

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Republican Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

Thank you for your leadership in recognizing early on that the economic downturn facing our communities across the country requires action to lessen its severity and duration. By developing The Recovery Rebate and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act (P.L. 110-185) your leadership has begun to assist Americans, particularly those struggling with home foreclosures. We are encouraged by your continued efforts to assist our communities during these tough economic times by crafting a second stimulus package. We urge you to include in this legislation measures to provide state fiscal relief through a temporary increase in the federal Medicaid match, such as in H.R. 5268, introduced by Representatives Pallone, P. King, Dingell and Reynolds, as well as a provision to block a pending Medicaid regulation that would significantly decrease Medicaid support for outpatient hospital and clinic services.

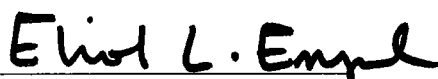
States throughout the country, including New York State, are under pressure to balance budgets while revenues decrease dramatically. New York's Governor, David Paterson, has projected our state will experience a budget shortfall of \$5.4 billion during the next state fiscal year and \$24.4 billion over the next three years. Under these circumstances, reductions in Medicaid spending are under serious consideration.

Providing federal assistance in the form of a temporary increase in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), as was adopted in 2003-2004, would allow our state and many others across the country to limit or avoid altogether reducing support for Medicaid programs. As has the National Governor's Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures, we strongly urge you to assist states in protecting access to essential health care services for the most vulnerable members of our communities by including such an increase in the second stimulus package.

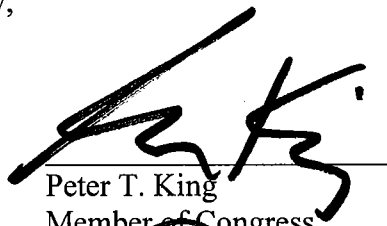
Further, we are grateful for your leadership in staving off regulatory Medicaid reductions by blocking implementation of six damaging Medicaid regulations until next spring. We urge you in the second stimulus package to block an additional Medicaid regulation that would cut Medicaid support for hospital outpatient and clinic services, precisely the services needed most during challenging economic times.

Your leadership has enabled the House to have already begun assisting our most vulnerable and middle class Americans. We urge you to continue these efforts and develop swiftly a second stimulus package that would temporarily increase FMAP to states and block implementation of the Medicaid outpatient department and clinic regulation.

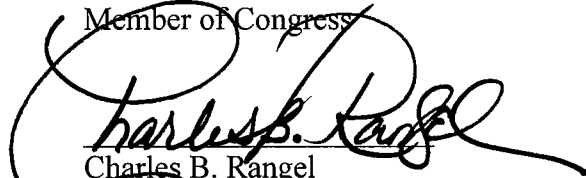
Sincerely,



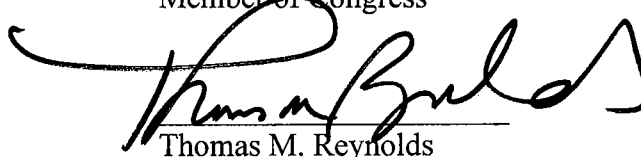
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



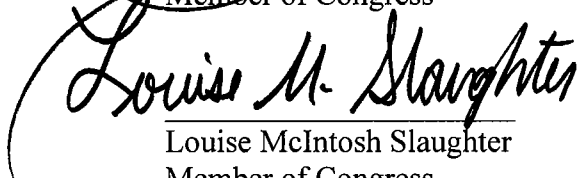
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



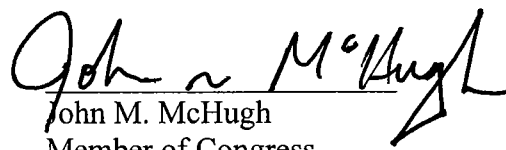
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress




Thomas M. Reynolds
Member of Congress



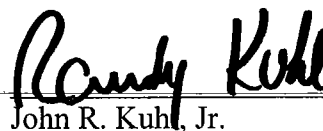
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



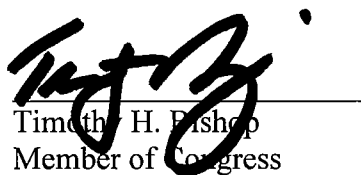
John M. McHugh
Member of Congress



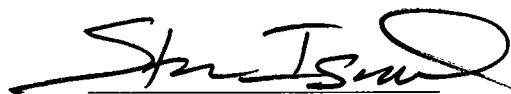
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



John R. Kuhl, Jr.
Member of Congress



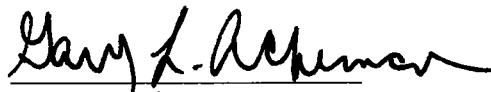
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



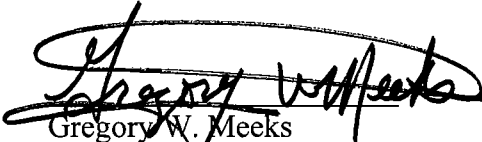
Steve Israel
Member of Congress

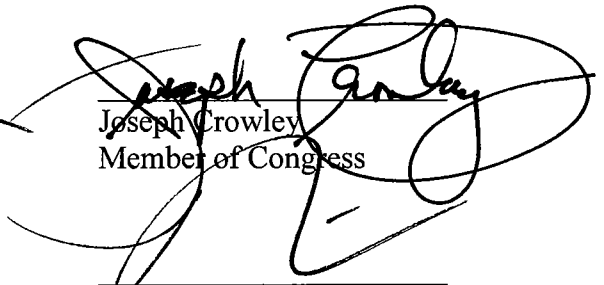


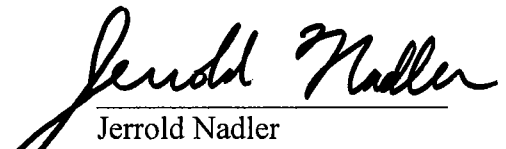
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

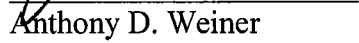


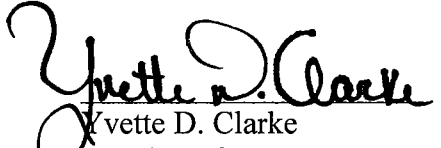
Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

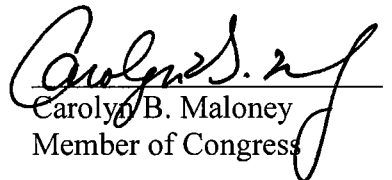

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

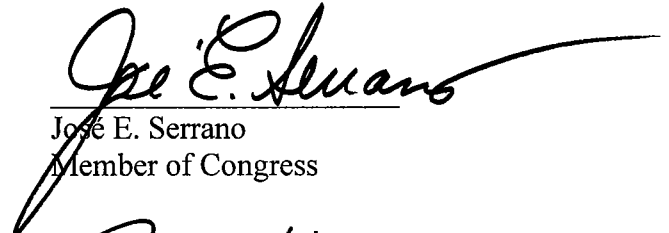

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

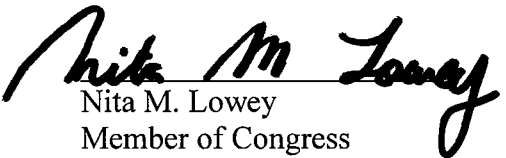

Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress

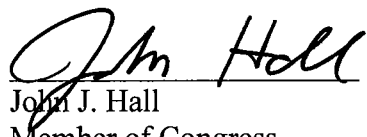

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

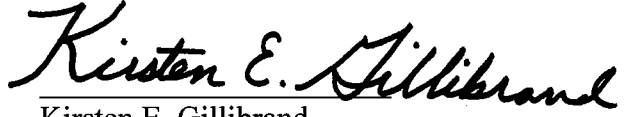

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

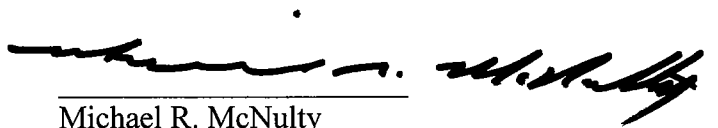

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

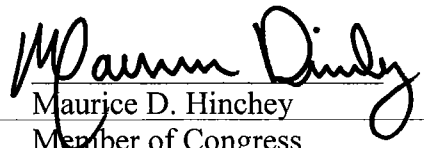

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

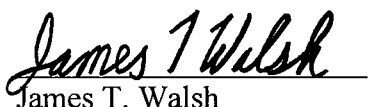

John J. Hall
Member of Congress

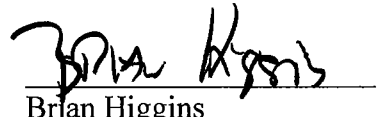

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Member of Congress

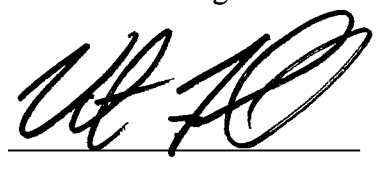

Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress


James T. Walsh
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


U.S. House of Representatives