

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 10, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We request that you immediately demand Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta's resignation. As you know, Jeffrey Epstein was indicted on July 8, 2019 by federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York for sex trafficking and leading a conspiracy to traffic underage girls for commercial sex acts. The indictment, like the years of public reports, shows that Epstein "created a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit in locations including New York and Palm Beach." As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, where Epstein exploited dozens of girls, Secretary Acosta severely mishandled Epstein's case by secretly arranging an extremely lenient plea deal, showing an utter disregard for the law and those he was charged with representing. Because of his central role in this miscarriage of justice, Secretary Acosta has no place serving as a top official in the Executive Branch enforcing our nation's laws.

Many of us made a similar request in a letter dated February 22, 2019. This new indictment prompts even greater urgency, reinforcing public reporting that Mr. Epstein, a billionaire with deep political connections, was able to escape responsibility despite being accused of molesting and trafficking over 80 girls and young women since the early 2000s. In an article published by the *Miami Herald* last November, several women gave detailed accounts of being lured to Epstein's Palm Beach mansion and forced to have sex with him or other men who came to his home. After Epstein had been arrested, multiple women were intimidated by Epstein and his staff and told not to talk to the police, which led to many victims remaining silent.

Despite abundant evidence and multiple witnesses still willing to come forward, then-U.S. Attorney Acosta failed to charge Epstein under federal trafficking laws, which could have put Epstein away for life. Instead, Epstein pleaded guilty to lesser charges and received a shockingly light sentence: only 13 months in a private wing of a county jail, from which he was able to leave 6 days a week for 12 hours at a time. Shockingly, this lax plea deal included a non-prosecution agreement that shut down other investigations and granted immunity to potential co-conspirators. This injustice was arranged by Acosta and showed no respect for the suffering of the victims and credible accounts of sexual violence and human trafficking.

Additionally, as the recent ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida found, none of the 36 victims who had come forward were consulted during the negotiating of

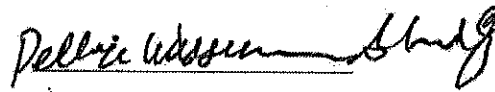
this plea deal and therefore were not able to exercise their right under the Crime Victims' Rights Act to object or be notified of any court proceedings. Victims were told to be "patient" while the FBI continued to investigate. When in reality, Acosta's team was deep in the process of negotiating with the defense. In fact, emails discovered as part of the *Miami Herald* investigation showed that the defense and prosecutorial team communicated frequently, sometime using private emails, and that the defense often dictated the terms of the agreement, citing Epstein's displeasure. Further, Acosta himself stated that Epstein's legal team had intimidated him to not take the case to trial and investigated him and his team to disqualify them from the case.

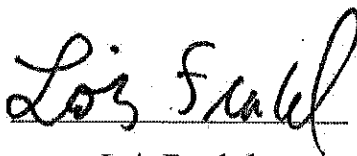
Epstein has not shown remorse for his actions and continues to display a flagrant disregard for the law, possibly because he was able to evade responsibility with help from Secretary Acosta. Notably, when the new indictment was unsealed, a cache of nude and sexually suggestive photos of young-looking women and girls was discovered during a search of Epstein's New York mansion.

As Members of Congress, we are committed to ensuring that those who occupy top positions in the federal government are held to the highest standards of the law. We strongly believe that Secretary Acosta was negligent in his duty to represent the best interests of the victims and the U.S. Government, and his role obliterates any credibility with enforcing our anti-trafficking and other laws. As such, we request that you immediately demand his letter of resignation.

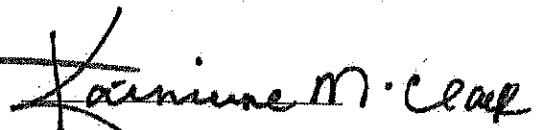
Sincerely,

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

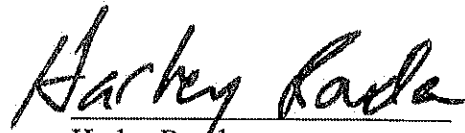
  
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

  
Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress

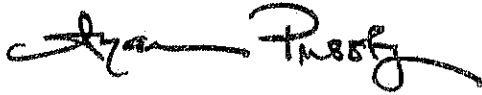
  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



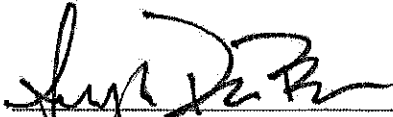
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



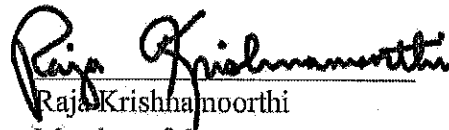
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



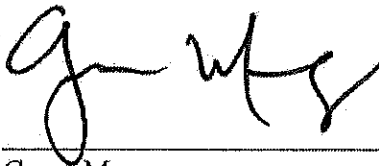
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



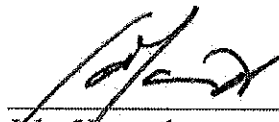
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



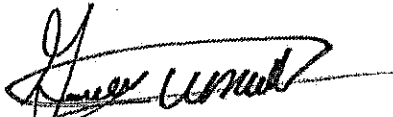
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



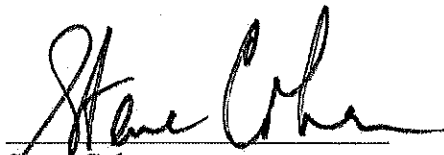
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress




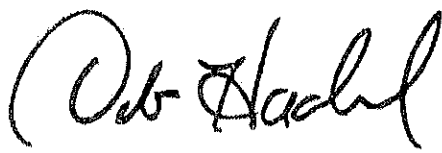
Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress




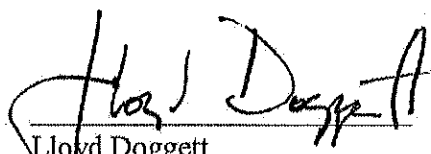
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

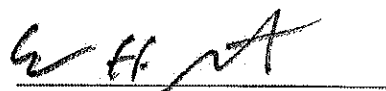
  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

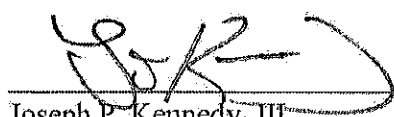
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

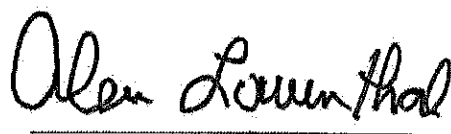
  
Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

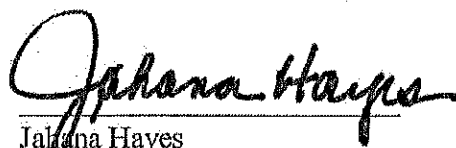
  
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress

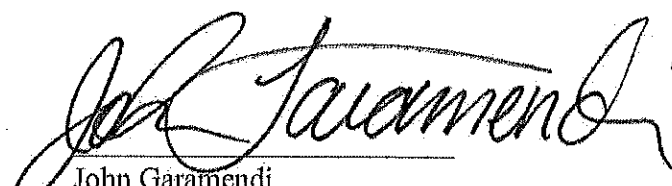
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

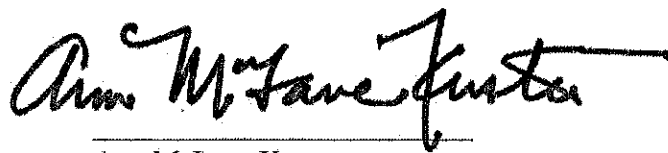
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

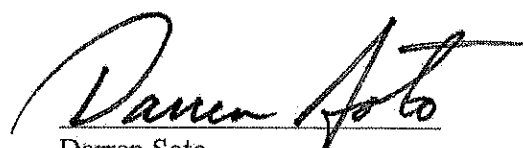
  
Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

  
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

  
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



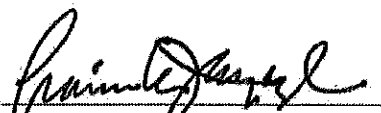
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



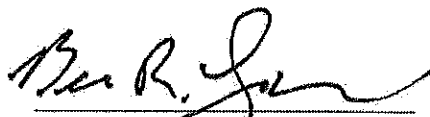
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



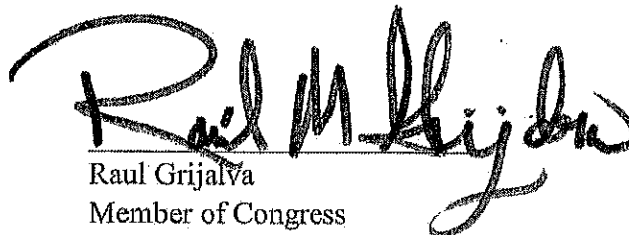
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



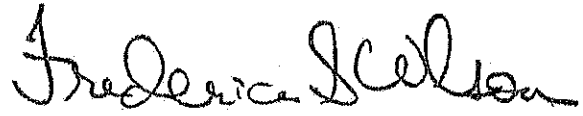
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



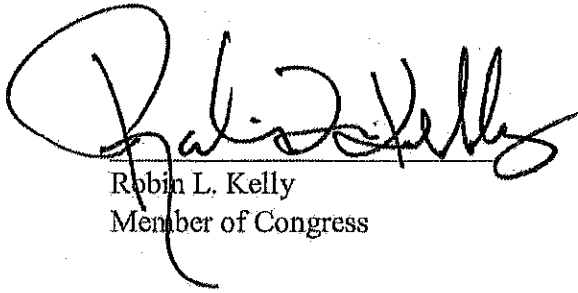
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



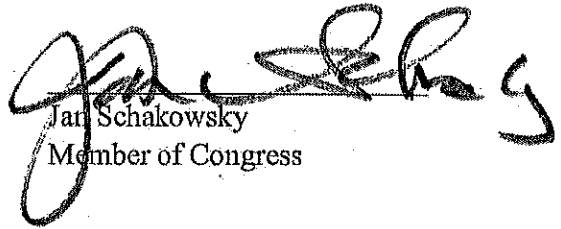
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



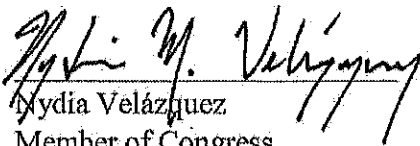
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



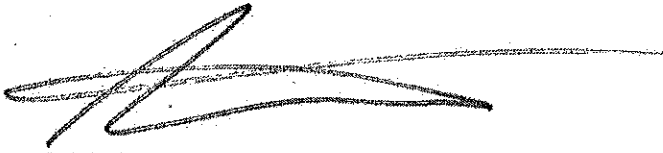
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



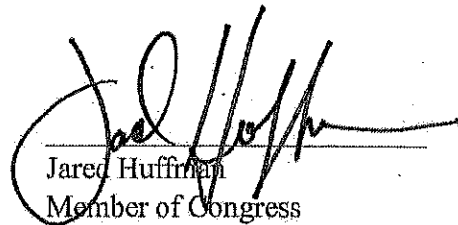
Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress



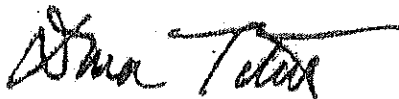
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



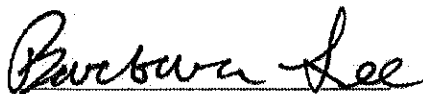
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



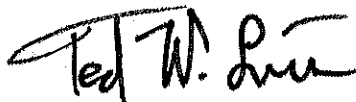
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



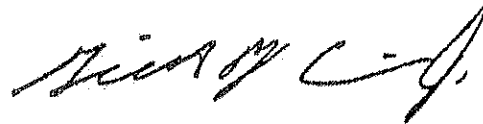
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



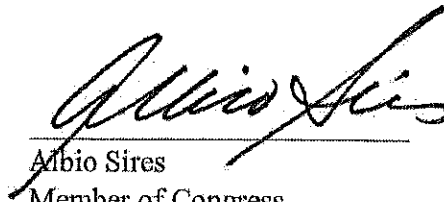
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.  
Member of Congress



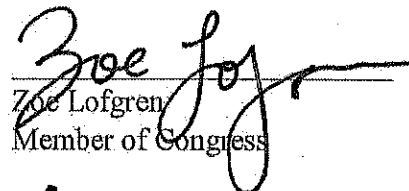
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



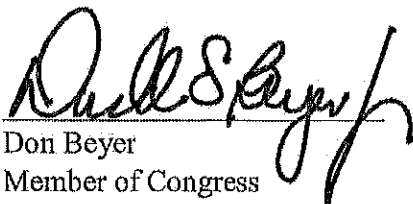
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



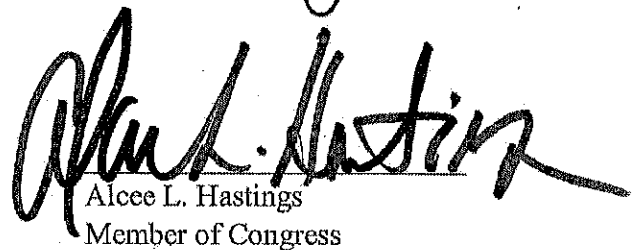
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Don Beyer  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



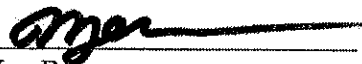
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

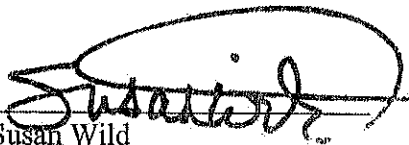
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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

  
Max Rose  
Member of Congress

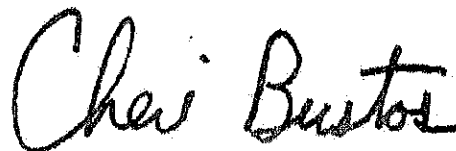
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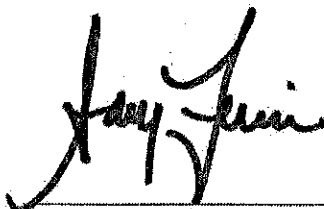
Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

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José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress