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

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your ongoing support for programs that help older Americans live active and independent lives. We respectfully request that under your leadership the Subcommittee continue to fulfill the promise of the Older Americans Act by providing adequate funding for the Administration for Community Living's Congregate and Home-delivered nutrition services for fiscal year 2017.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) directs programs that provide millions of American seniors, most of whom are low-income, the resources necessary to reduce hunger and isolation and maintain their dignity, health, and independence. The services these seniors receive allow them to remain independent and live in their own homes, where they prefer to be, while saving taxpayer dollars through reduced need for hospital and institutional care.

In 2013, 2.4 million seniors received 86 million nutritious meals at senior centers and charitable community organizations, with public-private partnerships like Meals on Wheels delivering 137 million meals to mobility-restricted seniors. For the majority of these seniors, home-delivered meals provide more than one-half their food for the entire day. Importantly, these programs provide more than just food. The delivery of meals is often the only opportunity for face-to-face contact or conversation for homebound seniors. Additionally, two-thirds of congregate meal participants report that their health has improved because they attend lunch programs.

It is for these reasons we respectfully request the subcommittee mark include the President's request for $454 million for ACL Congregate nutrition services and $234 million for Home-delivered nutrition services. These vital programs authorized under the Older Americans Act help fulfill our nation's commitment to maintaining dignity and independent living regardless of income or location. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Suzanne Bonamici
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Theodore E. Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dave Loebsack
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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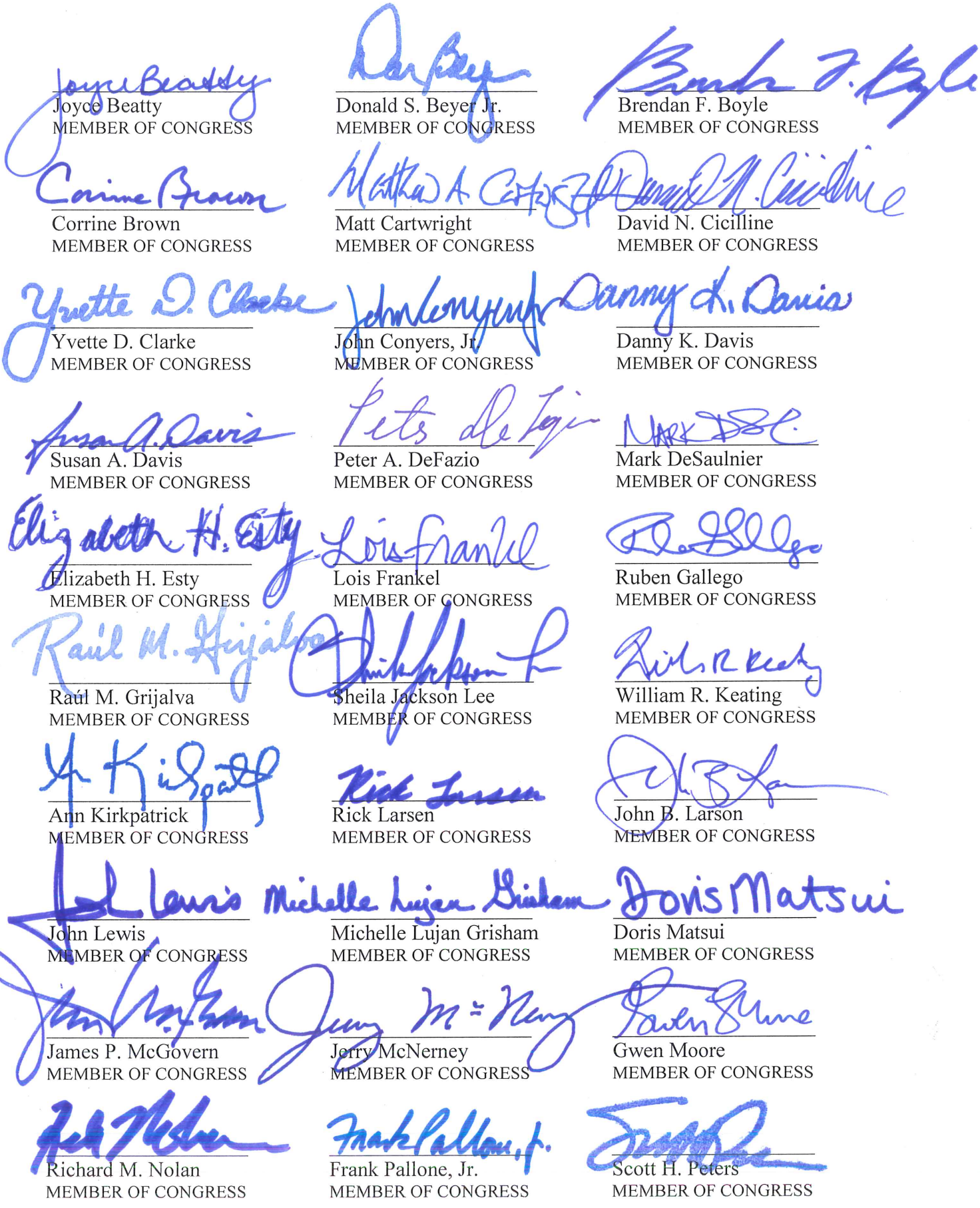

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