

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
United State Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We write to you today to express our strong opposition to the negative Kemp-Kasten determination against the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) for a third consecutive year. The annual determination process continues to be performed in bad faith and without evidence of violations to the Kemp-Kasten Amendment. Defunding UNFPA is antithetical to American values and jeopardizes the lives and well-being of women and girls.

UNFPA works in more than 150 countries to end preventable maternal deaths, provide voluntary family planning, and eradicate gender-based violence such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. By withholding funding from UNFPA, this Administration is withholding lifesaving care from the world's women and girls and abdicating our leadership on human rights. Defunding UNFPA also threatens other key global health goals, such as ending the HIV epidemic.

The Administration made this determination without any evidence to justify its serious allegations of “forced sterilization” and “coerced abortions.” It is regrettable that the Administration did not bother to conduct a site visit of UNFPA’s China program, despite numerous invitations to do so, or engage with UNFPA despite their work in China to end coercive abortions.

As in years past, the State Department based this year’s Kemp-Kasten determination against UNFPA on a posted program document – edited and approved by the United States – that lists UNFPA’s “partnership” with China’s Ministry of Health. You neglect to link any such partnership to violations of the provision. Partnerships between the Chinese Ministry of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services do not appear to trigger a Kemp-Kasten violation.¹²

¹ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Global Health - China.
<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/china/default.htm>

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Readout of Secretary Price’s Meetings in Beijing, China. August 23, 2017.

As a member of UNFPA's Executive Board, the U.S. Government helped shape and approve UNFPA's current China workplan, stating upon approval in 2015 "[o]ur delegation welcomed the opportunity to provide comments on the draft [China] country program upon its return [from a visit to UNFPA's Office in China] and also appreciated UNFPA's willingness to consider our proposed amendments. The U.S. supports the priorities outlined in the UNFPA's 8th Country Program... [d]uring its recent visit, the U.S. delegation observed the positive impact of UNFPA's rights-based programming in China."³

The State Department has not stated what – if anything – has changed in the current workplan to trigger a negative determination. The U.S. is the only UN Member State that has ever raised concerns about UNFPA's work in China.

In the midst of a global refugee and humanitarian crisis, this determination inexplicably extends to UNFPA's work in emergency settings, depriving women in places like Syria, Yemen, and Venezuela from accessing critical family planning, prenatal care, safe childbirth services, and protection from violence. In many cases, UNFPA is the only organization that operates in these areas. Prior to the 2017 determination, the U.S. was the second largest contributor to UNFPA's humanitarian efforts.

It remains difficult to reconcile the Administration's prohibition on funding for UNFPA with its stated dedication to "empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life." With 214 million women of reproductive age in developing regions facing an unmet need for modern contraceptives, cutting off U.S. assistance to UNFPA will undermine the Administration's stated objective to empower women. Sexual and reproductive health care is health care. It is foundational to any person's ability to live a healthy, safe, and full life. Denying this care stands in stark contrast to our values as Americans and turns our backs on the world's women and girls. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of UNFPA, we should be expanding support for their work, not decimating it.

We call on you to immediately reverse this decision and answer the following questions:

1. What evidence justifies the serious allegation that UNFPA supports or participates in coercive abortion in China?
2. President George W. Bush's Administration sent an independent team to investigate UNFPA's work in China and found no evidence that it was in violation of the Kemp-Kasten Amendment. Will the Trump Administration commit to conducting a site visit of the UNFPA Office in China to provide evidence, if any, for its allegations? If not, why?
3. Did the Administration consider UNFPA's positive contributions in providing family planning and maternal health, eradicating gender-based violence, and training health care workers when making this decision?

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/08/23/readout-secretary-price-meetings-beijing-china.html>

³ U.S. Department of State. U.S. Statement on UNFPA's 8th Country Program in China. UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, August 31, 2015, United Nations Headquarters, New York City.

<http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/7650964/united-states-pm-.pdf>

4. Officials from the State Department and USAID promised to "consult closely with UNFPA to carefully assess whether UNFPA's programs may continue to warrant the [funding] restriction in future years." Can you describe the close consultation with UNFPA you committed to undertake?
5. Much of the Kemp Kasten determination cites history and policies of the Government of China. Have you raised these concerns with the Chinese government directly?

Sincerely,




Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



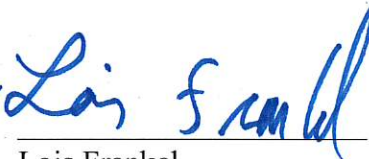
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



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



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



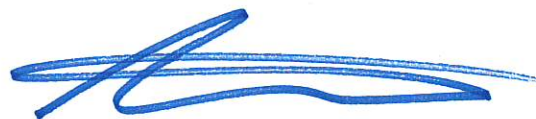
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



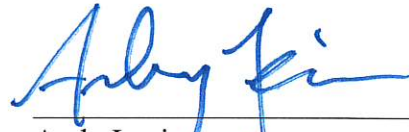
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



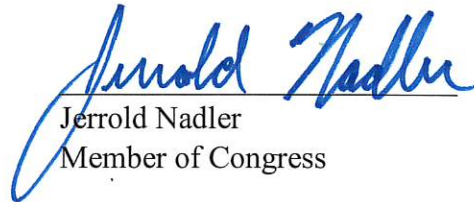
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



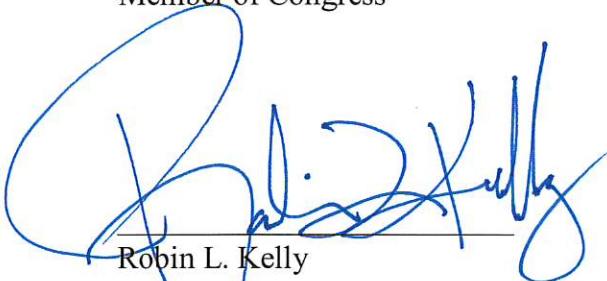
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



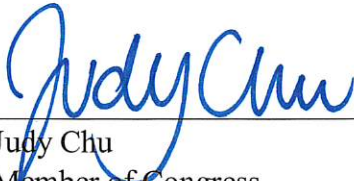
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



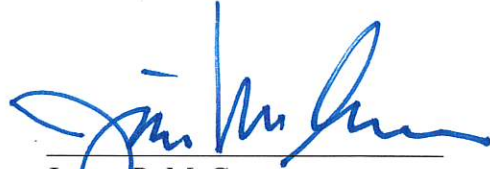
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



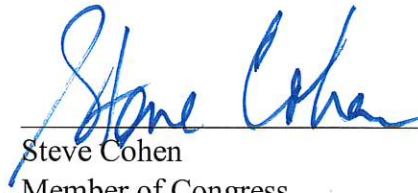
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda

Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



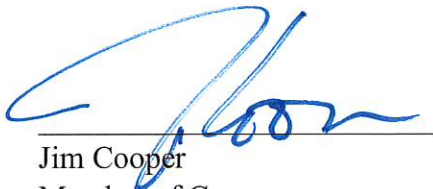
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



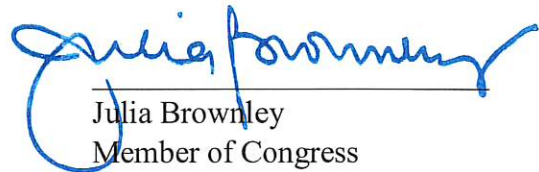
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



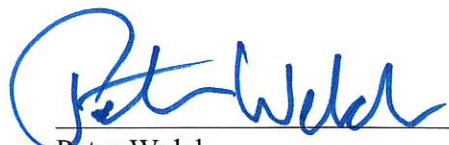
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



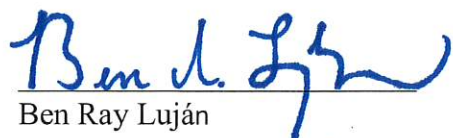
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



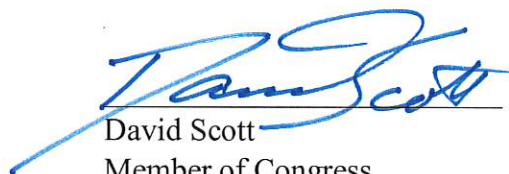
Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



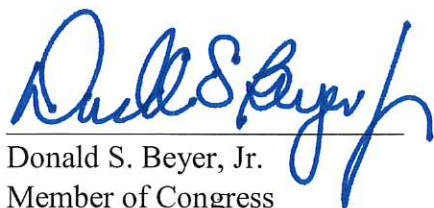
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



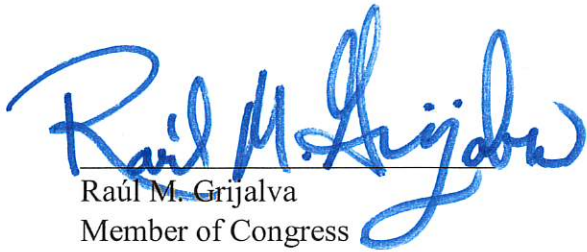
David Scott
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress

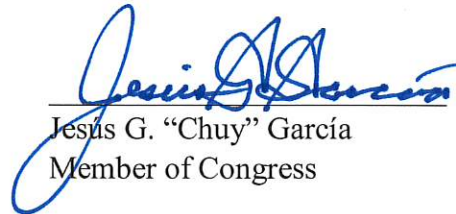

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

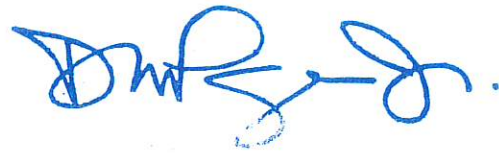

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Katherine Clark
Member of Congress


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

Val B. Demings
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



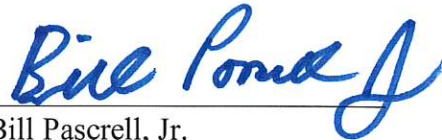
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



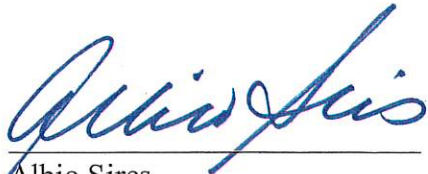
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



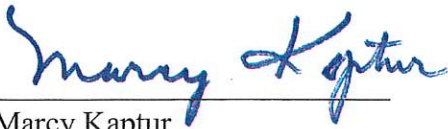
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



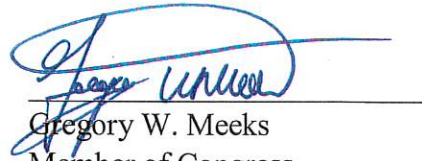
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



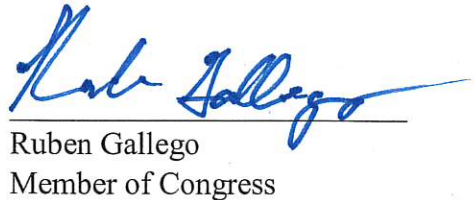
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



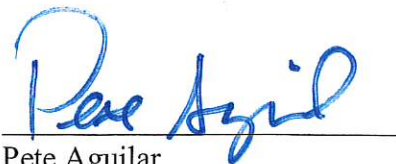
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



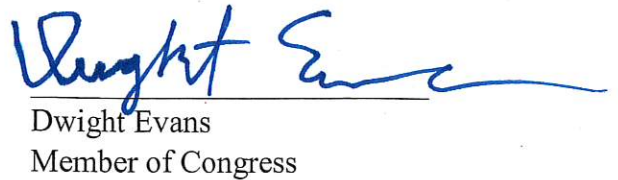
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



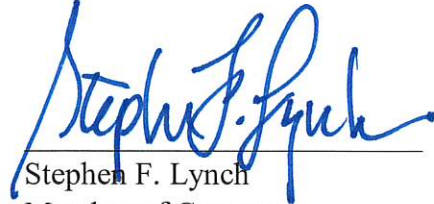
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



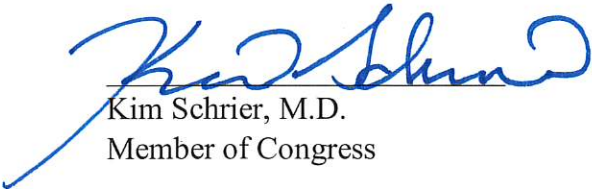
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress




Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



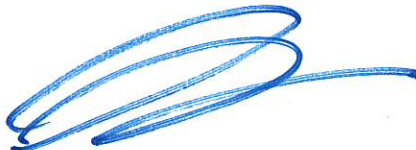
David E. Price
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress




Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



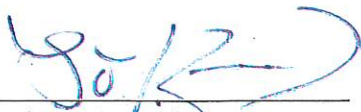
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



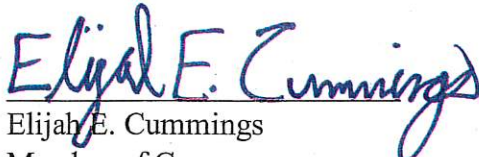
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



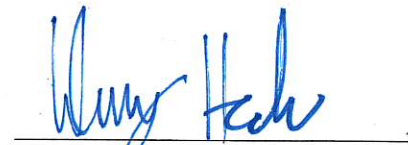
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress