

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

In the coming weeks, we will work to address the needs of millions of Americans who have lost their healthcare coverage due to COVID-19. As in any debate regarding healthcare, it is imperative to the American people that Hyde Amendment protections are applied to any funding or tax credits that may be used to address the health care needs of unemployed Americans.

Since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has been included in appropriations bills every year with bipartisan support. The provision prevents funding appropriated through the Department of Health and Human services from being used to fund abortion or insurance plans that include abortion. Polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans do not support using tax dollars to fund abortions. A Marist poll conducted in January 2020 found that 60% of individuals polled opposed or strongly opposed using tax dollars to pay for an abortion.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the longstanding congressional and public support for the Hyde Amendment, there are already efforts underway to undercut and bypass these long-held protections.<sup>2</sup> It is imperative that we demonstrate to the American people that we are listening to them and producing legislation that is reflective of their views. More importantly, by establishing Hyde Amendment protections, we are demonstrating that Congress is working to save every life, no matter how small, in this pandemic.

Hyde Amendment protections should be applied to any funding or tax credit that is used to address the nation's healthcare needs during these trying times. For these reasons, 133 Members of the House have supported H.R. 6742, the Protecting Life in Crisis Act. This straightforward legislation extends existing Hyde Amendment protections to any COVID-19-related healthcare provisions. Specifically, this bill prohibits any funds that are authorized or appropriated for the purposes of preventing, preparing for, or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, domestically and internationally, from going towards abortions

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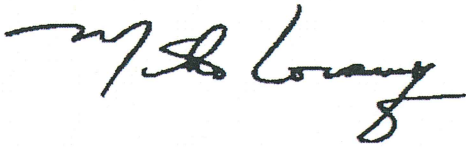
<sup>1</sup> Marist, "Americans' Opinions on Abortion," 2020 January, <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/news-room/polls/americans-opinions-abortion.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Sullivan, Peter, "Abortion battle threatens to upend health insurance push," The Hill, 3 May 2020, <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/495737-abortion-battle-threatens-to-upend-new-health-insurance-push>.

or abortion coverage. In addition, this bill also addresses any attempts to use tax credits from being used to purchase coverage on the exchanges or for COBRA continuation coverage.

The respect for life is one of the founding principles of both our nation and of our healthcare system. No system that subsidizes abortions can be said to fully live up to that principle. H.R. 6742 is a critical step in ensuring accountability in how tax dollars are spent and upholding this principle, and we ask that you include this legislation in the next bipartisan COVID-19 relief package.

Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



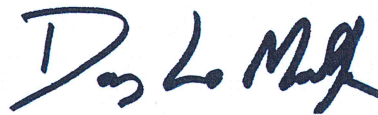
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



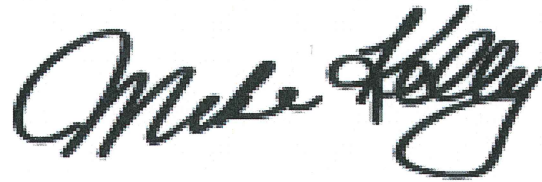
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



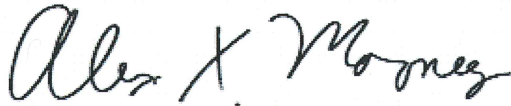
Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



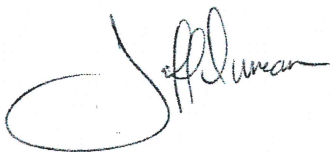
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



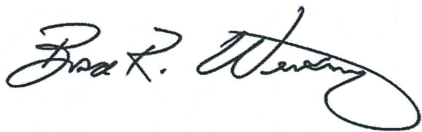
Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



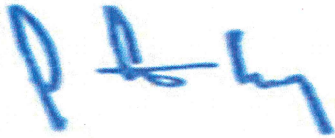
David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



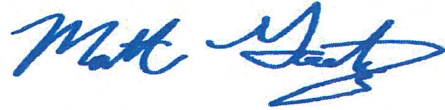
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
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Trent Kelly  
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Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
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Ron Wright  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress



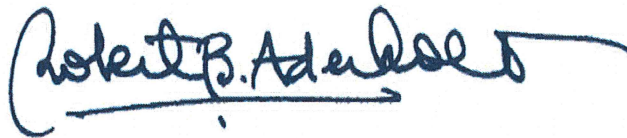
Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



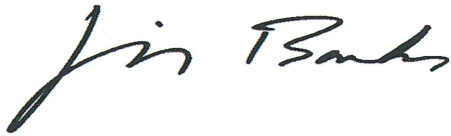
William Timmons  
Member of Congress



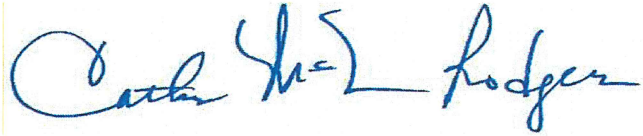
Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



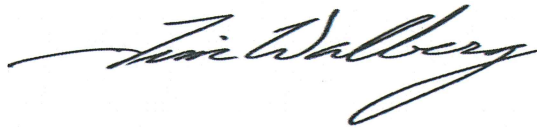
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



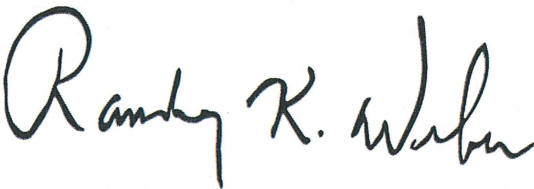
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



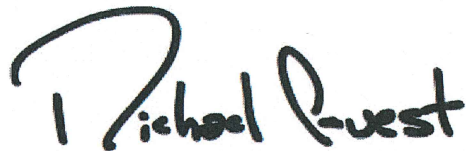
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



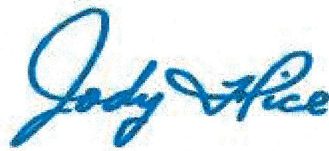
Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



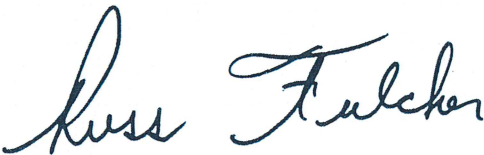
Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress



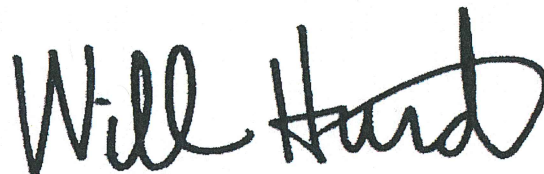
Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



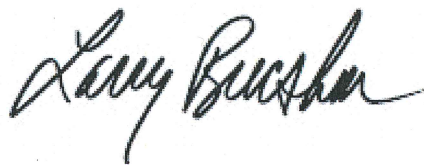
Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



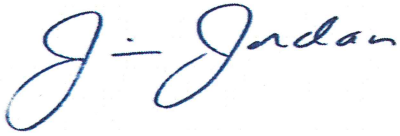
Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



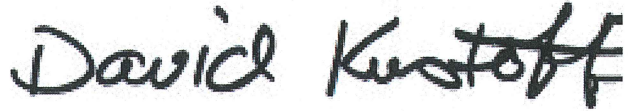
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



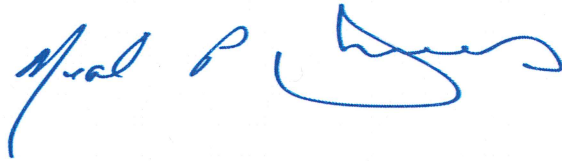
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



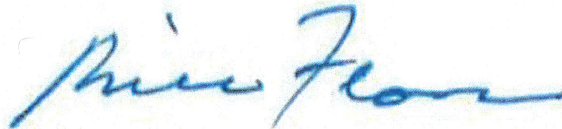
Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress



Mark Green  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



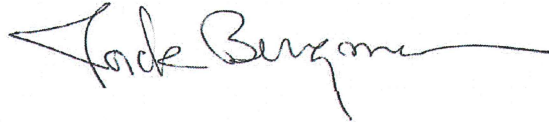
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



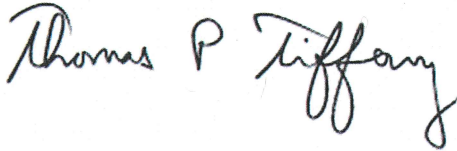
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



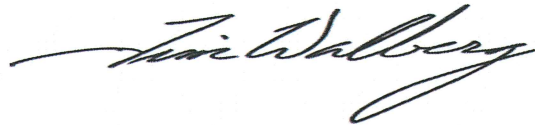
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany  
Member of Congress



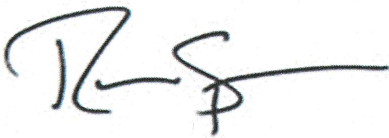
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



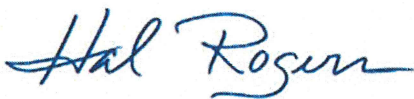
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Ross Spano  
Member of Congress



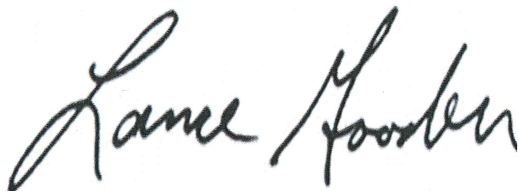
W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



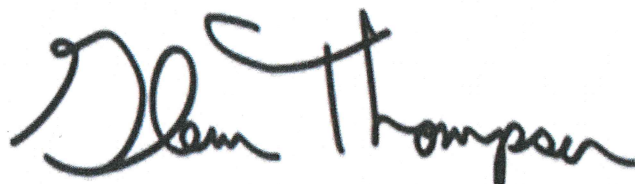
Hal Rogers  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

Chip Roy  
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Jackie Walorski  
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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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Denver Riggleman  
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Scott DesJarlais  
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Bill Johnson  
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Pete Stauber  
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Jeff Fortenberry  
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John Carter  
Member of Congress

John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

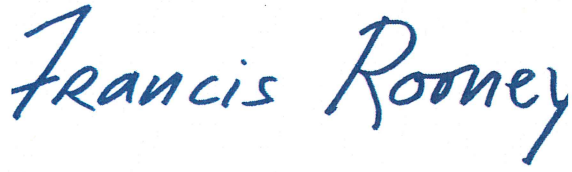
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress





Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



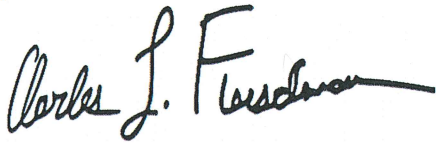
Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress



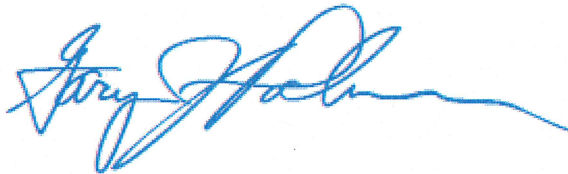
Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



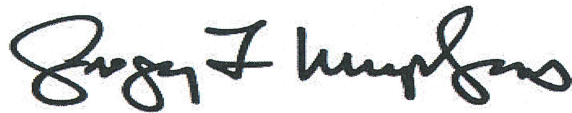
Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



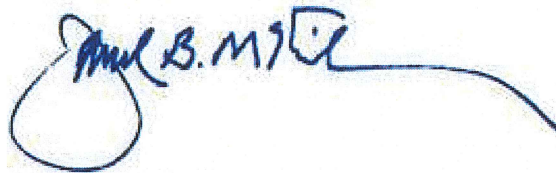
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



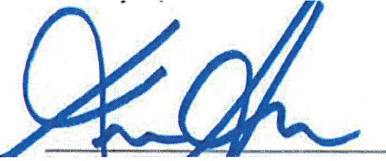
John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress




Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



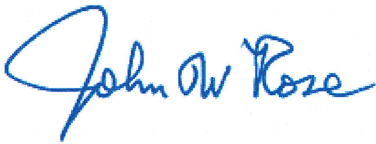
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



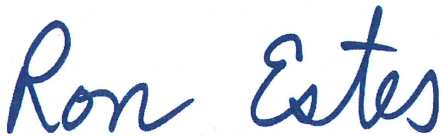
Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



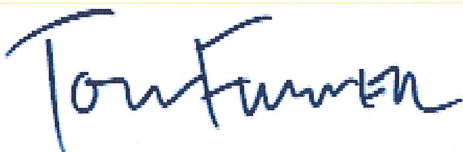
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



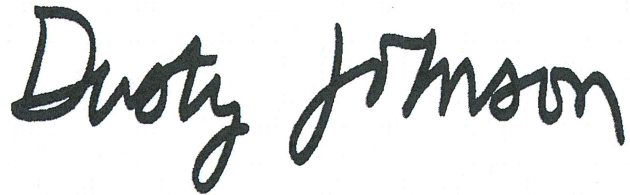
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



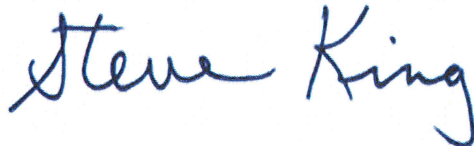
Brett Guthrie  
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John Moolenaar  
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Paul Mitchell  
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Adam Kinzinger  
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/S/

Troy Balderson.  
Member of Congress

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Mike Turner  
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress