

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

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As the fiscal year 2017 budget process begins, we urge you to reject proposals that would harm Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, or domestic discretionary programs that protect the financial and health well-being of American seniors and their families.

Our nation's seniors have made and continue to make valuable contributions to our society, and they deserve a dignified and secure retirement. Nearly 2 out of 3 seniors depend on Social Security for most of their income in retirement, a benefit which they earned by paying in to the system during their working lives. America's seniors face many common, but very personal challenges such as managing chronic illnesses and continuing to provide for their families. Medicare and Medicaid provide much needed lifelines to ensure that seniors have access to health care and long term care.

Domestic discretionary programs provide valuable resources for seniors as well. Each year, the Older Americans Act provides more than 11 million people with services like home-delivered and congregate meals – known as Meals on Wheels. The Older Americans Act also ensures seniors have transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, adult day care and more. Five years ago, as Chair of the Budget Committee, you put forward the Roadmap for America's Future, a budget proposal that, if enacted, would have had profound and harmful impacts on this and future generations of older Americans. That proposal would have provided more tax breaks for the wealthiest among us while eliminating traditional Medicare, raising the age of Medicare eligibility and drastically increasing out-of-pocket costs. It would have turned Medicaid (the largest payer of long-term care services and supports) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, which provides food assistance to over 4 million seniors) into block grants with sharply reduced funding. It would have capped non-defense discretionary spending at 2009 levels through 2019, jeopardizing critical nutrition, housing, elder justice and caregiver assistance services for millions of seniors and their families. Many of those proposals – as well as threatened reductions to Social Security's earned benefits -- have been contained in the budget resolutions subsequently offered by the Republican majority and the Republican Study Conference.

At a time when senior poverty is on the rise, median senior income is \$24,500, and many of our older constituents are still struggling from the loss of retirement savings and the erosion of defined benefit plans, Congress should not pass a budget that includes the harmful cuts included in the Roadmap for America's Future and subsequent Republican budgets. We call on you to reverse course and work with us to adopt budget policies that provide security for today's seniors and for the generations of seniors to come.

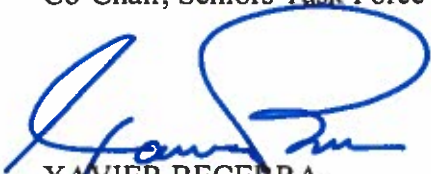
Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI  
House Democratic Caucus  
Co-Chair, Seniors Task Force



JAN SCHAKOWSKY  
House Democratic Caucus  
Co-Chair, Seniors Task Force



XAVIER BECERRA  
Chairman, House Democratic Caucus



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee



ALMA ADAMS



JOYCE BEATTY



SUZANNE BONAMICI



CHERI BUSTOS



G. K. BUTTERFIELD



LOIS CAPPS



TONY CÁRDENAS



MATT CARTWRIGHT



JUDY CHU



DAVID N. CICILLINE



YVETTE D. CLARKE



STEVE COHEN



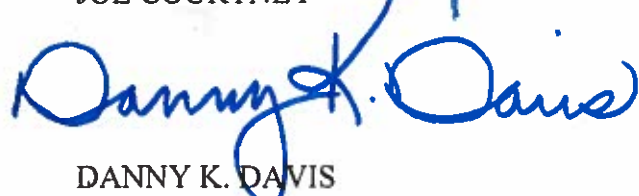
JOHN CONYERS, JR.



JOE COURTNEY



ELIJAH CUMMINGS



DANNY K. DAVIS

  
SUSAN A. DAVIS

  
PETER DEFAZIO

  
DIANA DEGETTE

  
ROSA DELAURO

  
TED DEUTCH

  
DEBBIE DINGELL

  
LLOYD DOGETT

  
DONNA F. EDWARDS

  
KEITH ELLISON

  
ELIOT ENGEL

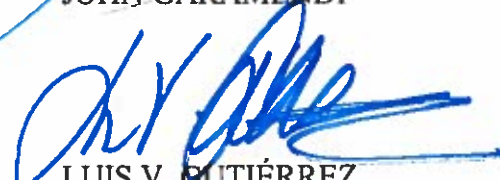
  
SAM FARR

  
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JOHN GARAMENDI

  
RAUL M. GRIJALVA

  
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

  
ALCEE L. HASTINGS

  
BRIAN HIGGINS

  
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DAN KILDEE

  
MARCY KAPTUR

  
ANN KIRKPATRICK

  
JOHN LARSON

  
BARBARA LEE

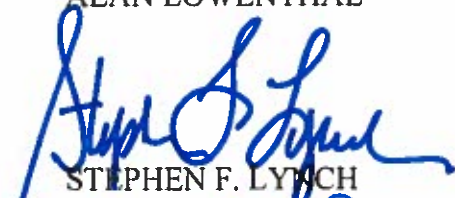
  
SANDER M. LEVIN

  
JOHN LEWIS

  
TED LIEU

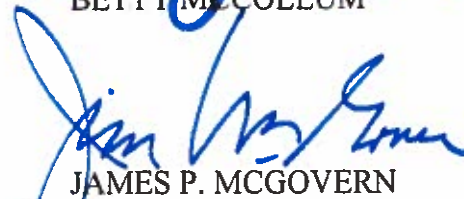
  
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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

  
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BETTY MCCOLLUM

  
JIM MCDERMOTT

  
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JERROLD NADLER

  
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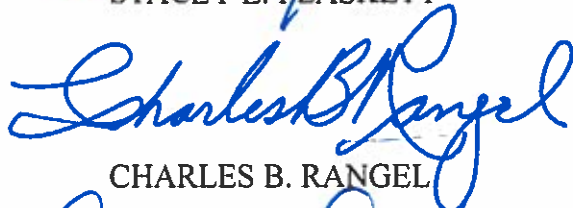
ED PERLMUTTER



STACEY E. PLASKETT



MARK POCAN



CHARLES B. RANGEL



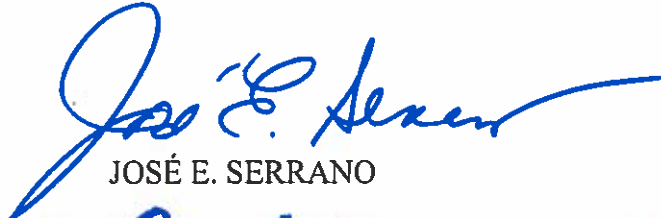
RAUL RUIZ



ADAM SCHIFF



BOBBY SCOTT



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ALBIO SIRES



LOUISE SLAUGHTER



MARK TAKANO



DINA TITUS



PAUL TONKO



NORMA J. TORRES



NIKI TSONGAS



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JUAN VARGAS



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BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN



JOHN YARMUTH



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KATHY CASTOR



HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES



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DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ



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FRANK PALLONE, JR.



RUBÉN HINOJOSA



CORRINE BROWN