

**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

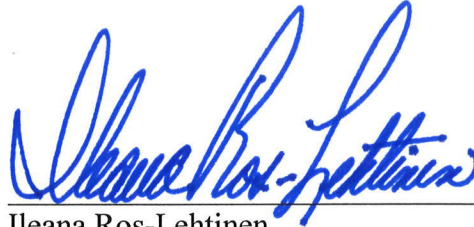
Ugandan government from fulfilling this commitment, representing a significant lapse in respect for human rights in Uganda, and reinforcing a worrisome trend of restricting human rights.

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*



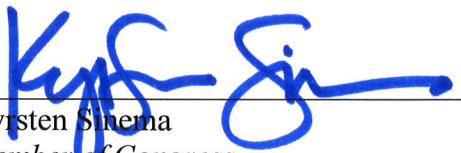
Jared Polis  
*Member of Congress*



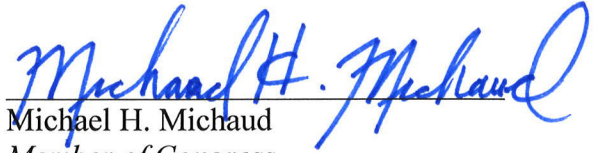
Sean Patrick Maloney  
*Member of Congress*



Mark Pocan  
*Member of Congress*




Kyrsten Sinema  
*Member of Congress*



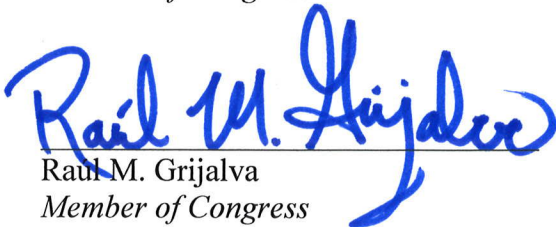
Michael H. Michaud  
*Member of Congress*



Eliot L. Engel  
*Member of Congress*



James P. McGovern  
*Member of Congress*

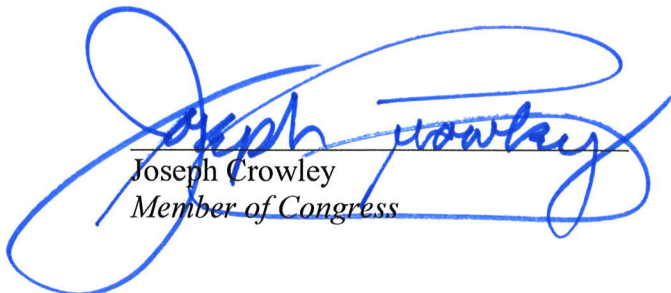


Raul M. Grijalva  
*Member of Congress*

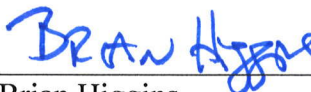


Barbara Lee  
*Member of Congress*

  
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

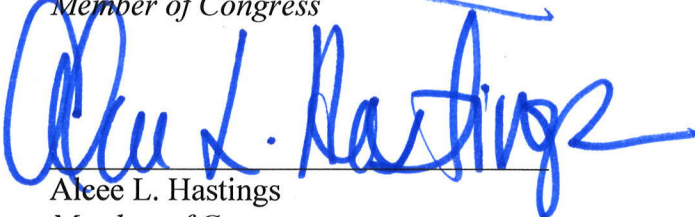
  
Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

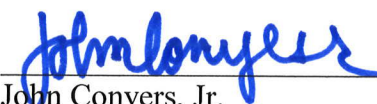
  
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

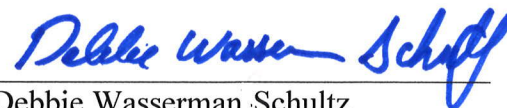
  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

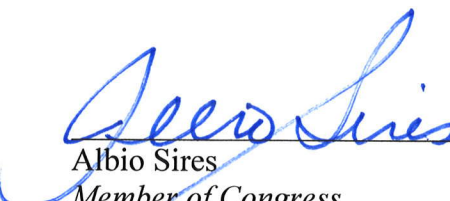
  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

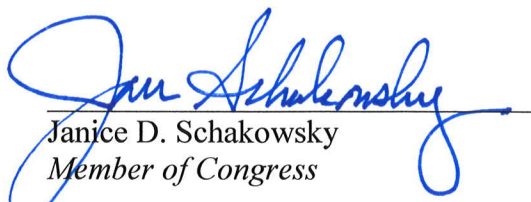
  
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

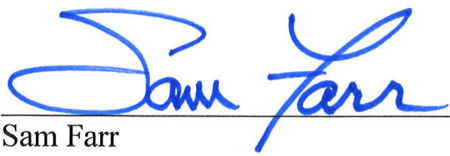
  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

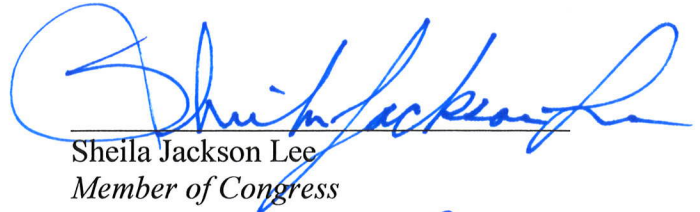
  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

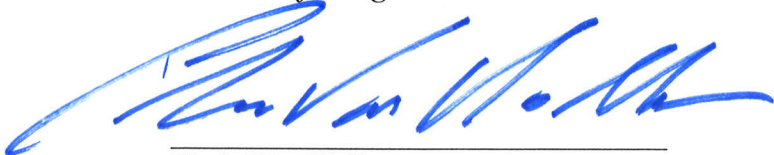




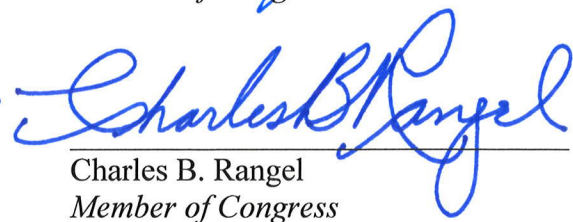
Sam Farr  
*Member of Congress*



Sheila Jackson Lee  
*Member of Congress*



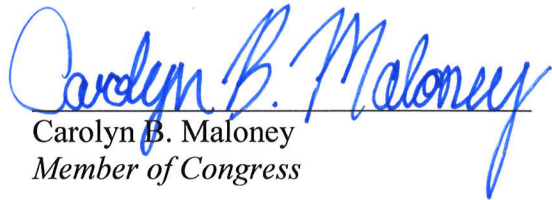
Chris Van Hollen  
*Member of Congress*



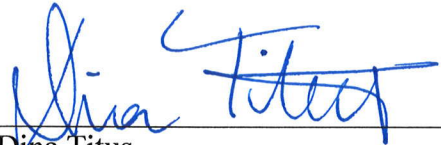
Charles B. Rangel  
*Member of Congress*



Theodore E. Deutch  
*Member of Congress*



Carolyn B. Maloney  
*Member of Congress*



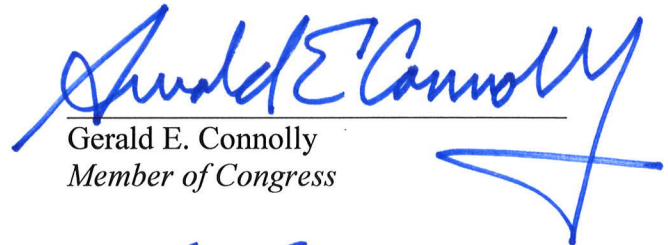
Dina Titus  
*Member of Congress*



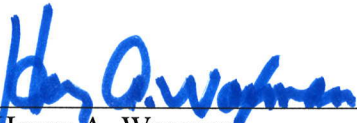
Grace F. Napolitano  
*Member of Congress*



Susan A. Davis  
*Member of Congress*



Gerald E. Connolly  
*Member of Congress*



Henry A. Waxman  
*Member of Congress*



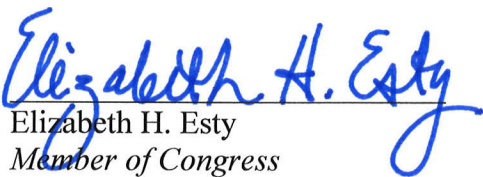
Chellie Pingree  
*Member of Congress*



Frederica S. Wilson  
*Member of Congress*



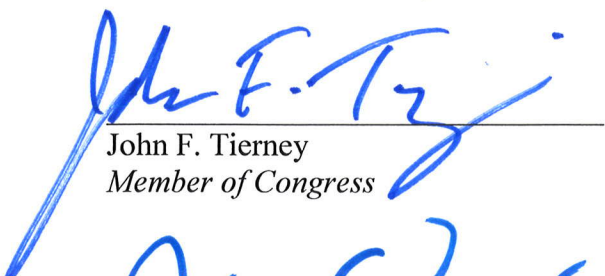
Lloyd Doggett  
*Member of Congress*



Elizabeth H. Esty  
*Member of Congress*

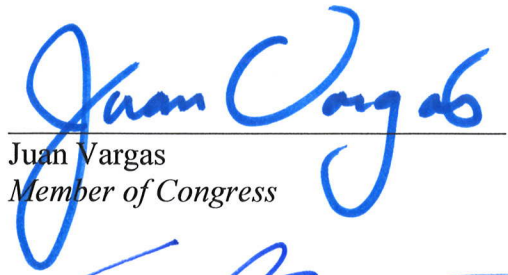


Bill Foster  
*Member of Congress*




---

John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress



---

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress




---

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



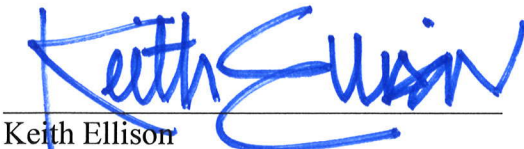
---

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



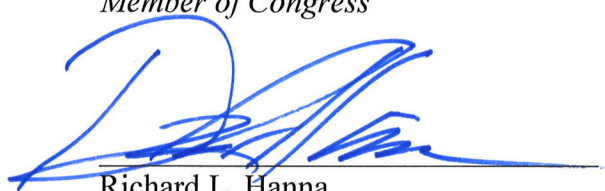
---

Rush Holt  
Member of Congress




---

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



---

Richard L. Hanna  
Member of Congress




---

James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



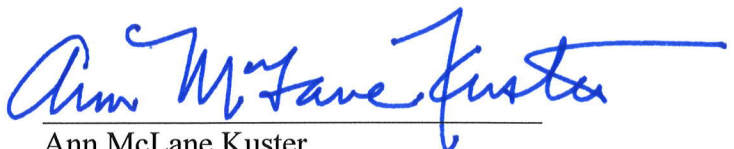
---

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress




---

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress




---

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



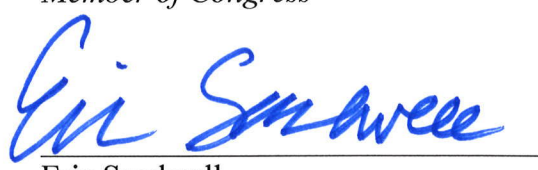
---

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress




---

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress




---

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



---

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



---

Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
*Member of Congress*



Linda T. Sánchez  
*Member of Congress*



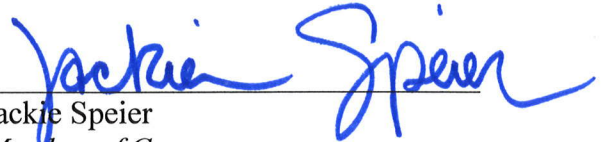
Rosa DeLauro  
*Member of Congress*



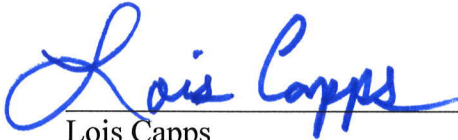
James R. Langevin  
*Member of Congress*



Diana DeGette  
*Member of Congress*



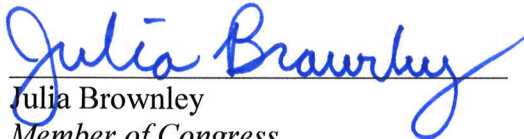
Jackie Speier  
*Member of Congress*



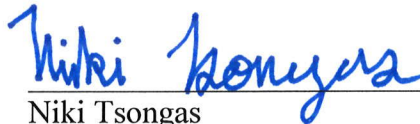
Lois Capps  
*Member of Congress*



David Loebsack  
*Member of Congress*



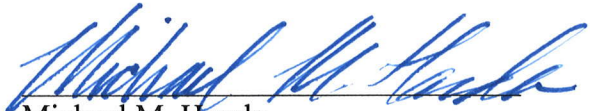
Julia Brownley  
*Member of Congress*



Niki Tsongas  
*Member of Congress*



John K. Delaney  
*Member of Congress*



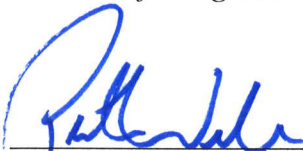
Michael M. Honda  
*Member of Congress*



Gwen Moore  
*Member of Congress*



Judy Chu  
*Member of Congress*



Peter Welch  
*Member of Congress*