

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

April 2, 2009

Chairman David Obey  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington DC, 20515

Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act, we respectfully request your support for the National Cord Blood Inventory program as authorized by PL 109-129. The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act was signed into law in December of 2005 and authorized \$15 million a year to establish a program for the public collection and storage of umbilical cord blood stem cells and the promotion of research. As you will recall, the Act passed the House by a vote of 431-1, passed the Senate unanimously, and has continued to compel bi-partisan interest and support.

The opportunity to cure or mitigate suffering with cord blood stem cell therapies makes an urgent and compelling case for the funding of this program. Throughout the past several years, umbilical cord blood stem cells have been highlighted in the news for their ability to treat and mitigate disease. Just last month another article pointed out the fact that:

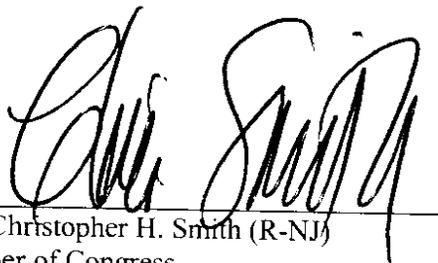
*An unrelated cord blood transplant, even from a mismatched donor, can be effective in treating children with a host of life-threatening diseases and disorders including cancer, sickle cell anemia, and other genetic diseases, according to researchers in the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program. Unrelated cord blood may be easier to obtain than adult bone marrow, allowing for the treatment of more patients. (Psychorg.com, Feb 13, 2009)*

We have also seen that cord blood stem cells can treat not only children, but adults as well and that their usefulness is continuing to grow as more scientists research their potential and run clinical trials with different diseases and conditions. In fact, *TIME* magazine reported last year that "Doctors can now treat some 70 diseases using stem cells harvested from cord blood..." (*TIME*, Feb 26, 2008). These diseases include leukemia, sickle-cell anemia, type-1 diabetes, and, according to the same *TIME* article, "many doctors also believe that these transplants will eventually prove useful in regenerative medicine, helping patients suffering from heart disease, spinal bifida or even traumatic brain injuries."

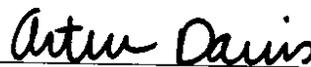
Cord blood stem cells are truly one of the best keep secrets and we are confident that this program will bring the wonders and hopeful possibilities of stem cell treatments to tens of thousands of patients across the country. Please stand with us in support of patients and fully fund the National Cord Blood Inventory by appropriating at least \$15 million for this valuable program in FY10.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support. We look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

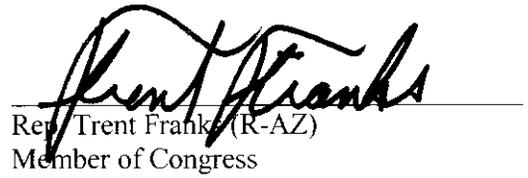


Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ)  
Member of Congress



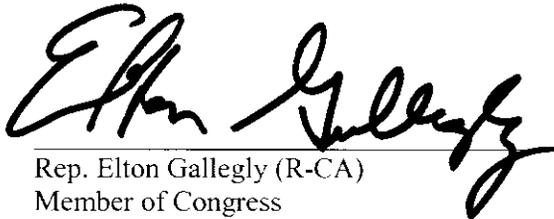
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Member of Congress

  
Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA)  
Member of Congress

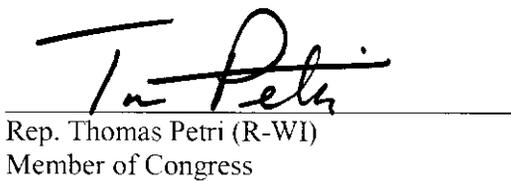
  
Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Member of Congress

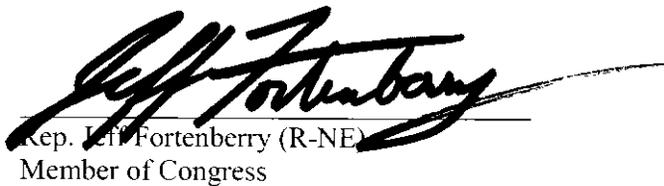
  
Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI)  
Member of Congress

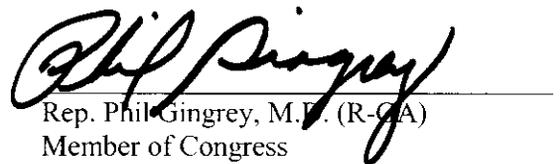
  
Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA)  
Member of Congress

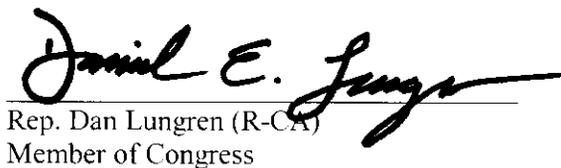
  
Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ)  
Member of Congress

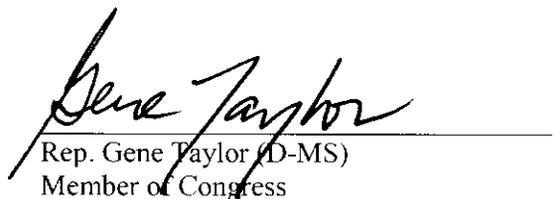
  
Rep. Thomas Petri (R-WI)  
Member of Congress

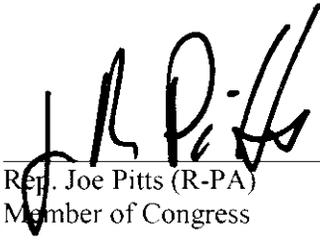
  
Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Phil Gingrey, M.P. (R-GA)  
Member of Congress

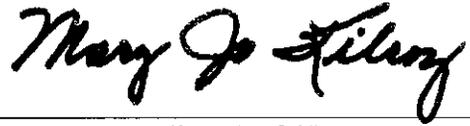
  
Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA)  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS)  
Member of Congress



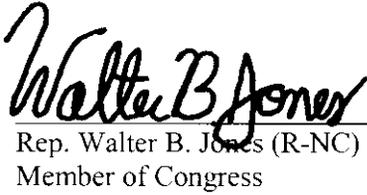
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Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA)  
Member of Congress



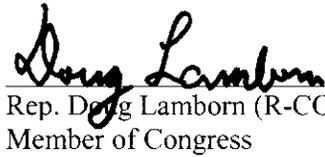
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Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH)  
Member of Congress



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Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-NC)  
Member of Congress



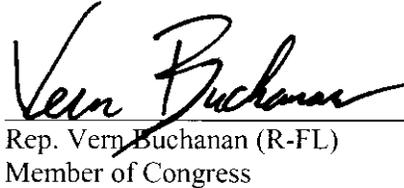
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Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)  
Member of Congress



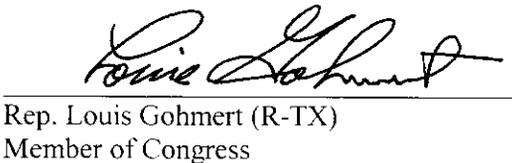
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Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL)  
Member of Congress



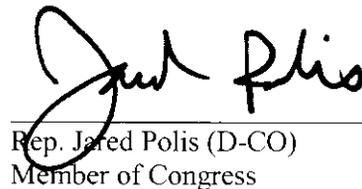
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Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



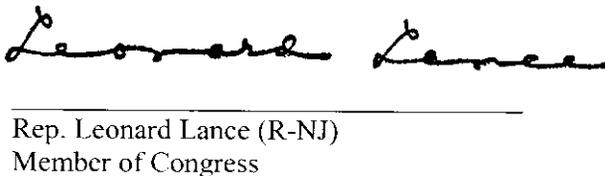
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Rep. Louis Gohmert (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)  
Member of Congress



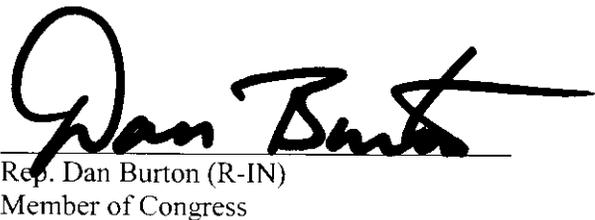
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Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)  
Member of Congress



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Rep. Steve King (R-IA)  
Member of Congress



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Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN)  
Member of Congress

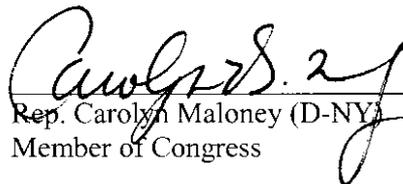


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Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)  
Member of Congress



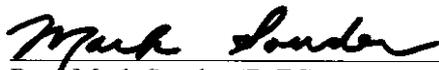
Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)  
Member of Congress



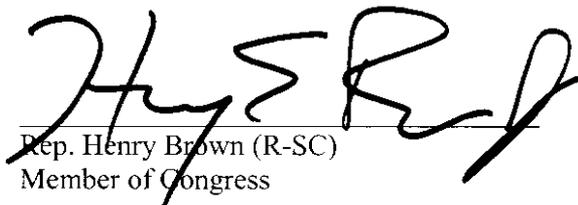
Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)  
Member of Congress



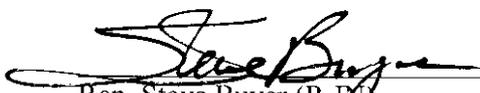
Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



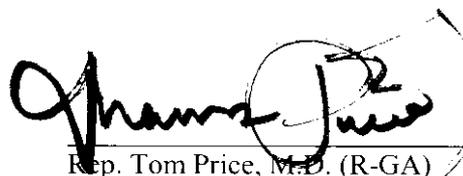
Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)  
Member of Congress



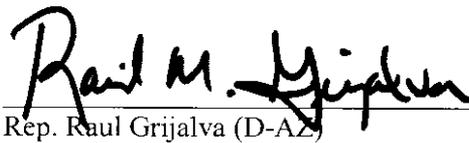
Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



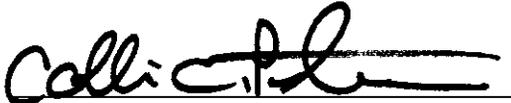
Rep. Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



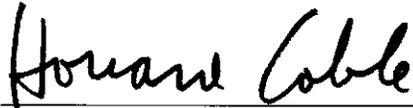
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



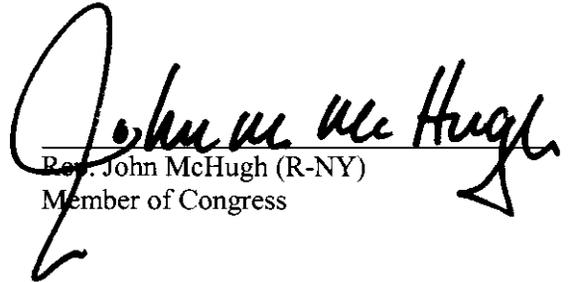
Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC)  
Member of Congress



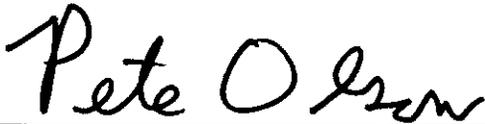
Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)  
Member of Congress



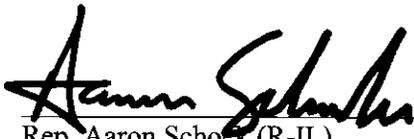
Rep. John McHugh (R-NY)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)  
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Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA)  
Member of Congress



Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



Rep. John Boozman (R-AR)  
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