

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

As freshman Democratic members of the 119th Congress, we are writing to urge you to prioritize bringing forward legislation to the House floor that lowers costs for working families, creates good-paying jobs, and improves the quality of life for all Americans.

Our constituents sent us to Washington with a clear mandate: to address their everyday concerns with practical solutions that make tangible improvements in their lives. Families across our congressional districts are struggling with the rising cost of essentials including groceries, healthcare, childcare, housing, and education.

In 2025, grocery prices are projected to rise by 3.3%,<sup>1</sup> above the historical average, and these increases place additional strain on household budgets, especially for low- and middle-income families. Housing affordability also remains a critical issue, and currently the United States faces a shortage of over 4.5 million homes,<sup>2</sup> leading to increased housing costs and reduced workforce mobility. Additionally, 42% of households spend more than 30% of their income on housing expenses,<sup>3</sup> underscoring the financial strain on American families. Instead of taking up bipartisan legislation to tackle these issues, Congress is moving in the opposite direction by advancing a reconciliation package that cuts funding for Medicaid, food assistance, and other programs that millions of Americans rely on to make ends meet.

In order for us to best serve our constituents, Congress should be considering legislation that addresses lowering consumer costs and improving quality of life. Congress has the opportunity—and responsibility—to enact meaningful policies that directly respond to the pressing issues facing American families. We believe that proposals addressing affordability, workforce development, infrastructure investments, and enhanced health care access should be priorities for this legislative session.

We urge you to prioritize these issues on the House floor so that Congress can demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of our constituents. Doing so will show the American people that Congress is capable of delivering solutions that matter, strengthening our economy, and improving the quality of life for all Americans. We stand ready to work with you and our colleagues across the aisle to deliver for the American people.

Sincerely,



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Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, “Food Price Outlook, 2025.”


<sup>2</sup> National Association of Realtors, “Housing is Critical Infrastructure: Social and Economic Benefits of Building More Housing.”

<sup>3</sup> Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, “The State of the Nation’s Housing 2024.”




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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress




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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



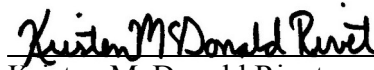
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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress




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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress




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Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



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Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



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Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



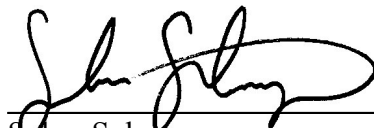
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Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



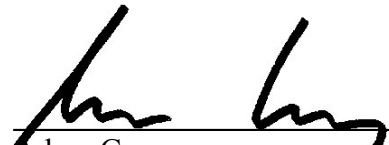
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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



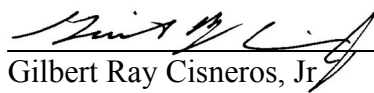
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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



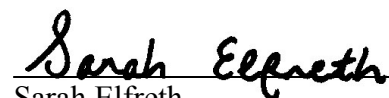
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Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

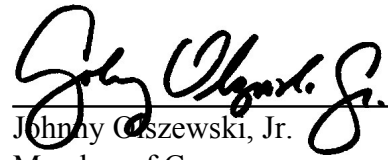


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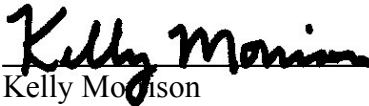
Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



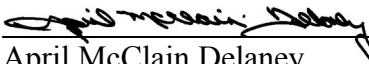
Johnny Giszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



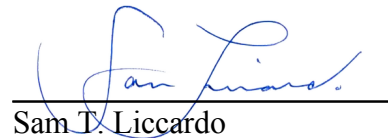
George Latimer  
Member of Congress



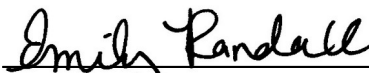
Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



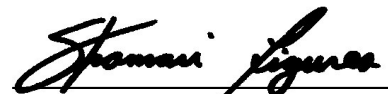
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress



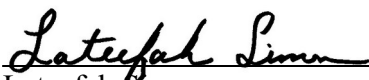
Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress