

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.

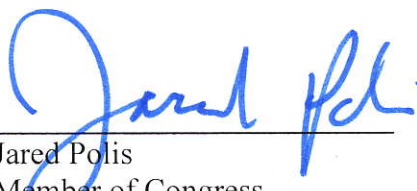
Mr. President, this law has attracted considerable unfavorable attention in the United States and in many other countries around the world, where it is rightly seen as an attack on fundamental human liberties and rights. We have little doubt that its passage would impact negatively on Uganda's relations 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

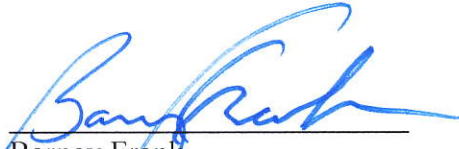
impede the efficacy of PEPFAR's programs and the achievement of its goals. In such circumstances, questions would naturally be raised as to whether this humanitarian U.S. investment should be reconsidered.

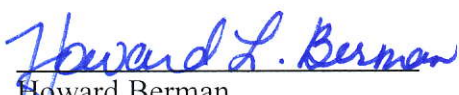
We respectfully urge you to take immediate steps not only to assure our bilateral relationship, but to place Uganda clearly on the side of equality and fair-mindedness in how its citizens are treated. As Uganda's leader, you have the opportunity to prevent proliferation of hate, civil unrest and violence 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

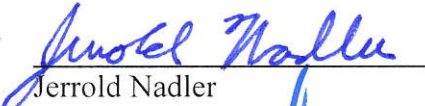

Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress

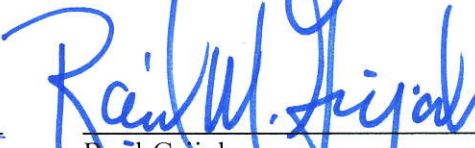

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

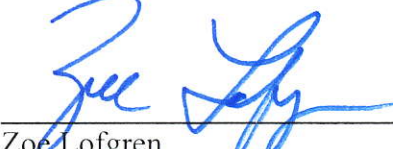

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

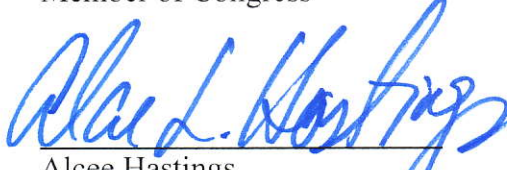

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

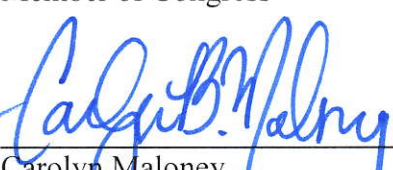

Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

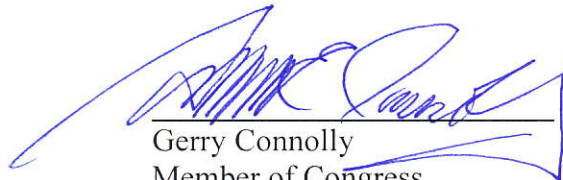

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

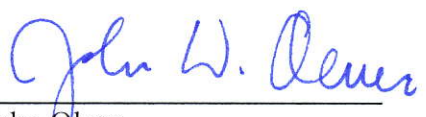

Bill Delahunt
Member of Congress



Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress


Diane Watson
Member of Congress

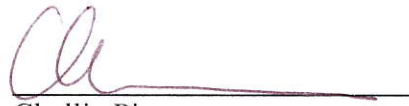

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

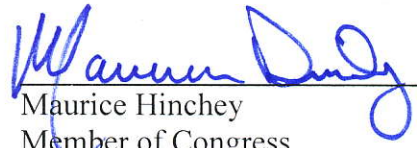

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

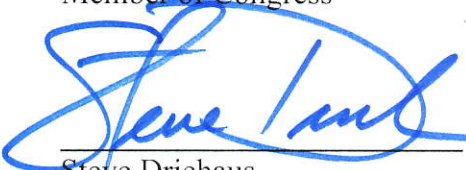

John Olver
Member of Congress



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

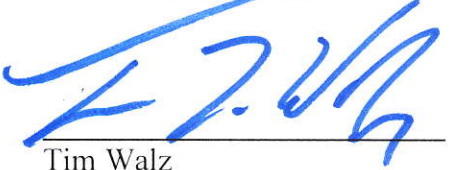

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

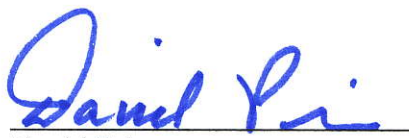

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



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

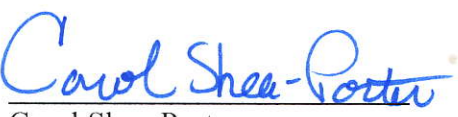

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

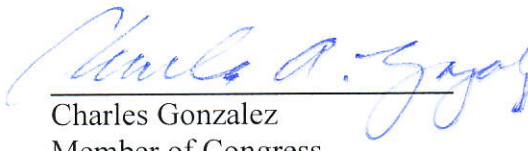

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

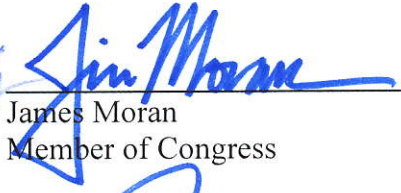

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



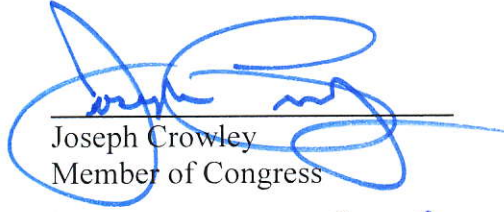
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



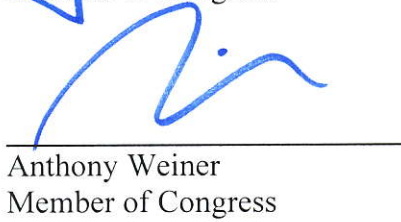
James Moran
Member of Congress



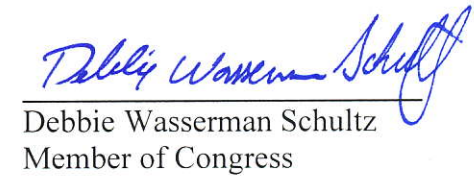
George Miller
Member of Congress




Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



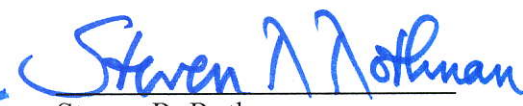
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



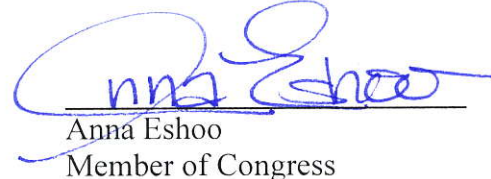
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



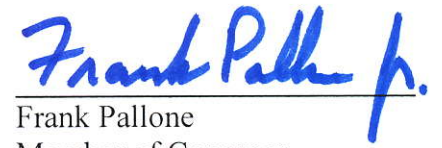
Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



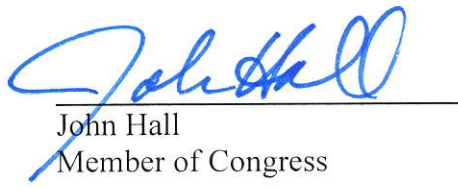
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



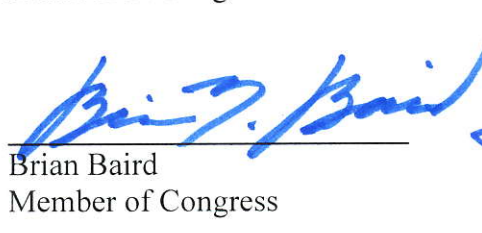
Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



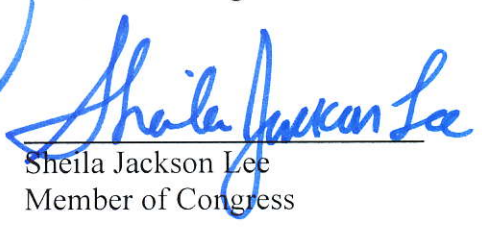
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



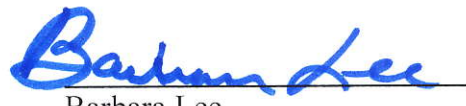
John Hall
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



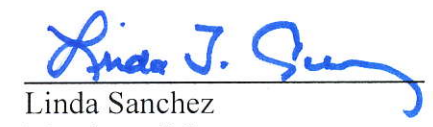
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



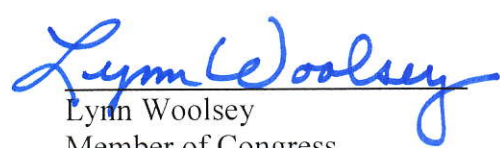
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



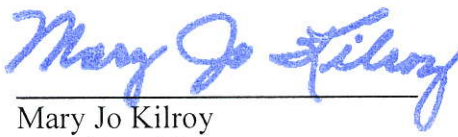
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



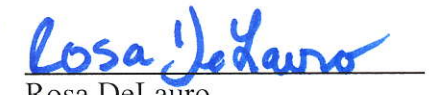
Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



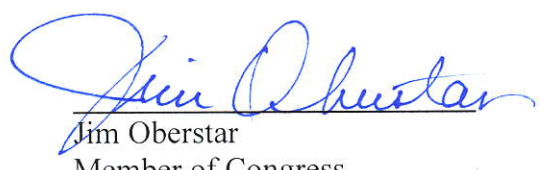
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



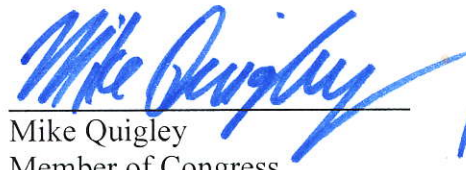
Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress



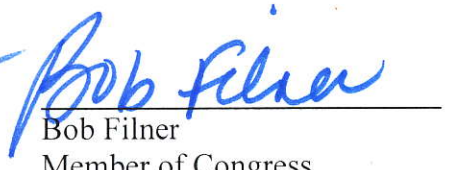
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Jim Oberstar
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



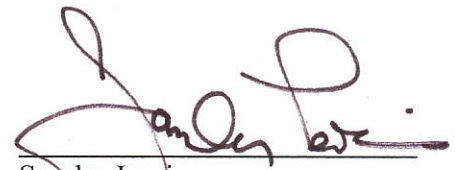
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



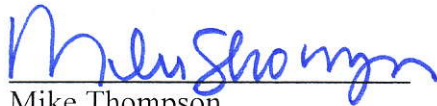
Tom Perriello
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



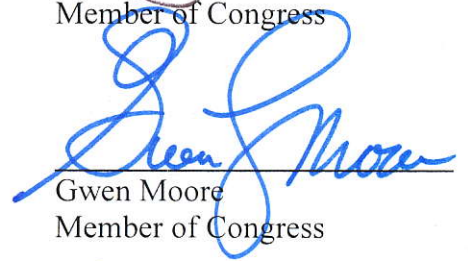
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Forney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress

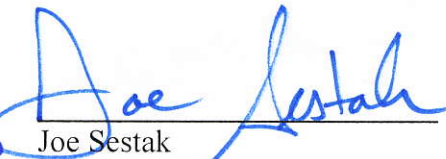


Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



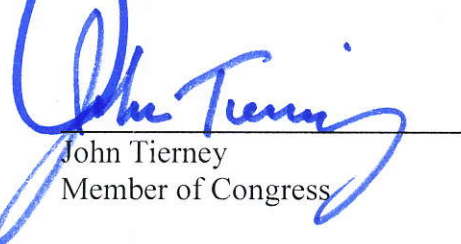
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



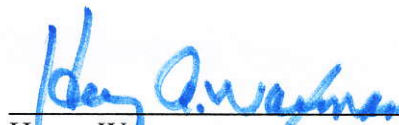
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



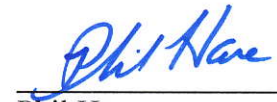
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



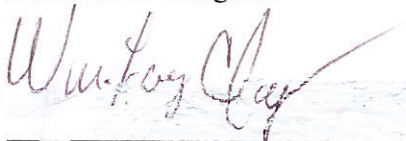
Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Wm Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress