

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2019

The Honorable Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan,

We write to request that the United States Postal Service (USPS) refrain from destroying any copies of the Alzheimer's semipostal fundraising stamp until Congress has a chance to clarify intentions for the program in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) appropriations legislation.

For nearly two decades, many of us and many of our predecessors advocated for the creation of an Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp to help raise awareness and funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We were pleased when USPS issued the Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp on November 30, 2017 under authority provided in the *Semipostal Authorization Act* (P.L. 106-253) to "issue and sell semipostals...to advance causes the Postal Service considers to be in the national public interest and appropriate." Current plans call for the Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp to remain on the market until November 30, 2019, at which point USPS will begin the process of removing this stamp and issuing another disease-specific research stamp for the next two years.

Congress has expressed interest in the continued availability of the current Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp. In addition to introducing legislation that would maintain stamp availability for six more years (S. 1728 and H.R. 3113), both chambers of Congress have acted to continue the Alzheimer's stamp in their respective FY 2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bills. Specifically, the House-passed legislation includes the following language:

Provided further, That the Postal Service may not destroy, and shall continue to offer for sale, any copies of the Alzheimer's Semipostal Stamp issued under section 416 of title 39, United States Code

It is our understanding that USPS printed 500 million Alzheimer's semipostal research stamps for the program. Upon conclusion of the two-year tenure, USPS will begin the process of collecting, inventorying, and then ultimately destroying any remaining stamps. Given our long-standing commitment to the creation of the Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp, coupled with the significant support the stamp has received from the Alzheimer's community, we believe that destroying such a large number of much-desired stamps is both wasteful and inconsistent with Congress' signaled intent to maintain the stamp for FY 2020.

We have learned that in lieu of destroying unsold stamps, USPS has the discretion to store unsold stamps, and has done so previously in situations where Congress has expressed interest in continuing a stamp's sale to the public. Given that Congress has outstanding legislative work regarding continuation of the Alzheimer's semipostal research stamp, we ask that you do not initiate any processes to destroy the stamp until Congress has completed the relevant FY 2020 appropriations legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Co-Chair, Congressional Task Force
on Alzheimer's Disease



Susan M. Collins
Co-Chair, Congressional Task Force
on Alzheimer's Disease



Maxine Waters
Co-Chair, Congressional Task Force
on Alzheimer's Disease



Christopher H. Smith
Co-Chair, Congressional Task Force
on Alzheimer's Disease



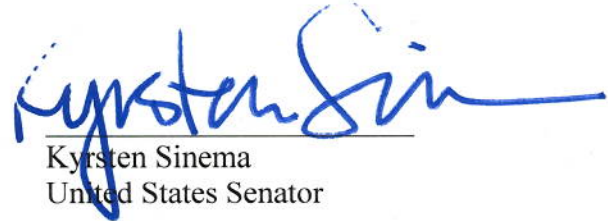
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



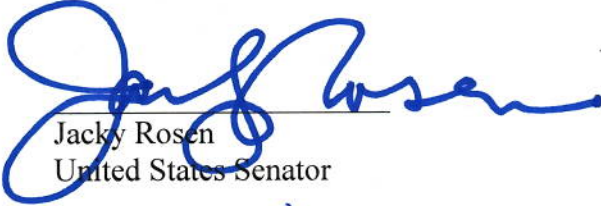
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



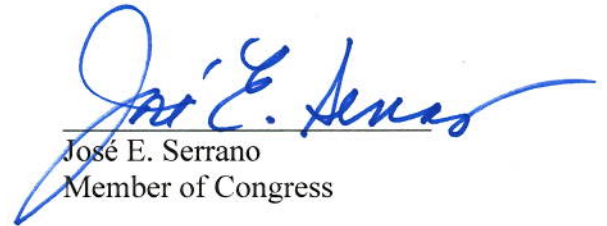
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



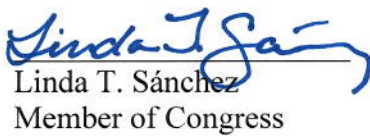
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



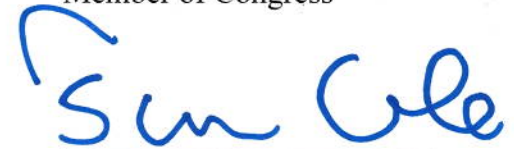
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



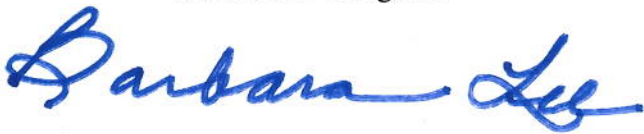
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



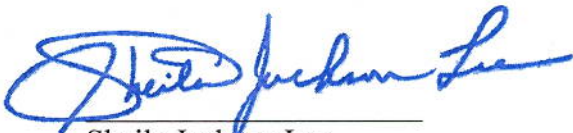
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



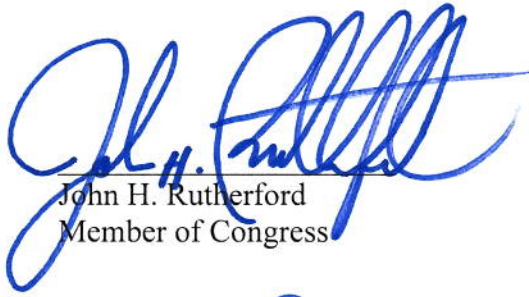
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



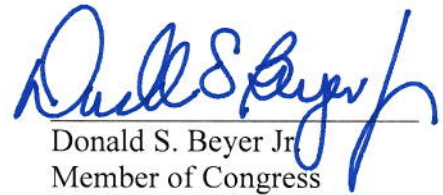
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



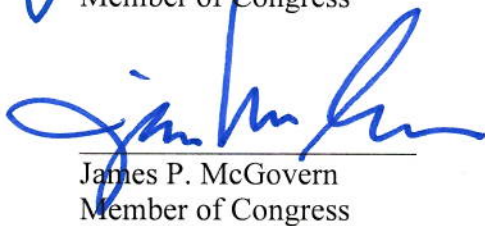
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress



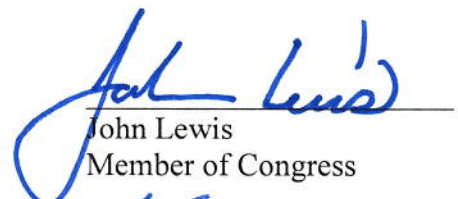
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



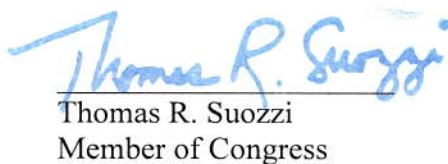
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



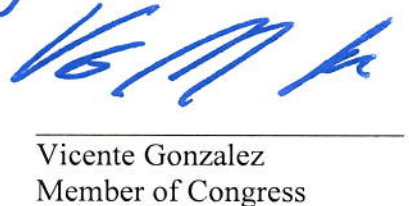
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Don Bacon in blue ink, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'B'.

Don Bacon
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Darren Soto in blue ink, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'S'.

Darren Soto
Member of Congress