

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

March 18, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We write to thank you for including funding in the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act for Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Programs under Johanna's Law and respectfully request that your Subcommittee include \$10 million for the program in the FY 2011 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We understand that this year's funding constraints are significant, but we believe that this small amount of funding is warranted because—given the nature of gynecologic cancers—doctors, nurses and cancer survivors agree that providing more information about gynecologic cancers will save women's lives.

Every hour, approximately 10 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer, such as ovarian, cervical, or uterine cancer. Each year, we lose over 26,000 of our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends to one of these cancers.

Research shows that many of these deaths could be prevented if more women knew the risk factors and recognized the early symptoms of gynecologic cancers so that they could discuss them with their doctors. Ovarian cancer has a 90% survival rate if detected in stage one and only a 20% survival rate if detected in stage three or four. But currently only 25-30% of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed before stage three. Gynecologic cancers can be detected early. A recent study found that 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. Further, regular pap tests are highly effective in detecting the pre-cancers that can lead to cervical cancer.

Thanks to funding for Johanna's Law, more women are learning how to identify the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers and the importance of regular pelvic exams to detect them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed and disseminated over 275,000 fact sheets on gynecologic cancers in English and Spanish, created a web page dedicated to information about these diseases that receive

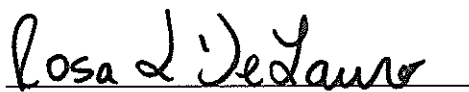
over 1,500 hits a day, and are producing public service announcements for television scheduled to air beginning in September 2010. We must ensure that lifesaving information about gynecologic cancers continues to reach women.

With continued funding, the CDC will be able to continue to print and distribute brochures, maintain and update the web resources, develop additional educational materials such as posters for physician offices, complete continuing education materials for health care providers, and reach out to women beyond the original 40-60 year-old initial target group.

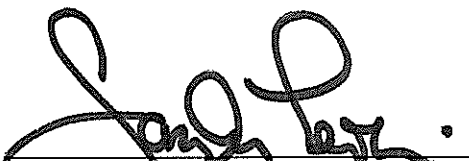
We hope you will continue federal funding for education of the public and health care providers about gynecologic cancers. We understand the tremendous fiscal constraints and faced by your Subcommittee this year, but given the essential role these education programs will play in promoting women's health, we ask that this funding be a priority as the appropriations process proceeds.

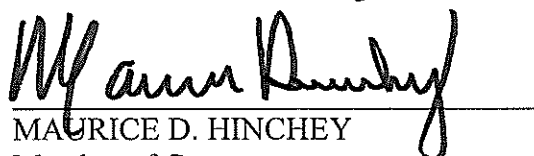
Thank you for considering our views and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

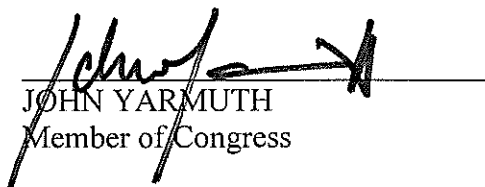
Sincerely,

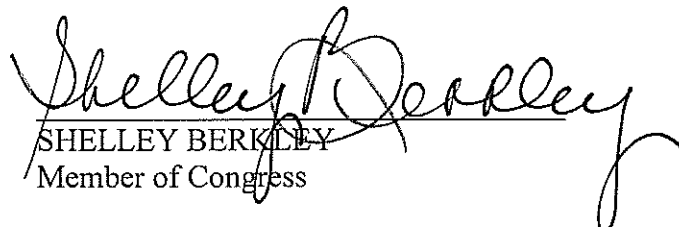

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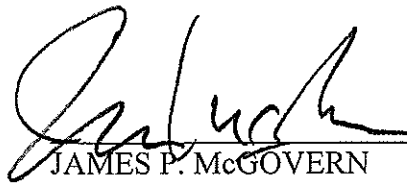

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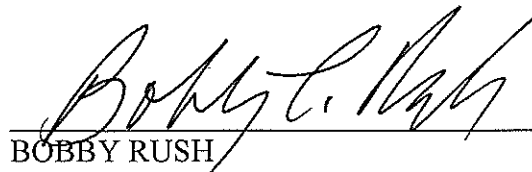

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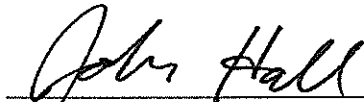

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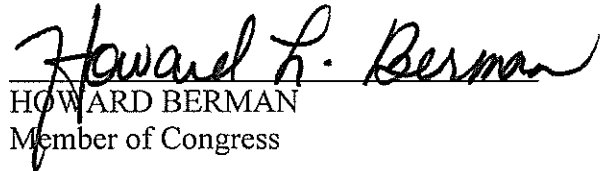
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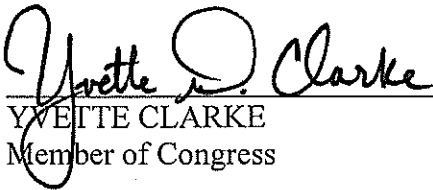
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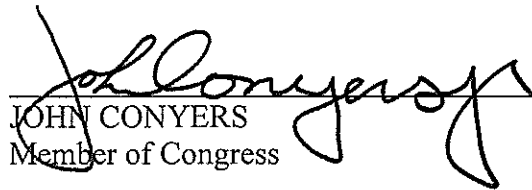
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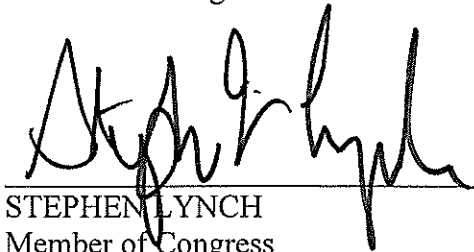
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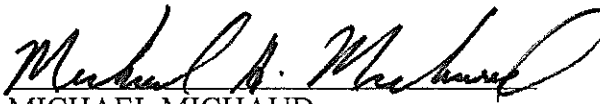
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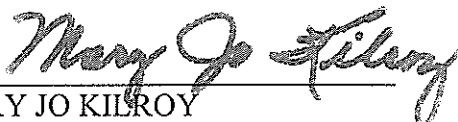

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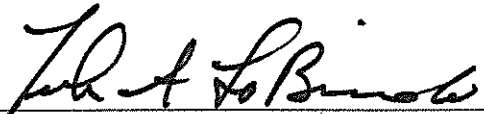

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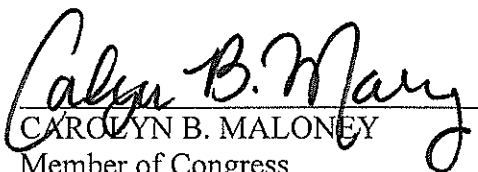

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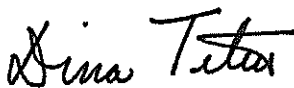

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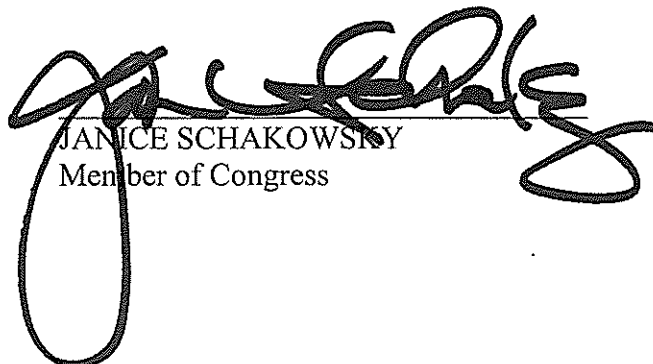

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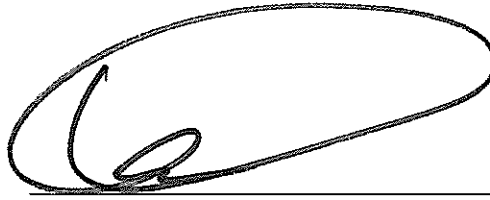

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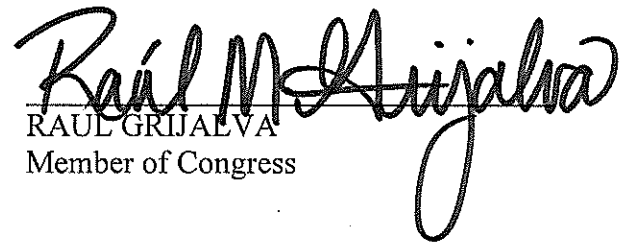
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