

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 25, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your comments at the National Prayer Breakfast calling for the release of prisoners held around the world because of their religious beliefs such as Pastor Saeed Abedini. Pastor Abedini, a dual Iranian-American citizen, has now been imprisoned in Iran for over a year, simply because of his Christian faith. While reports show he has been moved to a ward for political prisoners, he is still being held in Rajai Shahr Prison, home to Iran's most violent criminals. Further, his health and wellbeing remain a serious concern.

Family members who have visited Pastor Abedini report he continues to experience severe abdominal pain. Although a physician declared the need for Pastor Abedini to undergo surgery months ago, he is still being treated solely with pain medication.

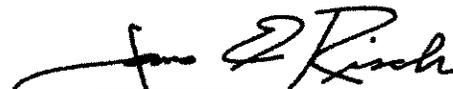
We the undersigned, urge you and your Administration to continue to act on statements by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif last month. The Minister's statement, a first by an Iranian official, raised clemency as an alternative to Pastor Abedini serving his eight year prison sentence in full.

These statements must be met with caution, but our hope is the Administration will take full advantage of this opportunity to bring Pastor Abedini home to his wife and children. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



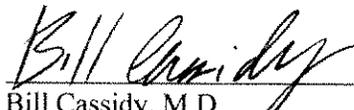
Rob Portman
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator

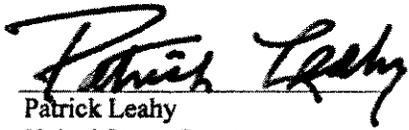


Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

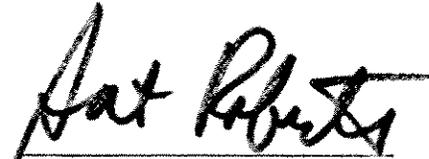


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Member of Congress

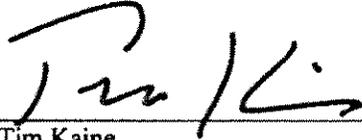
Cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



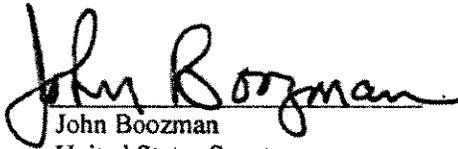
Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



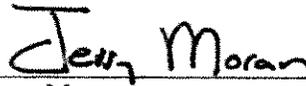
Mike Johanns
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



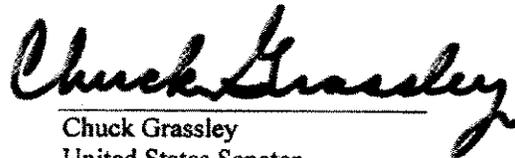
Richard Burr
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



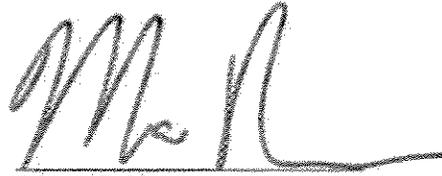
Mike Lee
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



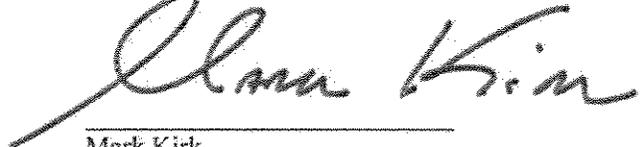
David Vitter
United States Senator



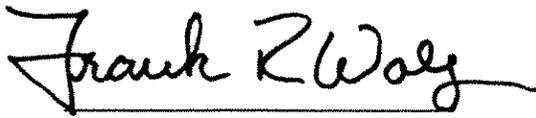
Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Mark Kirk
United States Senator



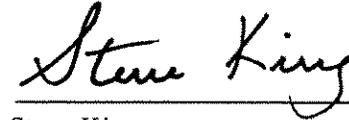
Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



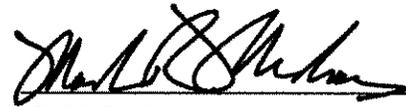
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



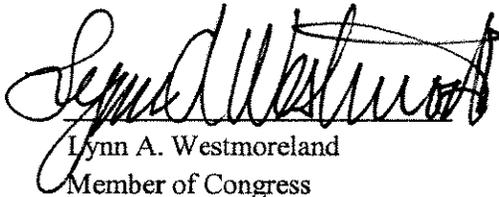
Steve King
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



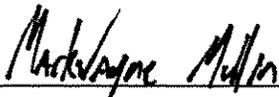
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



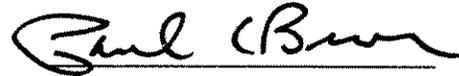
Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



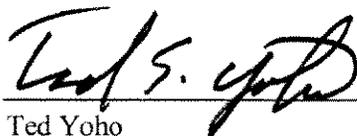
Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress



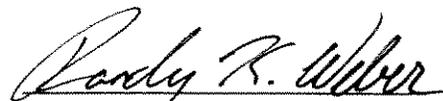
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



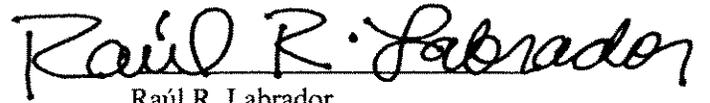
Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Raúl R. Labrador
Member of Congress



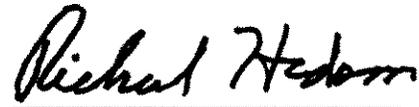
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



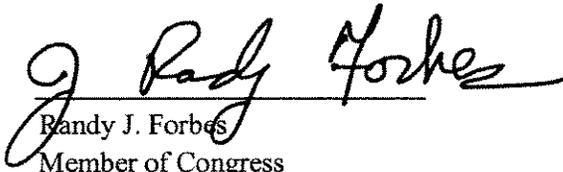
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



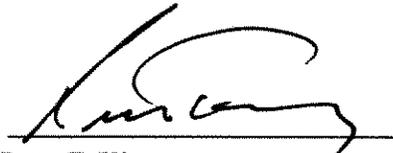
Randy J. Forbes
Member of Congress



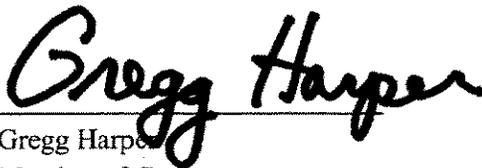
Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



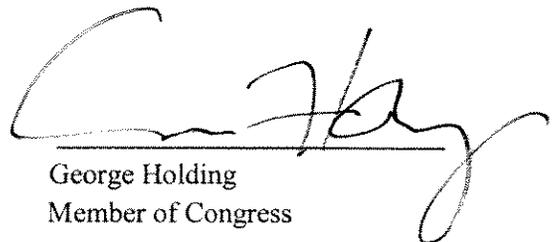
Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



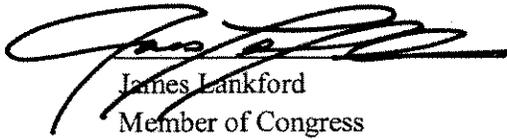
Andy Harris
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



James Lankford
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



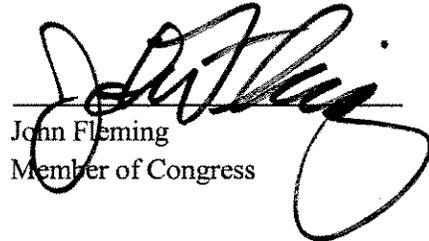
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



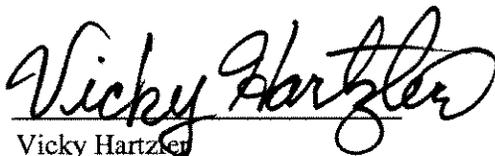
John Fleming
Member of Congress



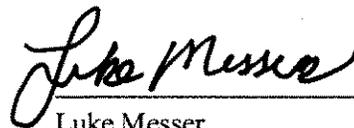
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



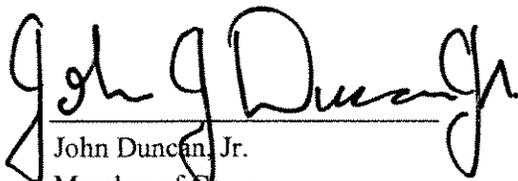
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



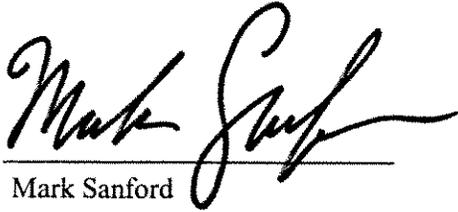
Luke Messer
Member of Congress



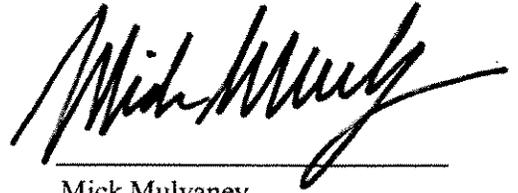
John Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



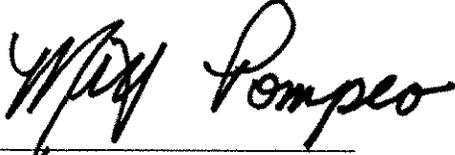
Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



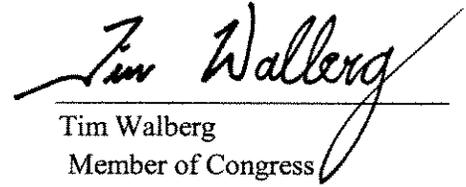
Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress