

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2025

Mr. Hampton Dellinger
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 200036

Dear Special Counsel Dellinger:

We write to applaud the Office of Special Counsel for its recent decision to recommend halting the termination of probationary federal workers. This recommendation has profound implications for the livelihoods of nearly 200,000 federal government employees and the essential services they provide to the American public. In response to the ongoing assault on our federal government, we strongly encourage the Office of Special Counsel to ensure all unfairly fired civil servants are immediately rehired and protected from greater abuse.

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) was created by Congress in 1979 as an independent and nonpartisan agency responsible for protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices that violate the merit system. These violations include employment discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, coercing political activity, and failure to adhere to laws, rules, or regulations. While this mission is often accomplished in partnership with inspectors general (IGs), President Trump unlawfully fired IGs in seventeen agencies across the executive branch during his first week in office. The brazen attack on the federal government's oversight infrastructure is alarming and emphasizes the importance of OSC.

Since Trump's inauguration, nonpartisan civil servants have been intimidated, threatened, traumatized, and fired for no legitimate reason. An estimated 10,000 employees have already been terminated with no regard to their performance or conduct, including at the Department of Veteran Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy. There has never been a more cruel and baseless attack on our civil service in the history of our nation.

We urge you to continue fulfilling OSC's mission and ensure federal workers are protected from abuse. While your recent recommendation specifically applies to named complainants, it must be broadened and finalized to cover every impacted government worker. Additionally, the agency officials who carried out the illegal scheme must face serious disciplinary action. Congress has empowered OSC and the Merit Systems Protection Board with the investigatory, prosecutorial, and enforcement authority necessary to counter the unlawful abuses of power, and we stand ready to assist in that effort.

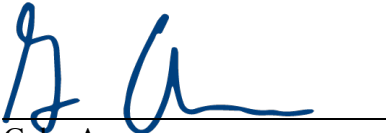
Sincerely,



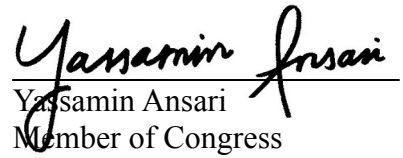
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

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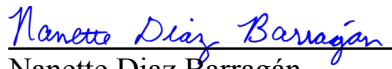
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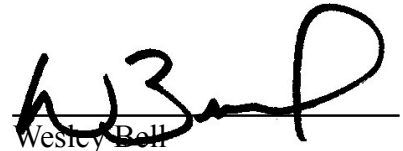
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



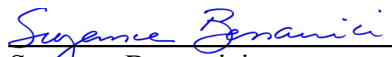
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



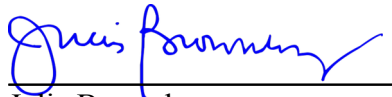
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



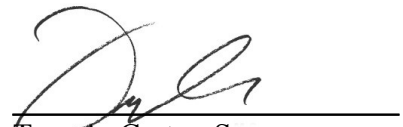
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



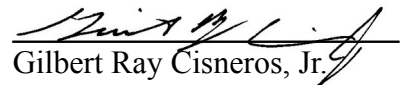
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



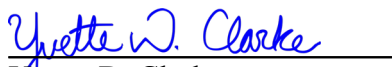
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

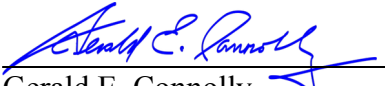



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




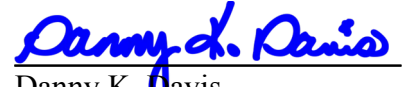
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

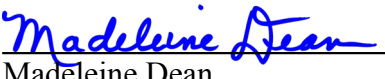
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

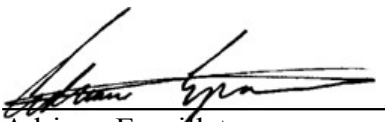

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

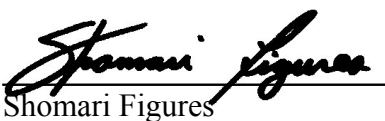

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Dwight Evans
Member of Congress


Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

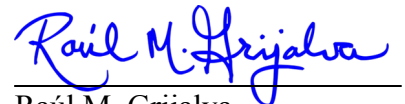

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

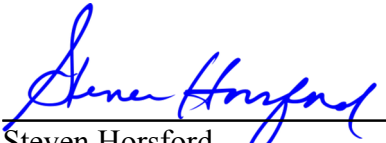

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress


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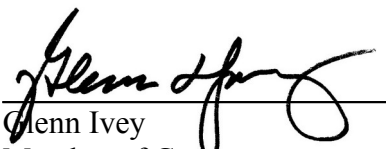
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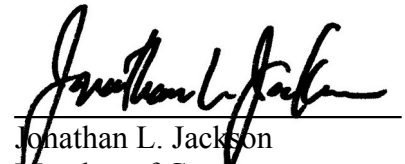

Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress

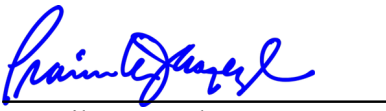

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

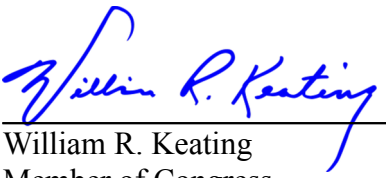

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

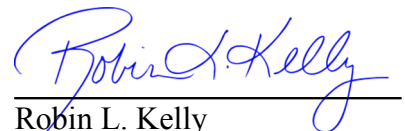

Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

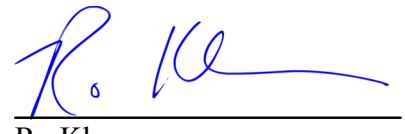

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

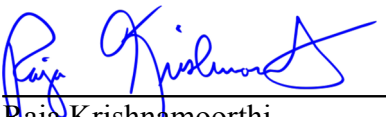

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress

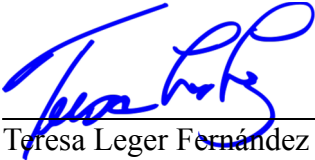

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

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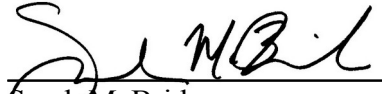
Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



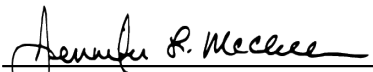
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



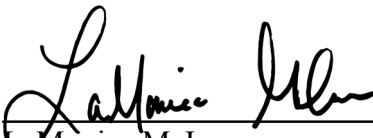
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



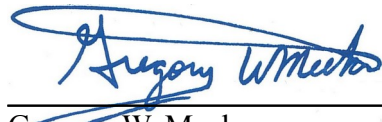
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



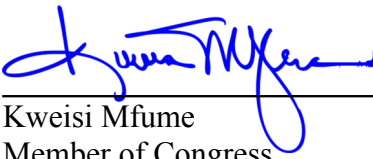
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



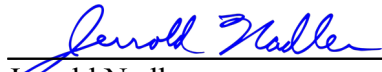
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

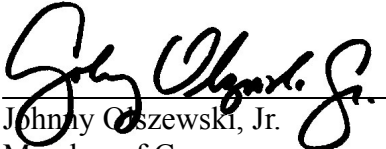



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress




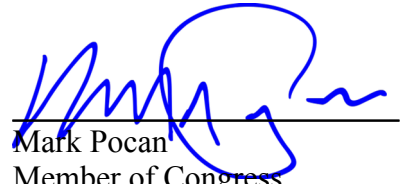
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

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Johnny Oszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

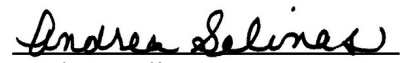

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

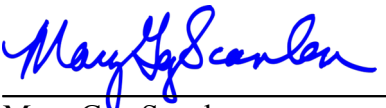

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

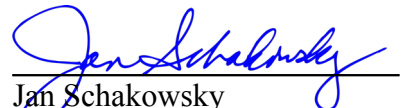

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

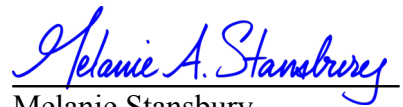

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress

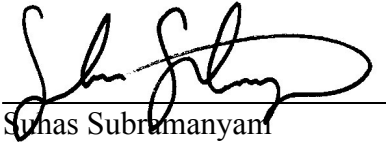

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

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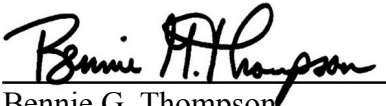
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Subhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



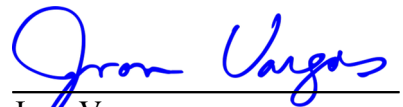
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



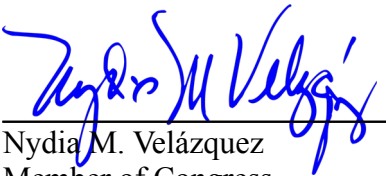
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Sylvester Turner
Member of Congress



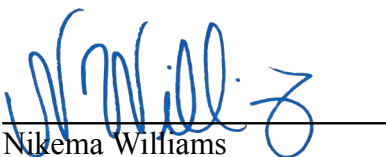
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress