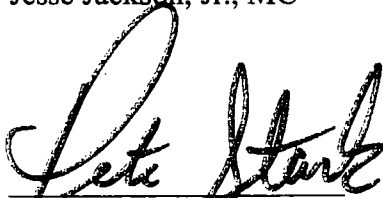

Rosa L. DeLauro, MC

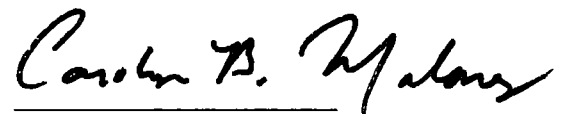

Constance A. Morella, MC

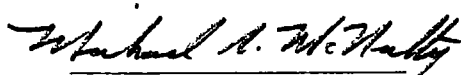

Benjamin A. Gilman, MC

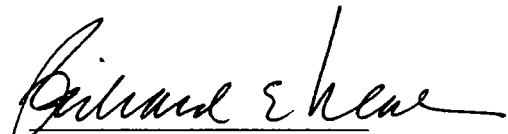

Jesse Jackson, Jr., MC


Robert T. Matsui, MC


Pete Stark, MC


Carolyn B. Maloney, MC


Michael R. McNulty, MC

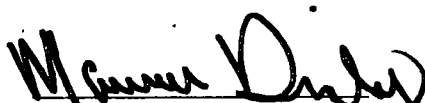

Richard E. Neal, MC


Dale Kildee, MC

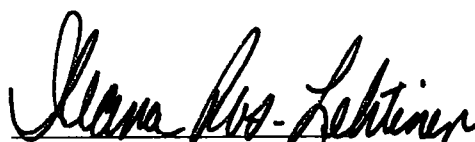

Jim Moran, MC


Ellen Tauscher, MC

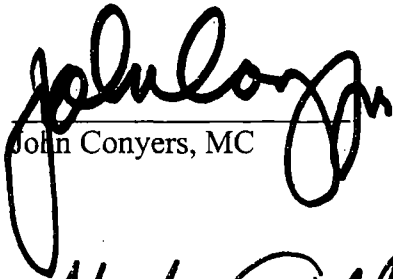

Chaka Fattah, MC


Maurice D. Hinchey, MC


William D. Delahunt, MC


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, MC

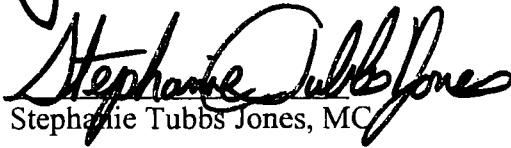

John M. Spratt, MC



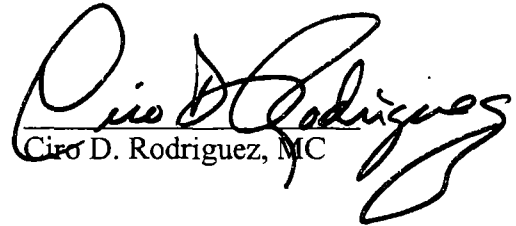
John Conyers, MC



Carolyn McCarthy, MC



Stephanie Tubbs Jones, MC



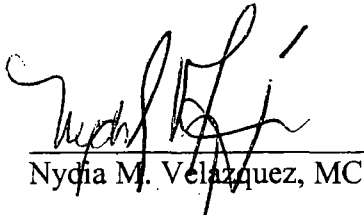
Ciro D. Rodriguez, MC



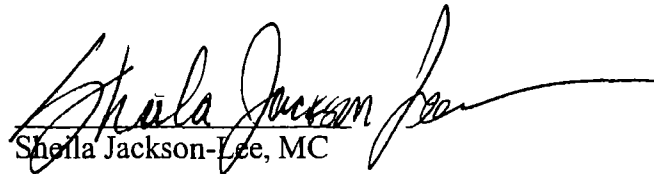
Lois Capps, MC



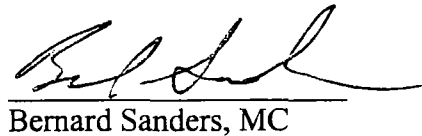
Carlos Romero-Barcelo, MC



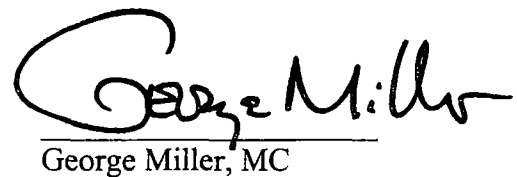
Nydia M. Velazquez, MC



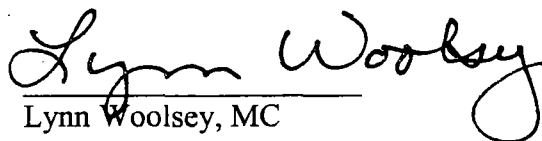
Sheila Jackson-Lee, MC



Bernard Sanders, MC



George Miller, MC



Lynn Woolsey, MC



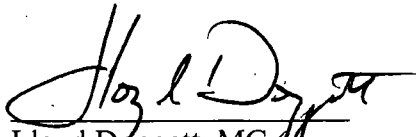
Nick Rahall, MC



Donald Payne, MC

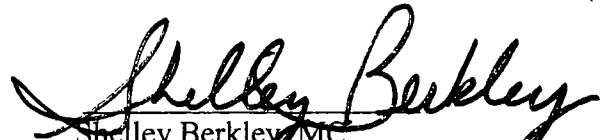


Thomas H. Allen, MC


Lloyd Doggett, MC


Peter DeFazio, MC


Janice D. Schakowsky, MC


Shelley Berkley, MC


Michael P. Forbes, MC


Corrine Brown, MC

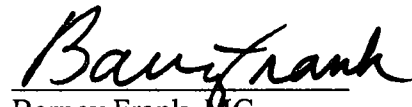

Sherrod Brown, MC


Anna G. Eshoo, MC

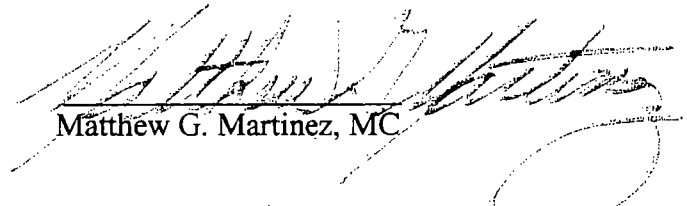

John B. Larson, MC

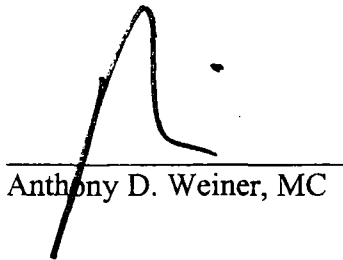

Julia Carson, MC


Henry Waxman, MC


Barney Frank, MC


Lucille Roybal-Allard, MC

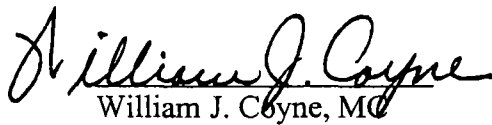

Matthew G. Martinez, MC



Anthony D. Weiner, MC



Martin T. Meehan, MC



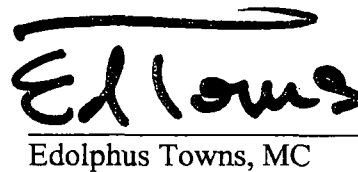
William J. Coyne, MC



Gene Green, MC



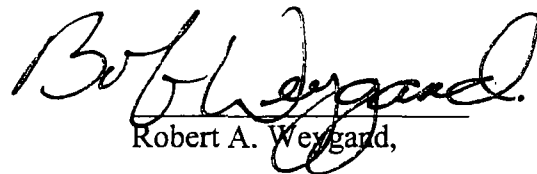
Neil Abercrombie, MC



Edolphus Towns, MC



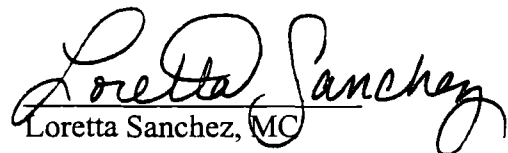
Frank Pallone, Jr., MC



Robert A. Weygand,



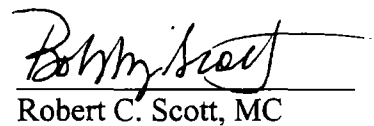
Melvin Watt, MC



Loretta Sanchez, MC



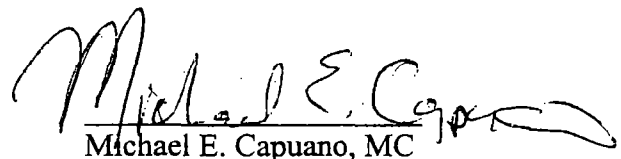
Sam Gejdenson, MC



Robert C. Scott, MC

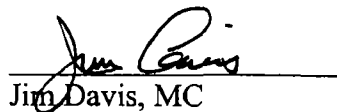


Martin Frost, MC

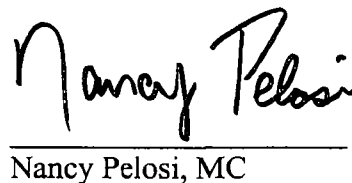


Michael E. Capuano, MC


Albert R. Wynn, MC


Jim Davis, MC

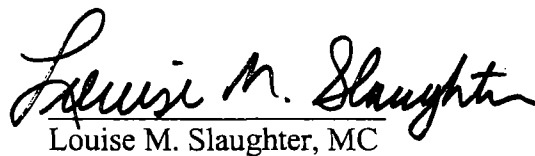

Tom Lantos, MC

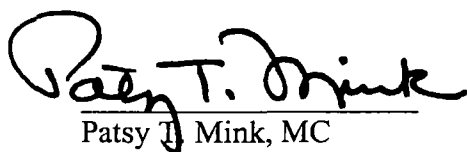

Nancy Pelosi, MC


Eleanor Holmes Norton, MC


Lynn N. Rivers, MC

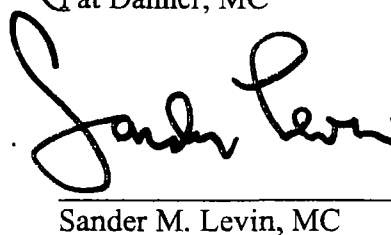

Patrick J. Kennedy, MC


Louise M. Slaughter, MC


Patsy T. Mink, MC


Pat Danner, MC


Ted Strickland, MC


Sander M. Levin, MC

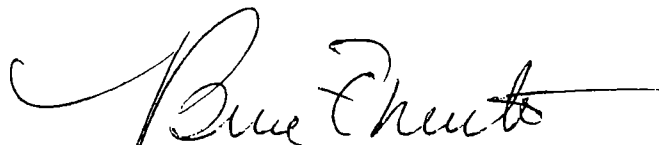

Martin O. Sabo, MC

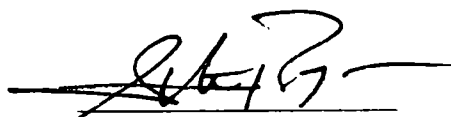

Tony P. Hall, MC

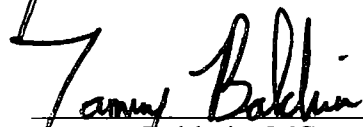

Karen L. Thurman, MC


Ruben Hinojosa, MC


Diana DeGette, MC

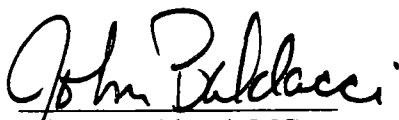

Bruce F. Vento, MC

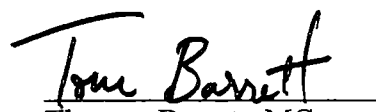

Silvestre Reyes, MC

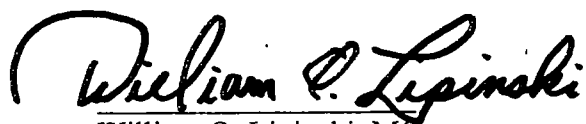

Tammy Baldwin, MC


Tom Udall, MC

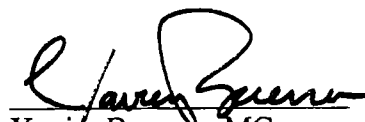

Brian Baird, MC


John E. Baldacci, MC

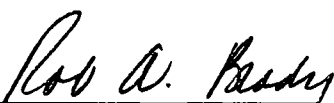

Thomas Barrett, MC

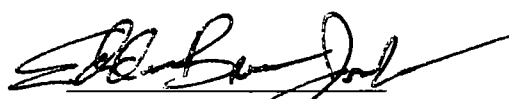

William O. Lipinski, MC

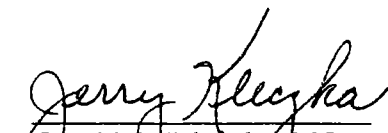

Elijah Cummings, MC


Xavier Becerra, MC

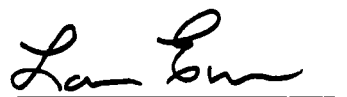

Ron Kind, MC


Robert Brady, MC


Eddie Bernice Johnson, MC

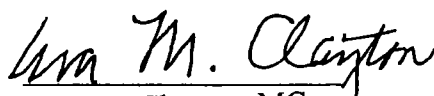

Gerald D. Kleczka, MC


Ken Bentsen, MC

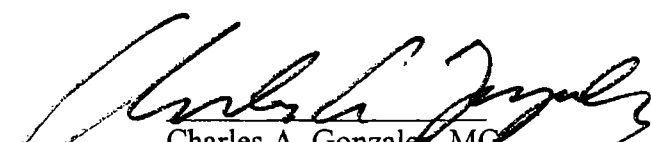

Lane Evans, MC

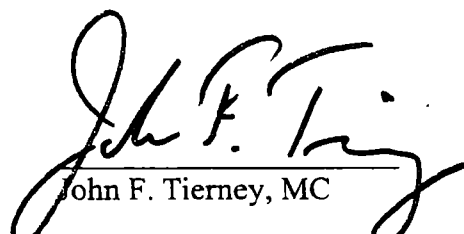

Steven R. Rothman, MC

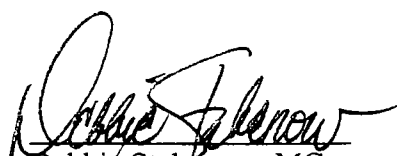

Charles B. Rangel, MC


Eva M. Clayton, MC

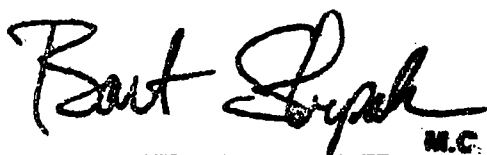

Adam Smith, MC


Charles A. Gonzalez, MC


John F. Tierney, MC


Debbie Stabenow, MC

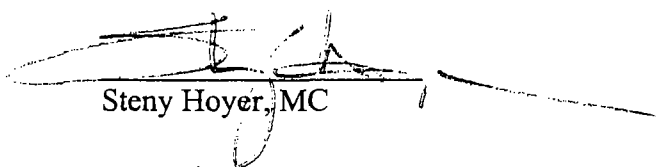

David E. Price, MC



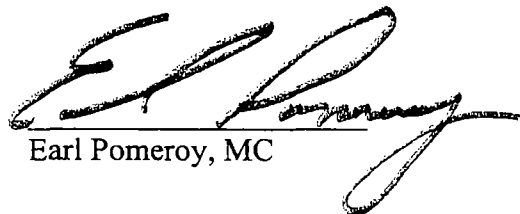
Bart Stupak, MC



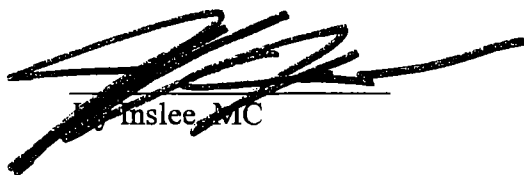
James L. Oberstar, MC



Steny Hoyer, MC



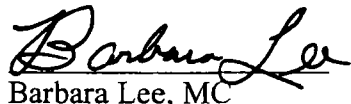
Earl Pomeroy, MC



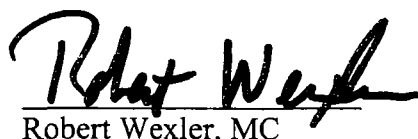
Rob Inslee, MC



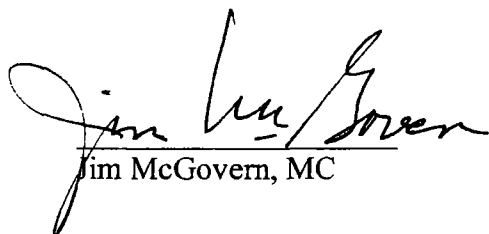
Jack Quinn, MC



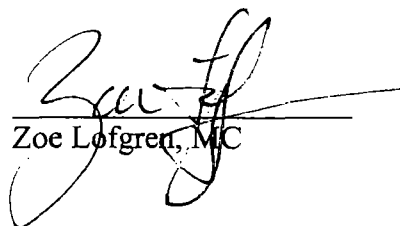
Barbara Lee, MC



Robert Wexler, MC



Jim McGovern, MC



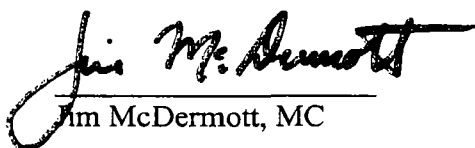
Zoe Lofgren, MC



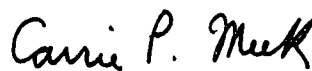
David Wu, MC



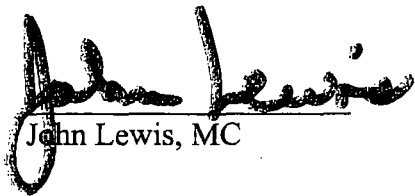
Eliot Engel, MC



