

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2014

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

We are writing to urge you to release the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final rule, RIN 2900-AO15, to allow for the use of alternative provider agreements for extended care services. The proposed rule was released well over a year ago on February 13, 2013, and expanding veteran access to extended care services from local providers could not come at a better time. Veterans who need these extended care services deserve access to this critical care.

Under the VA Provider Agreement, the VA would be authorized to enter into agreements with certain additional long-term service and support providers, expanding the number of providers available to veterans. As a result, veterans will be able to access quality health care providers who are eager to participate in the VA system. In addition, these providers will expand options for veterans who desire care closer to their homes or their support network of family and friends. The range of providers covered by this agreement- including nursing center care, geriatric evaluation, domiciliary services, adult day health care, respite care, palliative care, hospice care, and home health care- represents the diversity of providers needed to care for our nation's aging and seriously ill veterans.

In the release of the final rule, we believe it's also essential for the VA to meet its obligation to our veterans by assessing and maintaining uniform quality standards. The VA Provider Agreement must ensure that our veterans will have access to quality health care regardless of where they live, and we urge you to release the final VA Provider Agreement rule as soon as possible. If you have further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



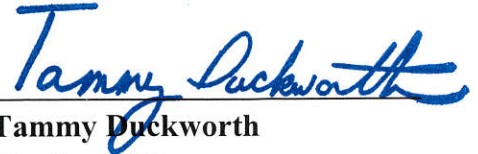
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Jackie Walorski
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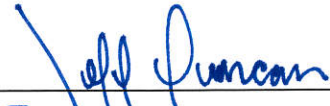
Tom Price, M.D.
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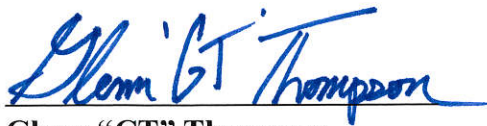
Tammy Duckworth
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Patrick J. Tiberi
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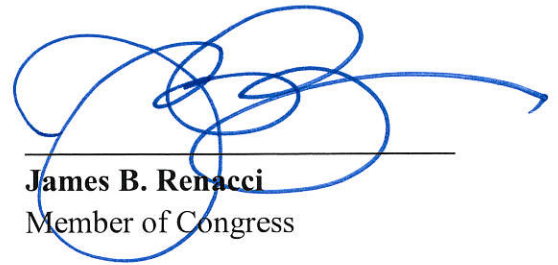
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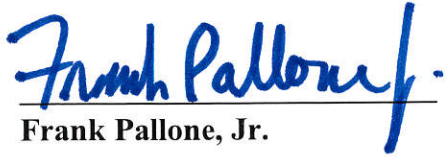
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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John Tierney
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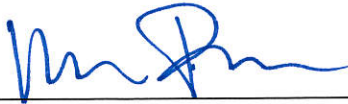
Thomas J. Rooney
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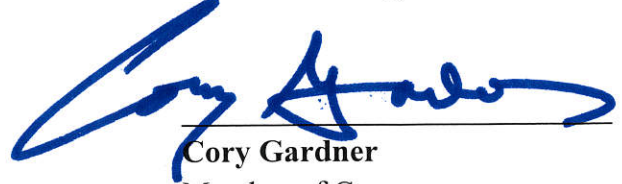
Aaron Schock
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Walter Jones
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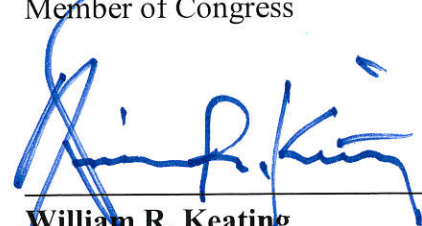
Mike Thompson
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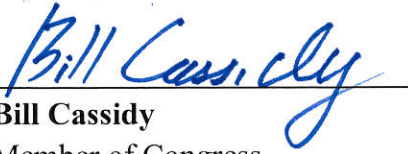
David "Phil" Roe
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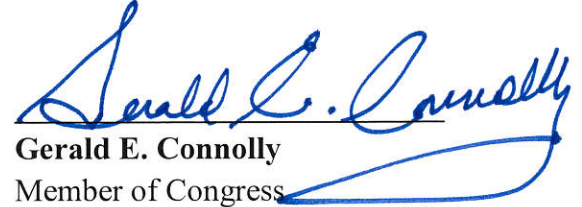
Marc Veasey
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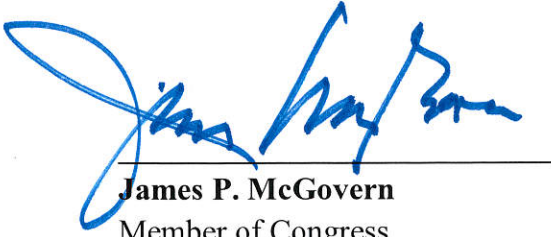
Steve Daines
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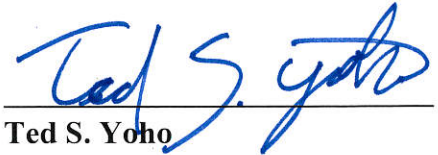
James P. McGovern
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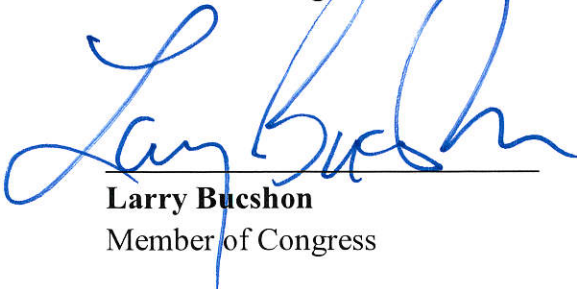
Eric Swalwell
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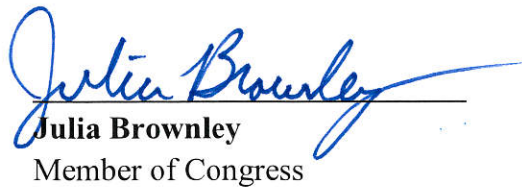
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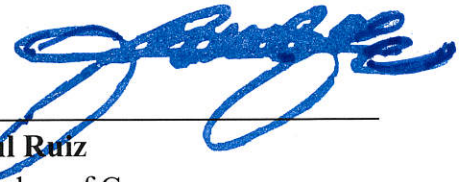
Sean P. Duffy
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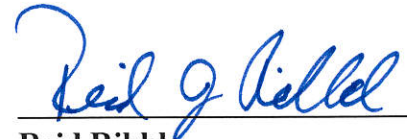
Paul Ryan
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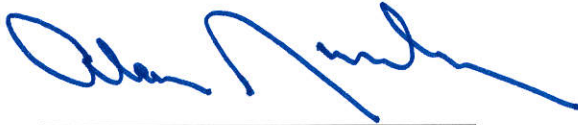
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Andy Harris
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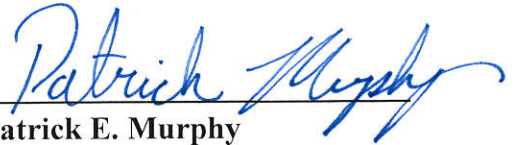
Chris Van Hollen
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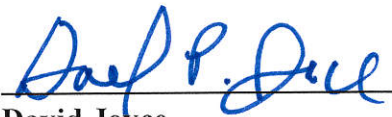
Vance McAllister
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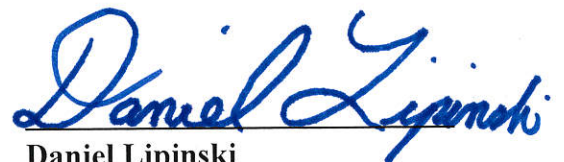
David Joyce
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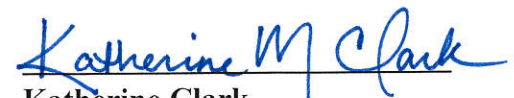
Grace Napolitano
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Bill Johnson
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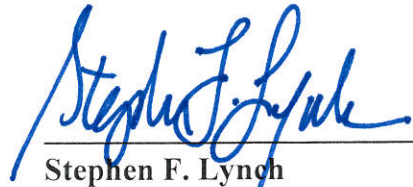
Daniel Lipinski
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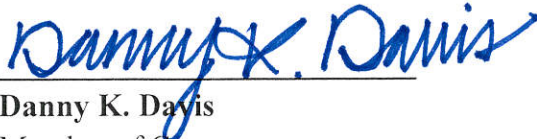
Katherine Clark
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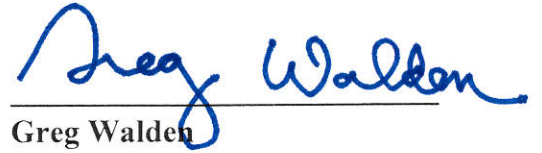
Collin C. Peterson
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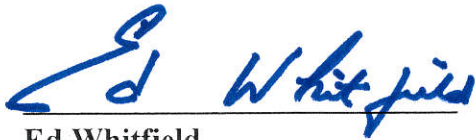
Stephen F. Lynch
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Danny K. Davis
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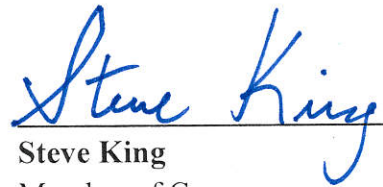
Ed Whitfield
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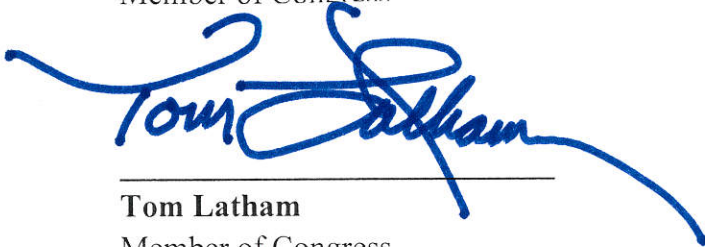
John Barrow
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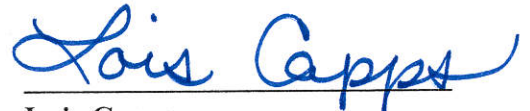
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Tom Latham
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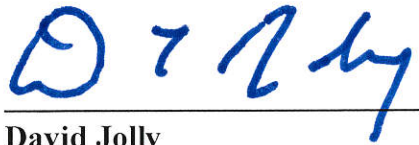
Bruce L. Braley
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Peter Welch
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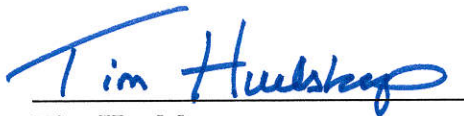
David Jolly
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Carolyn McCarthy
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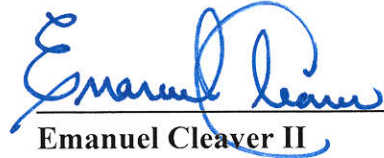
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Doug Lamborn
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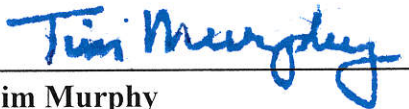
Robert Latta
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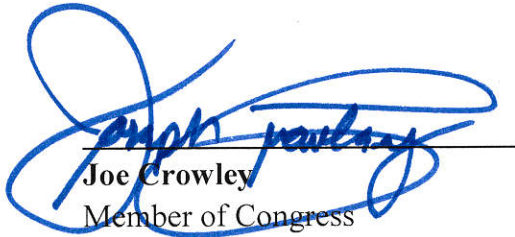
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



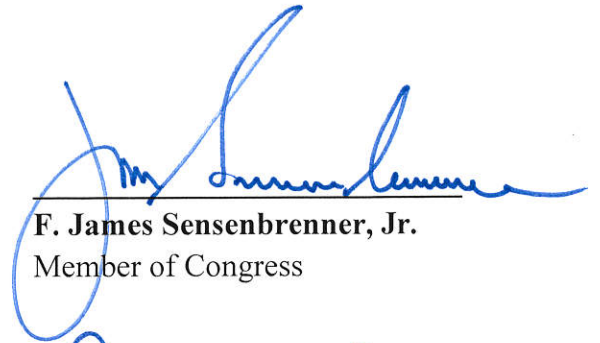
Steve Israel
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Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



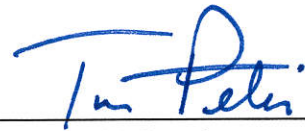
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



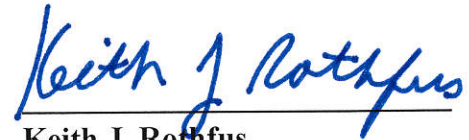
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
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