

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

His Excellency Danilo Medina
President of the Dominican Republic
The National Palace
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you regarding our outstanding United States Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, James "Wally" Brewster, Jr. We strongly value our relationship with the Dominican Republic and are deeply concerned by recent efforts by religious leaders and others within your country defaming Ambassador Brewster and his husband and calls for President Obama to remove him from his post. We stand with President Obama in rejecting these unacceptable and insulting efforts and ask that you join him in affirming your support for the United States' duly-appointed ambassador.


Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate came together to unanimously confirm Ambassador Brewster to this position in November 2013, and he has served our country with great honor and distinction since then. He has continued and strengthened our mutual cooperation on law enforcement and development issues, with more than 35,000 Dominican patients receiving treatment from U.S. military physicians in the past year. He has also advanced efforts in human rights, including rights for marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, which President Obama has made a priority for all U.S. embassies abroad.

With that in mind, we write to you to reaffirm that Ambassador Brewster has the strong, unambiguous support of the U.S. Congress and that we will oppose any efforts to remove him from his post. We also denounce in the strongest possible terms those who have used slurs to describe our ambassador, which offend the dignity of the Ambassador, LGBT people, women, and the United States of America.

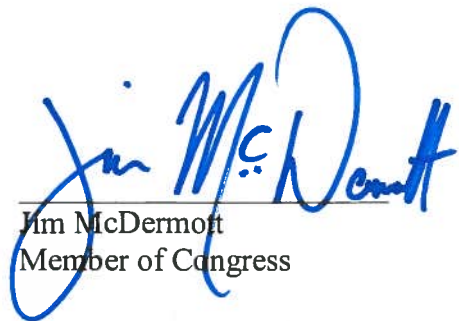
As U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice has said, Ambassador Brewster "has the full support of this President, this White House and the entire U.S. government and I know he will continue to advocate tirelessly for the interests of the United States in the Dominican Republic. Bigotry in any form is against the universal values that we promote and does not support the social inclusion that we believe is important for a free society to succeed. We will continue to support Ambassador Brewster as he advances universal human rights."

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you as we continue to advance the relationship between our two countries and as we continue to promote the dignity of all human beings, no matter who they are or whom they love.

Sincerely,


Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



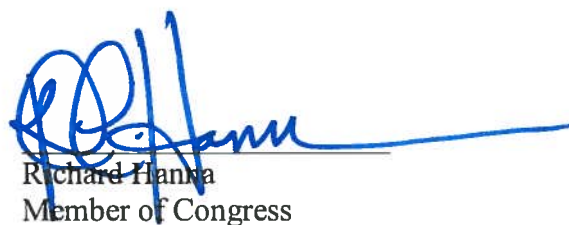
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



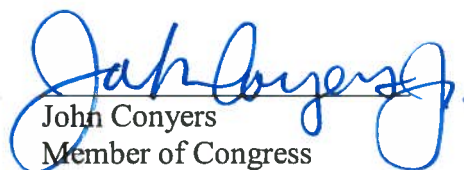
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



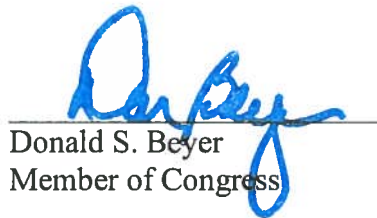
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



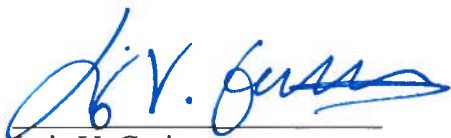
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
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Norma J. Torres
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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Lois Capps
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Diana DeGette
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William R. Keating
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Patrick Murphy
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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Jim Langevin
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

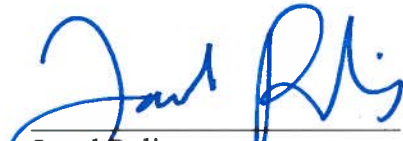

Jackie Speier
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Dina Titus
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Niki Tsongas
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Donald Norcross
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Jared Polis
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Ted W. Lieu
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Scott H. Peters
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Sam Farr
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Donna F. Edwards
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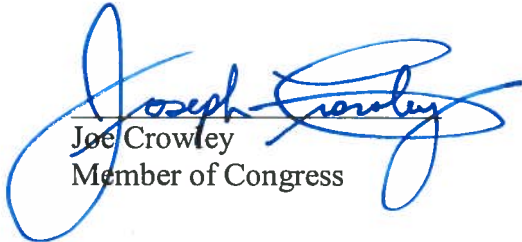

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



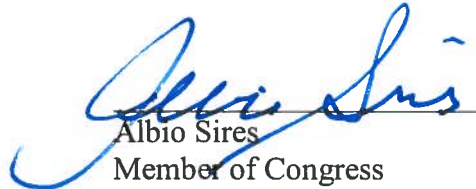
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress




Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



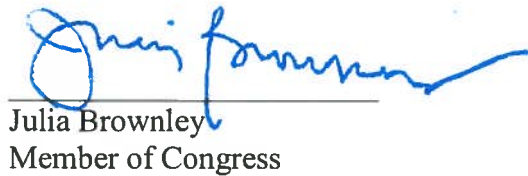
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



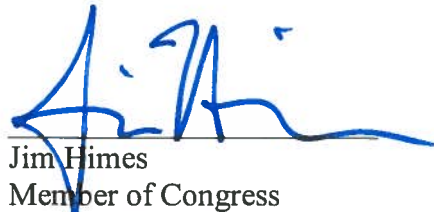
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Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
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Steve Israel
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Jim Himes
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Karen Bass
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John Garamendi
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Grace Meng
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