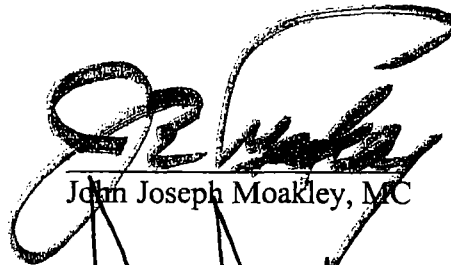
Jim McDermott, MC



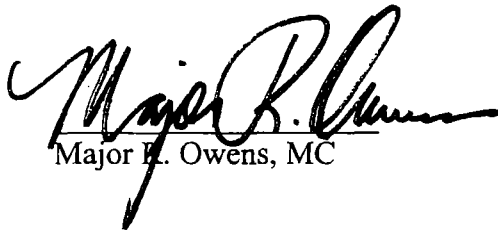
Carrie P. Meek, MC



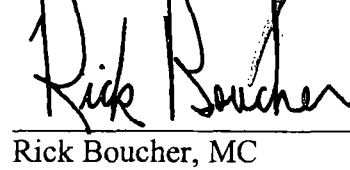
John Lewis, MC



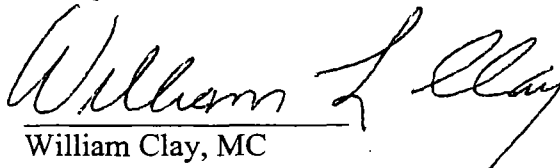
John Joseph Moakley, MC



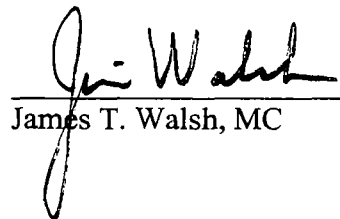
Major L. Owens, MC



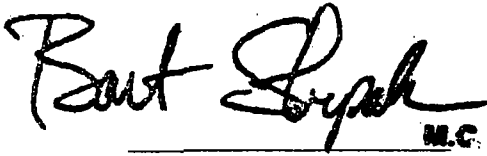
Rick Boucher, MC



William Clay, MC



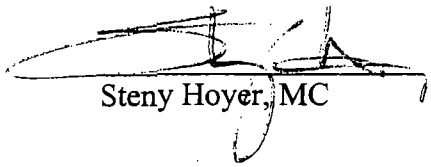
James T. Walsh, MC



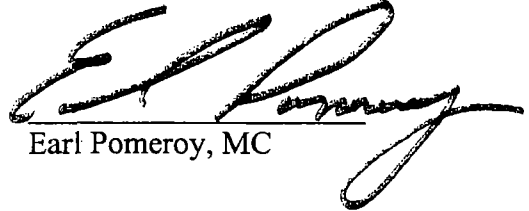
Bart Stupak, MC



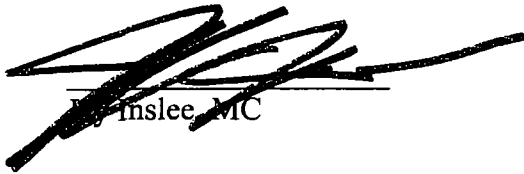
James L. Oberstar, MC



Steny Hoyer, MC



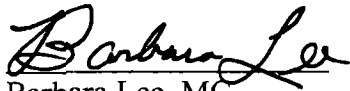
Earl Pomeroy, MC



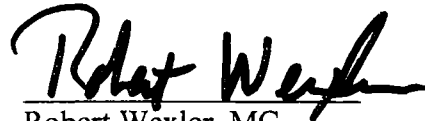
Jay Inslee, MC



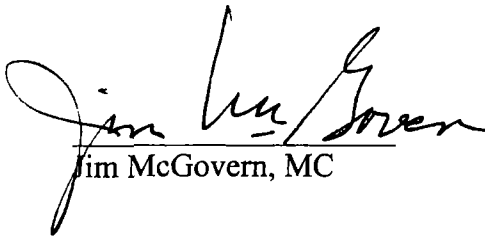
Jack Quinn, MC



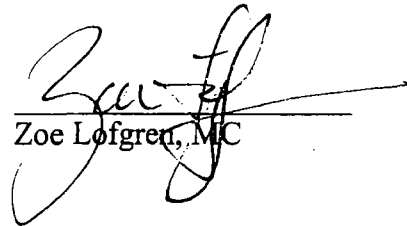
Barbara Lee, MC



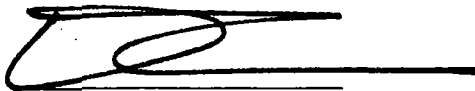
Robert Wexler, MC



Jim McGovern, MC



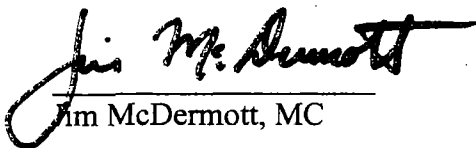
Zoe Lofgren, MC



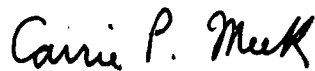
David Wu, MC



Eliot Engel, MC



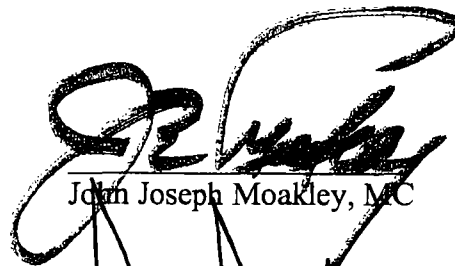
Jim McDermott, MC



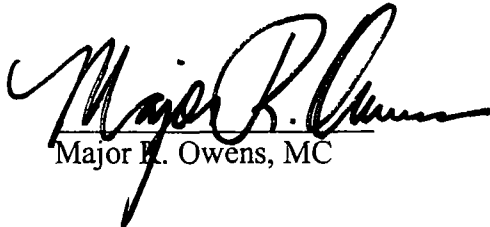
Carrie P. Meek, MC



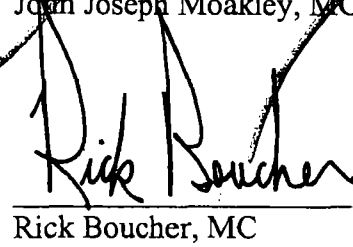
John Lewis, MC



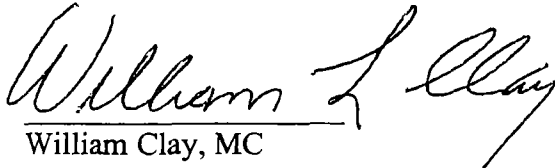
John Joseph Moakley, MC



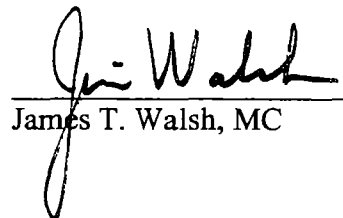
Major R. Owens, MC



Rick Boucher, MC



William Clay, MC



James T. Walsh, MC

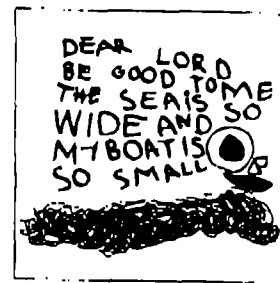
Issues the CDC
would like mentioned
in the 2000
SOTU.

Request for increase
in CDBG block
grant.

cc: Ann O'Leary

April 20, 2000

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-2000



Children's Defense Fund

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you very much for the personalized copy of your 1999 State of the Union Address and your kind words. I'm happy that a number of important investments for children were included in your eloquent speech. I hope that four of the crucial ones among them will become funded reality this year. They are achievable with your strong leadership. All of us are prepared to mobilize from the outside to ensure success. They are:

1. Enactment of your proposals to simplify and conform state CHIP and Medicaid enrollment procedures to make it easier rather than harder for children to get a healthy start and to cover additional immigrant and older children. It would build momentum for long overdue health coverage for every child if we can reduce state and local bureaucratic barriers and successfully reach all seven million Medicaid and CHIP eligible children.
2. An \$817 million increase in the Child Care Block Grant which passed the Senate in four bipartisan votes last year.
3. Increasing Head Start to serve one million children in 2000 and enacting the Early Learning Initiative.
4. Expansion of the EITC, especially for families with three or more children.

I'm enclosing a copy CDF's 2000 *State of America's Children's Yearbook*. It calls for an end to child poverty in America in this time of boastful prosperity and growing gap between rich and poor. With 74 % of all poor children living in working families, what a great opportunity our nation has to put a floor of decency and hope beneath those left behind and to provide tools of self-sufficiency for children and parents in an era of federal and state budget surpluses and tobacco settlement monies.

My very best to you, Hillary, and Chelsea.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Wright Edelman

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