



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

December 7, 2011

Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

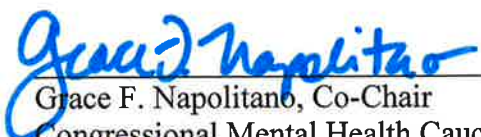
On behalf of the House Mental Health Caucus and Congressional Members who support the mental health community, we respectfully request and urge you to reject the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill (HR 3070) that cuts funding for mental health and addiction services, and supports –by a whopping 8.4 percent – a crippling, **irreversible cut** that would take years to recover from. This bill comes on the heels of funding cuts already imposed in FY 2011 and only further decimates critical programs that ensure a strong public behavioral health infrastructure.

It is shocking and deeply troubling that the House would single out behavioral health at a time when most states have cut funding for mental health care by nearly \$3.4 billion over the last 3 years. The brunt of the cuts to public health included in the bill would be borne by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In fact, HR 3070 cuts mental health funding by almost 25 percent-that would place their funding at the same level as nearly 12 years ago. The prevention portfolio at SAMHSA would be particularly hit hard at a time when the Institute of Medicine, in a 2009 report, declared that the prevention of mental health and substance abuse conditions among young people must be a national priority.

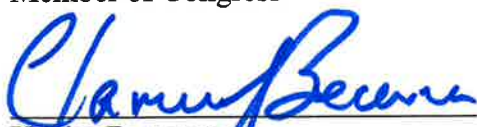
As we saw in the tragic events that occurred with the Arizona tragedy, we can no longer ignore the issue of mental health. The statistics serve as a constant reminder that more needs to be done to address this issue. America is facing a serious mental health crisis with suicide rates surpassing traffic fatalities and nearly doubling the number of deaths by homicide. With a record number of suicide deaths among service members, a growing number of young people facing mental health and addiction problems (half of those suffering from a mental illness will have the first onset by age 14), and so many Americans finding themselves homeless or in prison- this is one area where we cannot afford to make cuts. To do so, would only add to the already increasing problems that face our mental health system today. We are deeply concerned with HR 3070 and urge you to adopt more closely the moderate, balanced approach taken by the Senate in their bill. Should you have any questions or need


further information, please contact **Ane Romero** in Congresswoman Napolitano's office at **ane.romero@mail.house.gov** or **x-5-5256**.


Sincerely,

  
Grace F. Napolitano, Co-Chair  
Congressional Mental Health Caucus

  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress


  
Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress

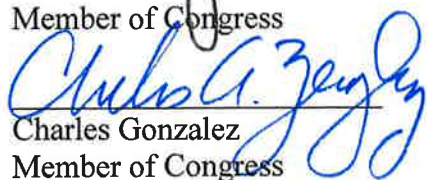
  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

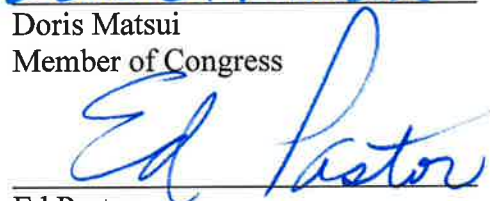
  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Danny Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Charles Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

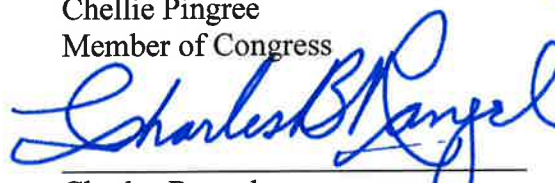
  
Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress

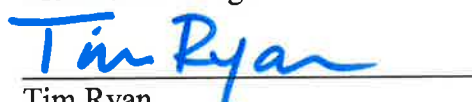
  
Pedro Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

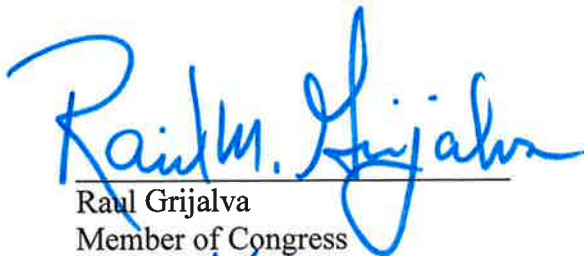
  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

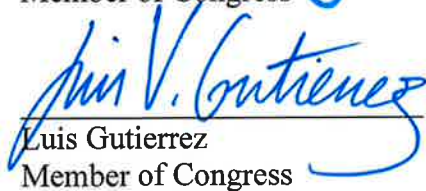
  
Charles Rangel  
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Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress

  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Ryan  
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Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

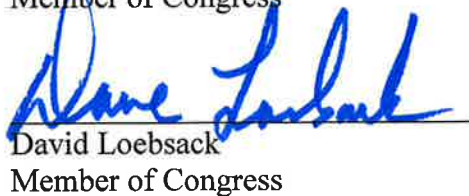
  
Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

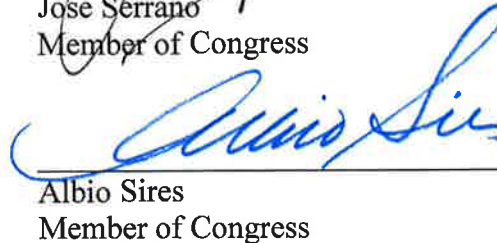
  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
James Langervin  
Member of Congress

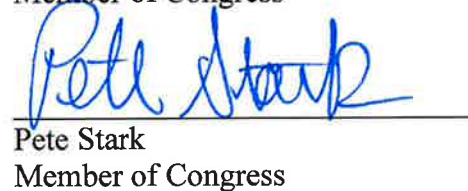
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

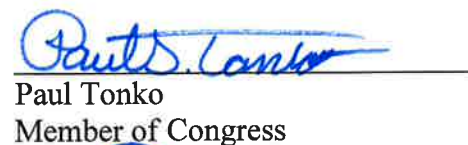
  
David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

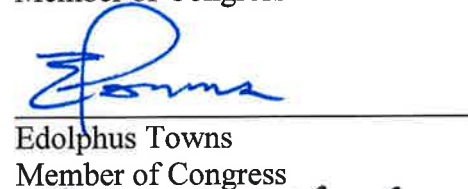
  
Jose Serrano  
Member of Congress

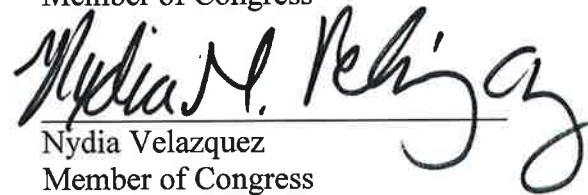
  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

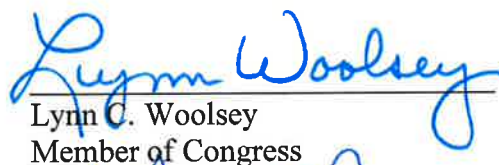
  
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

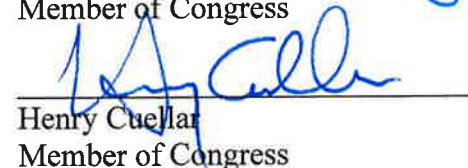
  
Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

  
Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress

  
Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Cc: Denny Rehberg, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies