

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

January 21, 2010

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni  
State House Nakasero  
P.O. Box 24594, Kampala  
Uganda

Dear President Museveni:

We write to you to ask you to speak out against, and deter, a grave injustice that is occurring in Uganda. As you are aware, a member of Uganda's Parliament has introduced legislation outlawing and condemning homosexuality and making "any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex" punishable by prison or death. This egregious bill, which represents one of the most extreme anti-equality measures ever proposed in any country, would create a legal pretext for depriving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Ugandans of their liberty, and even their lives. We respectfully urge you to take swift action to prevent this law, which we are concerned could have a chilling effect both on human rights and on bilateral relations between our countries.

Homosexuality is already outlawed in Uganda. The Penal Code bans "carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature." However, we understand that prosecutions are rare because the standard of proof requires parties must be "caught in the act." The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2009 would facilitate prosecution and would put to death those it found to be guilty of "aggravated homosexuality"; it even would criminalize the "aiding and abetting of homosexuality and promotion of homosexuality"—each charge of which would carry a possible prison sentence of seven years. This egregious bill is not only unjust on its face: its mere existence almost certainly will lead to violence against individuals who either are LGBT or are rumored to be LGBT, their families, and community leaders in their places of worship, residence, school, or place of business. The Anti-Homosexuality Act even seeks to establish extra-territorial jurisdiction, which consequently could endanger Ugandan LGBT citizens living abroad whose extradition to, and prosecution in, Uganda might consequently be sought.

Mr. President, this law has attracted considerable unfavorable attention in the United States and in many other countries around the world, where it is rightly seen as an attack on fundamental human liberties and rights. We have little doubt that its passage would impact negatively on Uganda's relations with the world community, including in areas of clear importance to the Ugandan people. For example, Sweden has indicated that it will cut bilateral assistance to Uganda should the bill be passed. Should the bill be passed, any range of bilateral programs important to relations between our countries and, indeed, to the Ugandan people inevitably would be called under review. For example, U.S. spending in Uganda last year on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) amounted to almost \$300 million, representing approximately 2.6% of the total Ugandan economy. By seriously compromising efforts to reach LGBT communities in Uganda, passage of the Anti-Homosexual Act would

impede the efficacy of PEPFAR's programs and the achievement of its goals. In such circumstances, questions would naturally be raised as to whether this humanitarian U.S. investment should be reconsidered.

We respectfully urge you to take immediate steps not only to assure our bilateral relationship, but to place Uganda clearly on the side of equality and fair-mindedness in how its citizens are treated. As Uganda's leader, you have the opportunity to prevent proliferation of hate, civil unrest and violence in Uganda. It is our fervent hope that you will use every means possible to convey to leaders in Parliament that this appalling bill is reckless in both intent and possible impact, and should be withdrawn immediately.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



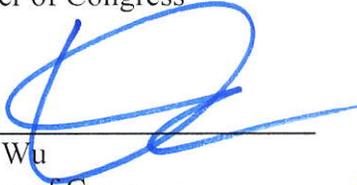
Howard Berman  
Member of Congress



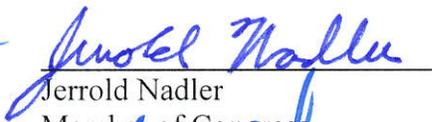
Donald Payne  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



David Wu  
Member of Congress



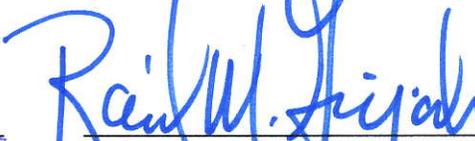
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



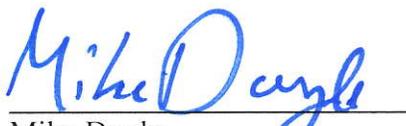
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



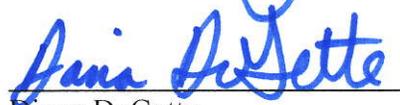
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



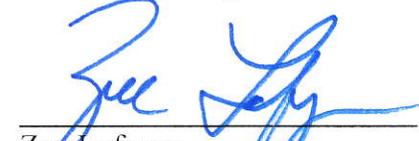
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



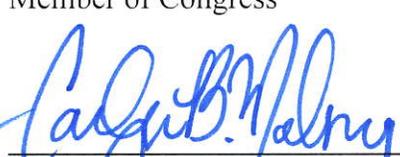
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



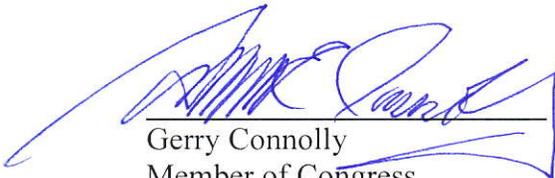
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Bill Delahunt  
Member of Congress



Gerry Connolly  
Member of Congress



Diane Watson  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



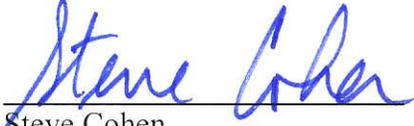
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



John Olver  
Member of Congress



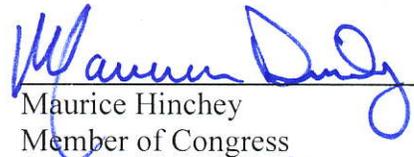
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



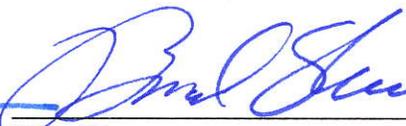
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress



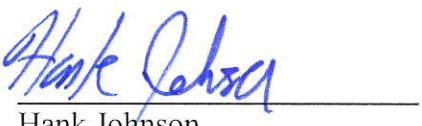
Steve Driehaus  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



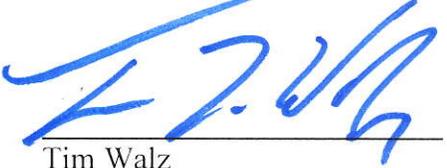
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



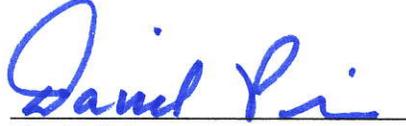
Paul Hodes  
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



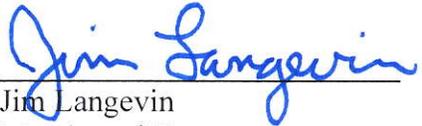
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



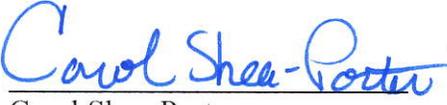
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



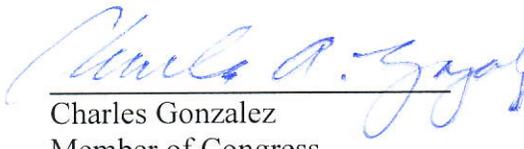
Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress



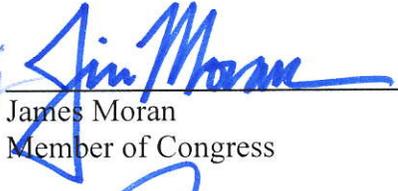
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



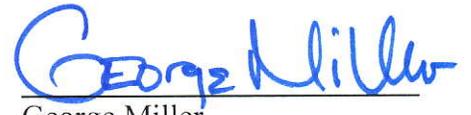
Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



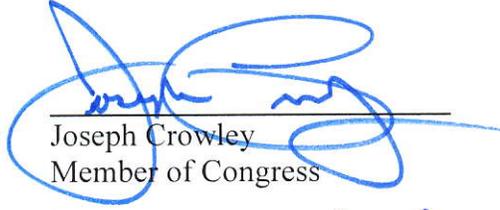
Charles Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



James Moran  
Member of Congress



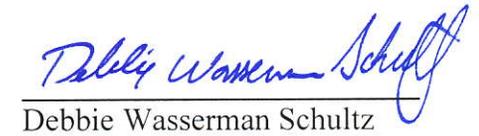
George Miller  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress



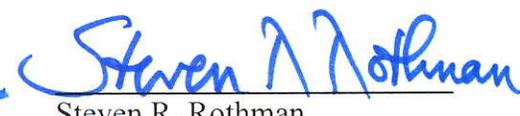
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



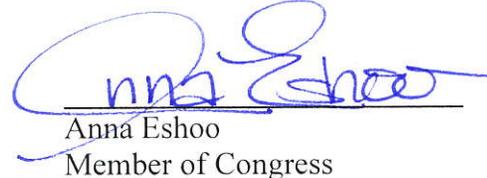
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



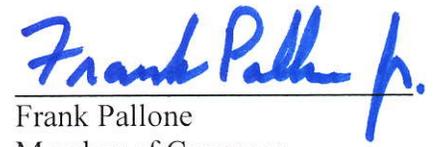
Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress



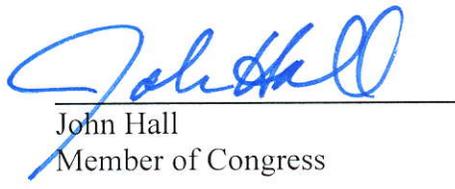
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



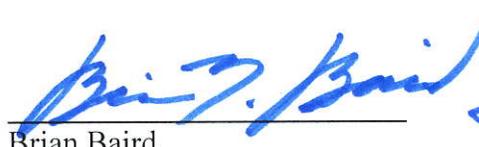
Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



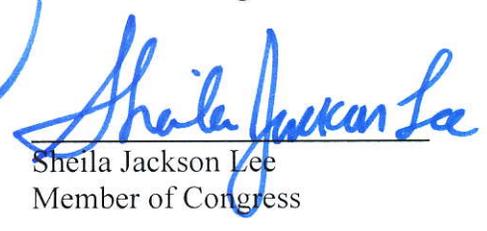
Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



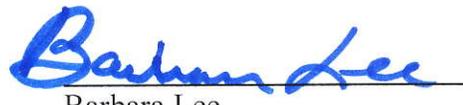
John Hall  
Member of Congress



Brian Baird  
Member of Congress



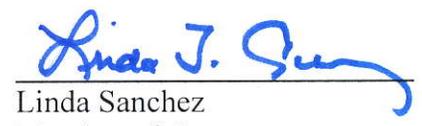
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



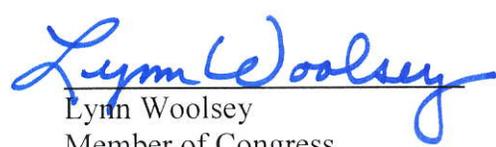
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



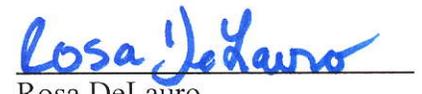
Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress



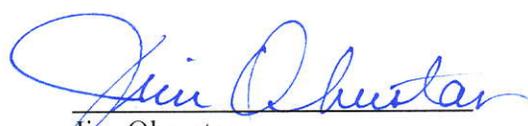
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress



Mary Jo Kilroy  
Member of Congress



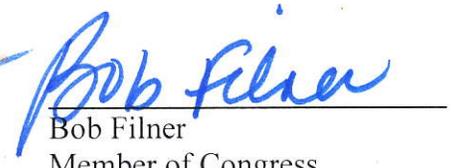
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Jim Oberstar  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

Tom Perriello  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Forney Pete Stark  
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Gwen Moore  
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Yvette Clarke  
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Patrick Kennedy  
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Lloyd Doggett  
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Gary Peters  
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Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
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Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson  
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John Tierney  
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Henry Waxman  
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Phil Hare  
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Jackie Speier  
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Donna Edwards  
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W. Lacy Clay  
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Martin Heinrich  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress