

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

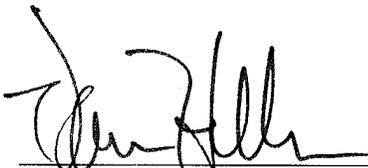
We write to express our deep concern over reports that House leadership is planning to include the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act (H.R. 157) in the fiscal year 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Regardless of Members' positions on either of these bills, we owe it to the American people to ensure that each piece of legislation that comes before this body is discussed and receives a vote on its merits. Specifically, we are concerned that the politicization of any legislation dealing with vital funding for our troops sends the wrong message to our brave men and women in uniform and their families. A fair and straightforward vote on the fiscal year 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations bill should be considered.

Furthermore, Members from both sides of the aisle have concerns about H.R. 157 that deserve an open, transparent debate. Inclusion of H.R. 157 in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act would severely limit this necessary discussion and ignores the valid constitutional questions surrounding this legislation, including serious concerns that many Members of the House have regarding D.C. residents' Second Amendment rights. We believe that separate deliberation on H.R. 157 would be most consistent with your promise to "create the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history," and urge you to resist any call to include H.R. 157 in any legislation coming out of a Conference Committee.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to considering D.C. voting rights and Department of Defense appropriations, each on their own merits, on the House floor in the 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

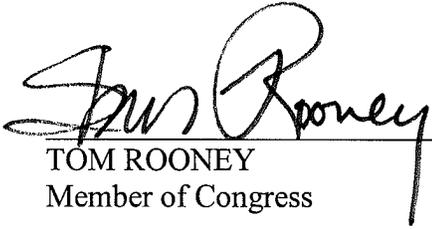


DEAN HELLER
Member of Congress



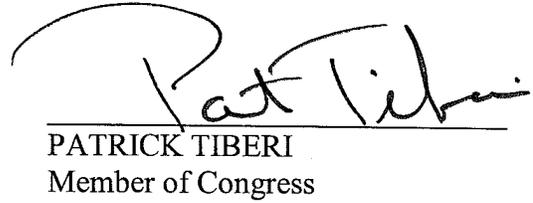
TODD AKIN
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable David Obey, House Appropriations Committee Chairman
The Honorable John Murtha, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Bill Young, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John Boehner, Republican Minority Leader


TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress


MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress


PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress


PATRICK TIBERI
Member of Congress


STEVE KING
Member of Congress


BILL SHUSTER
Member of Congress

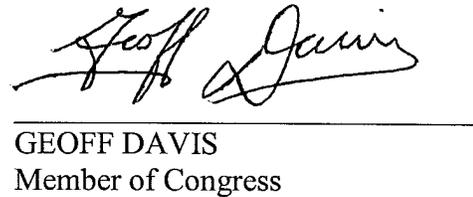

PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress


ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress

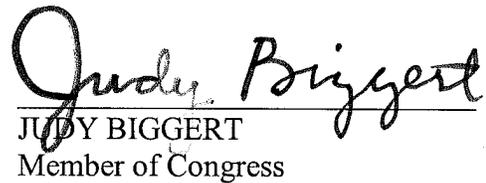

MIKE SIMPSON
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GREGG HARPER
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JOE WILSON
Member of Congress


GEOFF DAVIS
Member of Congress


JOHN CARTER
Member of Congress

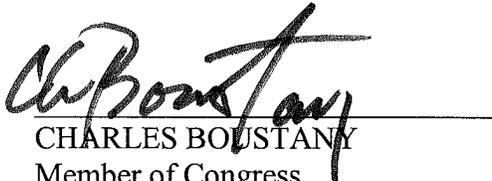

JUDY BIGGERT
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JOHN BOOZMAN
Member of Congress

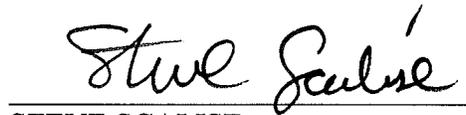

JOHN CULBERSON
Member of Congress


MICHAEL BURGESS
Member of Congress

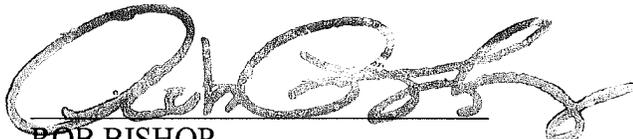

RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress


CHARLES BOUSTANY
Member of Congress

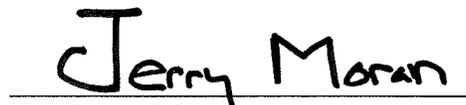

TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress


STEVE SCALISE
Member of Congress

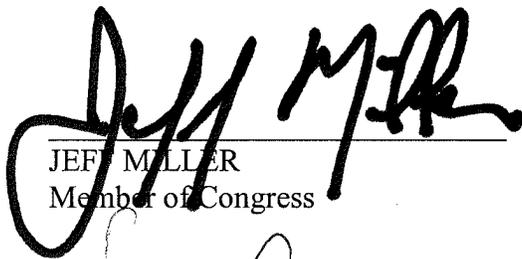

CANDICE MILLER
Member of Congress


ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress


MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress


JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress

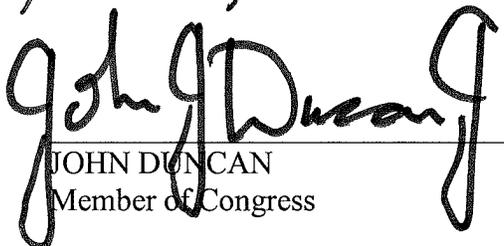

TRENT FRANKS
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JEFF MILLER
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JIM JORDAN
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SAM GRAVES
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SUE MYRICK
Member of Congress


JOHN DUNCAN
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DONALD MANZULLO
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RALPH HALL
Member of Congress



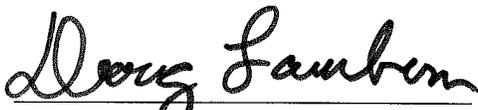
ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



HENRY BROWN
Member of Congress



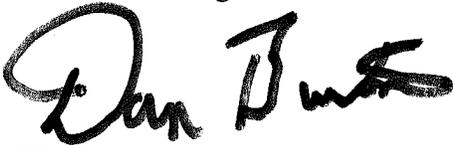
STEVEN LATOURTETTE
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



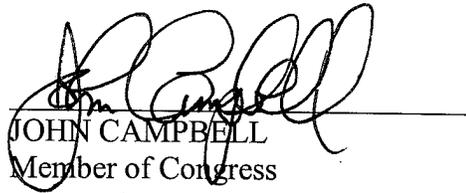
RON PAUL
Member of Congress



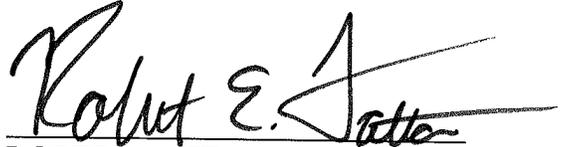
DAN BURTON
Member of Congress



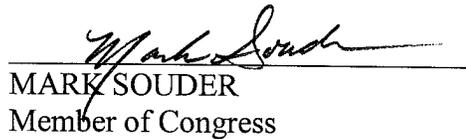
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



JOHN CAMPBELL
Member of Congress



ROBERT LATTA
Member of Congress



MARK SOUDER
Member of Congress



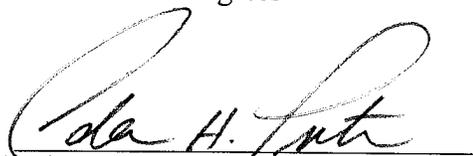
VERN EHLERS
Member of Congress



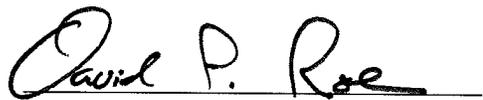
JOHN LINDER
Member of Congress



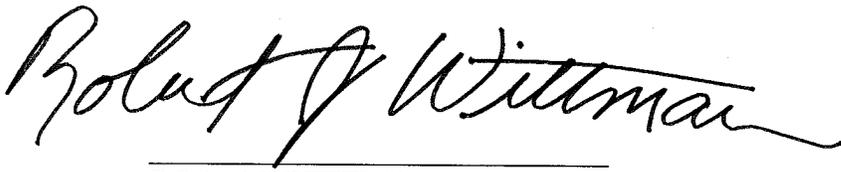
JASON ALTMIRE
Member of Congress



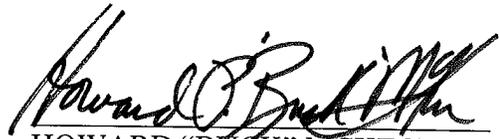
ADAM PUTNAM
Member of Congress



PHIL ROE
Member of Congress



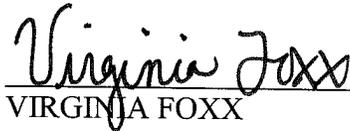
ROBERT WITTMAN
Member of Congress



HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON
Member of Congress



J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



VIRGINIA FOXX
Member of Congress



ERIC CANTOR
Member of Congress



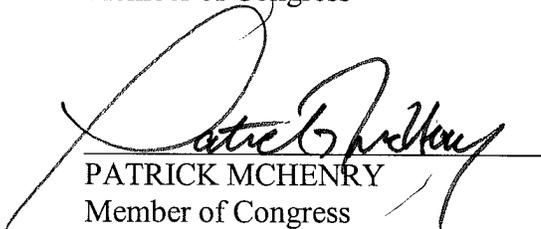
PETE OLSON
Member of Congress



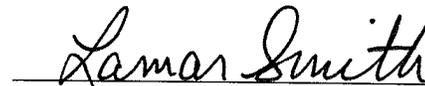
LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress



ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress



PATRICK MCHENRY
Member of Congress



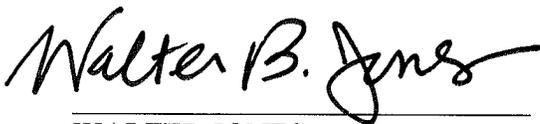
LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress



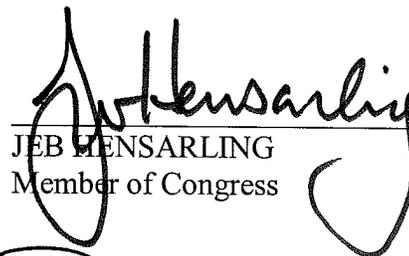
CYNTHIA LUMMIS
Member of Congress



JASON CHAFFETZ
Member of Congress



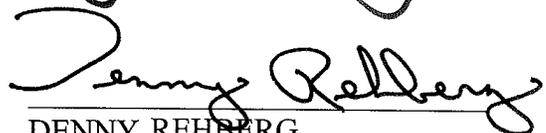
WALTER JONES
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JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress



PETER ROSKAM
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SPENCER BACHUS
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