

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

May 10, 2019

Norman Sharpless, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Acting Commissioner Sharpless,

We write to thank you for taking action to address the sale of illegal mail-order abortion drugs to the United States (U.S.). The actions of Aidaccess.org and Rablon are of great concern to us, and we are encouraged to see that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has sent warning letters to these two online entities. We would like to urge the FDA, both under your leadership and the leadership of future FDA Commissioners, to continue to conduct oversight of these entities to ensure that they comply with the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

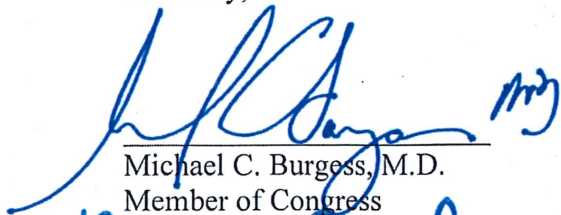
On October 18, 2018, an article published in The Atlantic<sup>i</sup> revealed that Aid Access, a foreign company, has been established to distribute mail-order chemical abortion drugs to U.S. customers in violation of the FDA's safety protocols. Aid Access allows chemical abortion pills to be prescribed by an abortionist in the Netherlands, filled by a pharmacy in India, and shipped to stateside customers. While this case is particularly high profile, it is not singular. A March 2018 Fact Sheet by the Charlotte Lozier Institute revealed at least 72 unique websites purporting to sell chemical abortion drugs online in violation of FDA requirements. In some cases, these sites even advertise bulk sales without any clear intent to sell only to pregnant women.<sup>ii</sup>

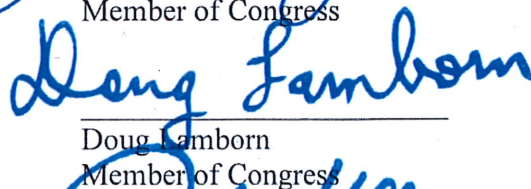
As noted in the warning letters, Mifeprex, also known as RU-486 or mifepristone, is the only chemical abortion drug approved in the U.S., and is used in combination with another FDA-approved drug, misoprostol. The FDA has approved chemical abortion for use up to 10 weeks gestation, but due to the risks, the FDA requires that only a certified prescriber dispense the drugs. The involvement of a physician or other certified prescriber who knows the state of a woman's pregnancy and health is critical, as patient safety is of utmost importance. Before the drugs are administered, it is crucial that a trained and certified healthcare provider screen for ectopic pregnancy, determine the gestational age of the baby, and monitor the patient for possible adverse events like severe hemorrhaging.

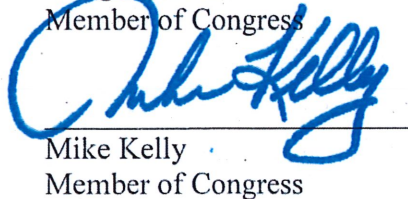
Furthermore, according to the FDA, "it is illegal for individuals to import drugs into the United States for personal use." Aid Access claims that their activities are permissible under FDA exceptions. FDA's exceptions, however, are limited to very narrow circumstances that Aid Access cannot meet. For example, the drug must be for a condition for which treatment is not available domestically, and there must not be any known promotion of the product to persons residing in the United States. Since chemical and surgical abortion are available in the U.S. and Aid Access is clearly promoting sale of the drugs online, the Aid Access system does not meet the first two requirements for an exception.<sup>iii</sup>

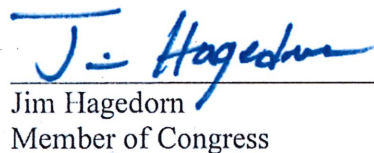
As the FDA has recognized, by shipping chemical abortion drugs from India to the United States, Aid Access circumvents the Food and Drug Administration's safety requirements, placing the lives of women and their children at risk. Once again, we would like to thank you for your recent actions to address this issue, and to voice our support for ongoing oversight of this and any other rogue mail-order abortion operation.

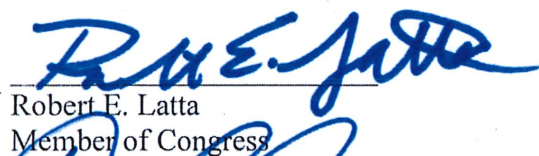
Sincerely,

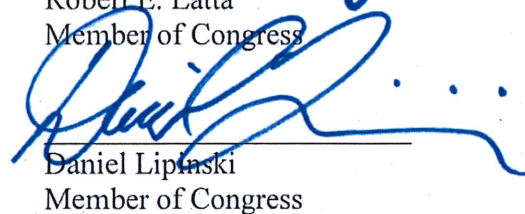
  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

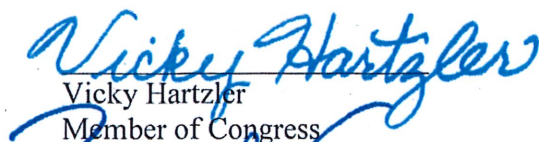
  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

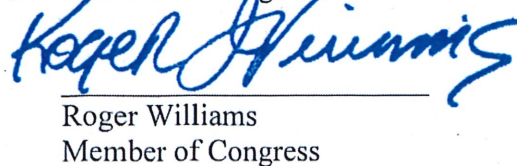
  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

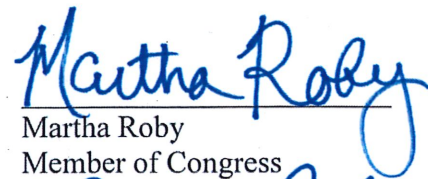
  
Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

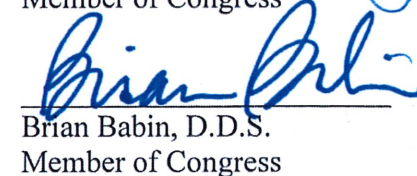
  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

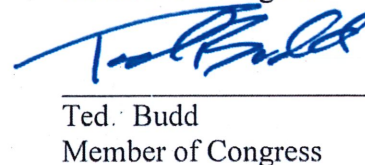
  
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

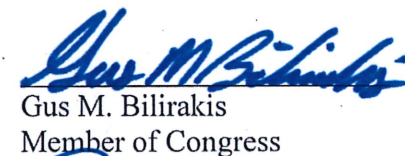
  
Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

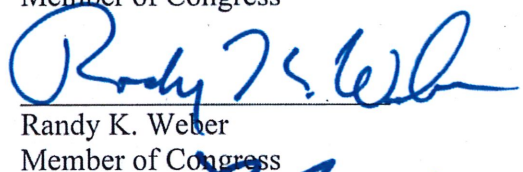
  
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

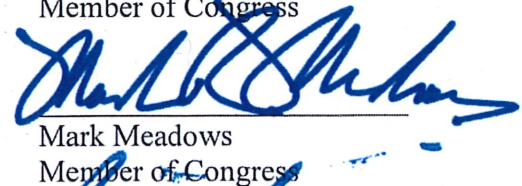
  
Martha Roby  
Member of Congress

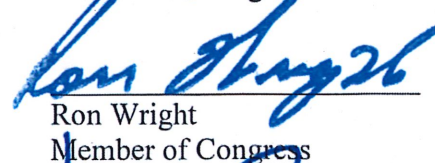
  
Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

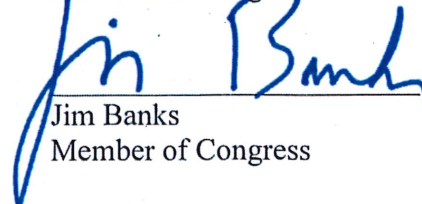
  
Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

  
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

  
Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

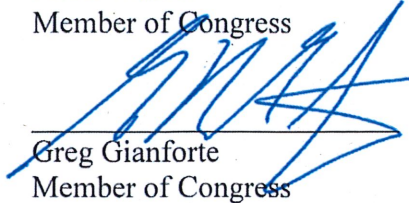




Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



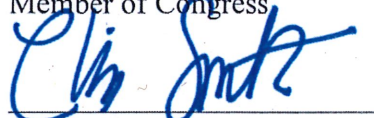
Mark Walker  
Member of Congress



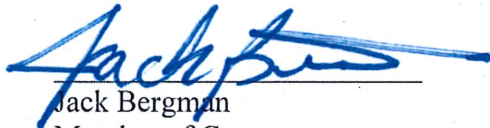
Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress



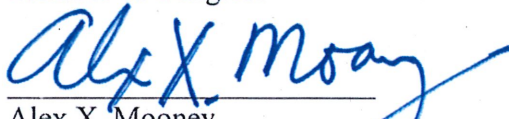
Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



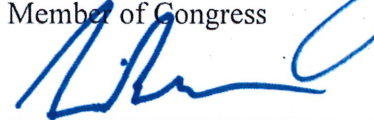
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



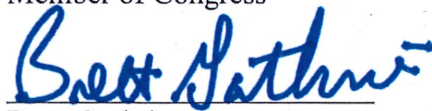
Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



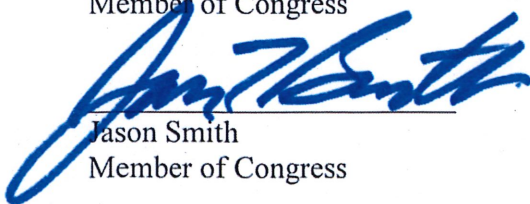
Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



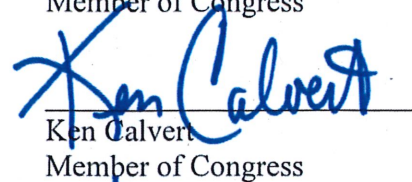
Jason Smith  
Member of Congress



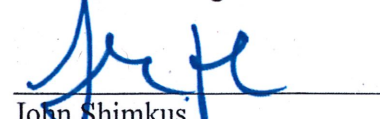
John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



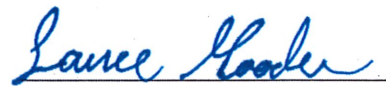
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



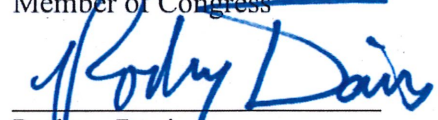
Ken Calvert  
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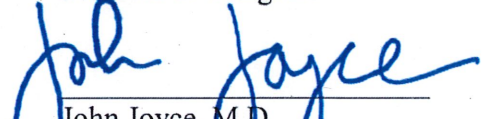
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden  
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Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



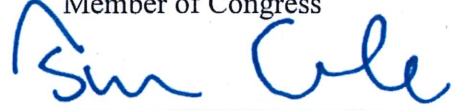
John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



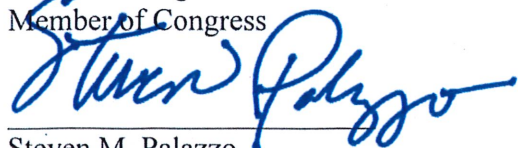
Rob Wittman  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



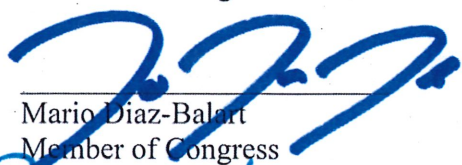
Adam Kinzinger  
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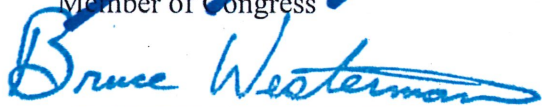
Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



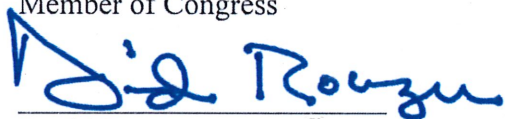
Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



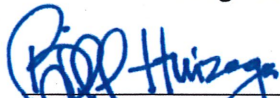
Bruce Westerman  
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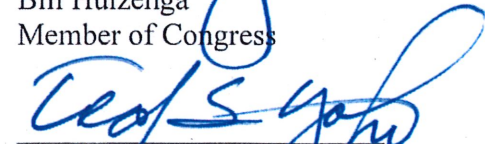
Daniel Webster  
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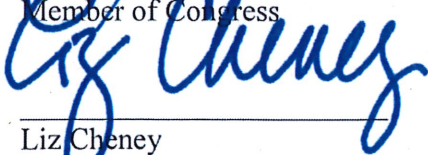
David Rouzer  
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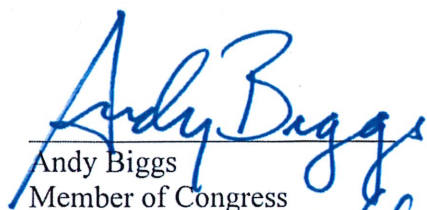
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



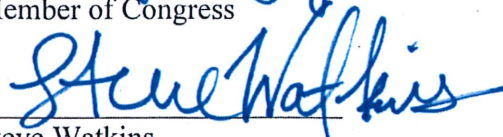
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



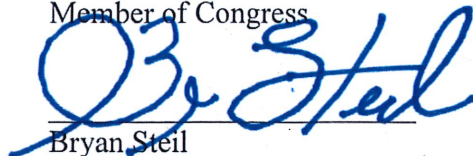
Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



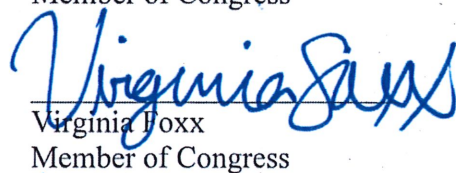
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress



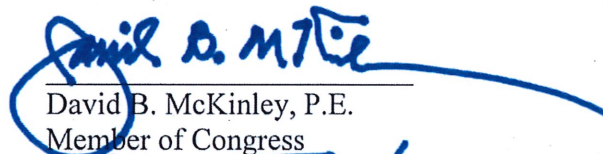
Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



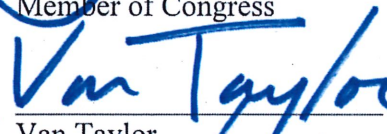
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

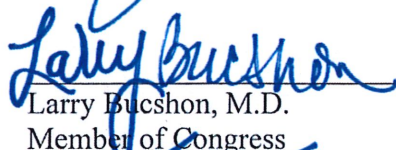


David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

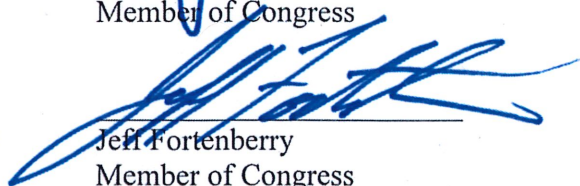


Van Taylor  
Member of Congress

Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress






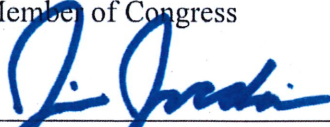
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress




Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress




Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



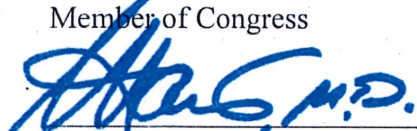
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



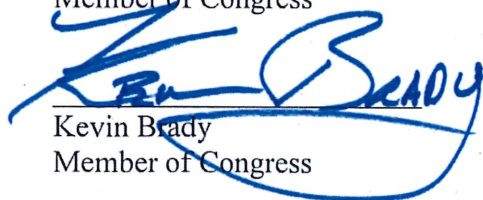
Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



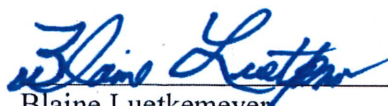
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



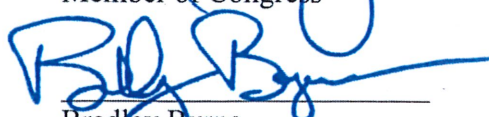
George Holding  
Member of Congress



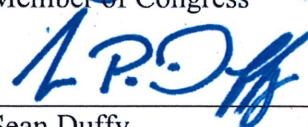
Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



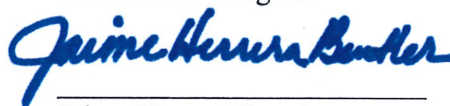
Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



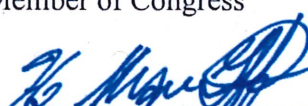
Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



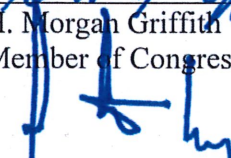
Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



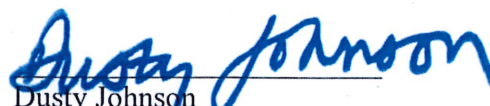
Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



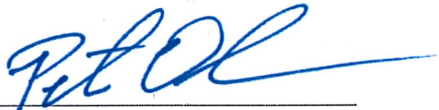
John Rose  
Member of Congress



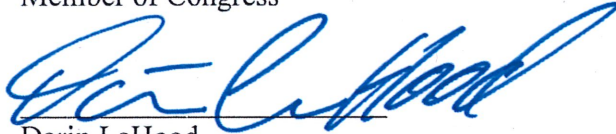
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Member of Congress



David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



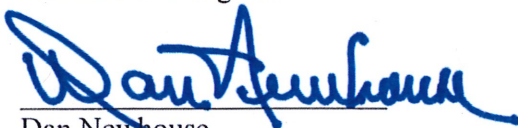
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



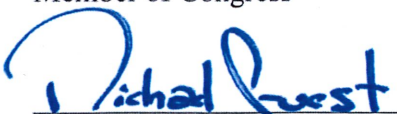
Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



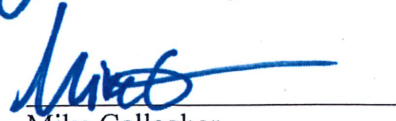
Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



John Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



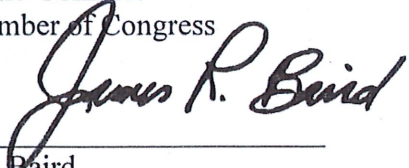
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Ross Spano  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Jim Baird  
Member of Congress

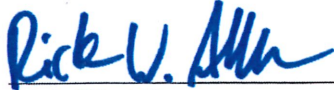


William R. Timmons IV  
Member of Congress

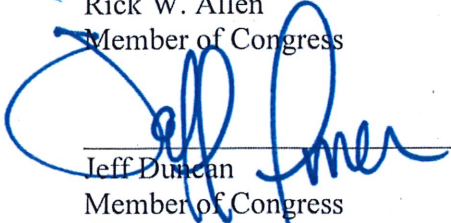




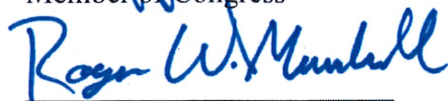
Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



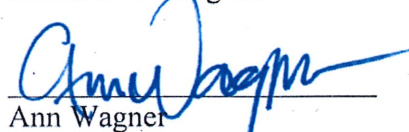
Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress



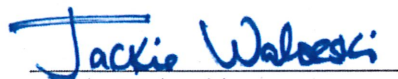
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



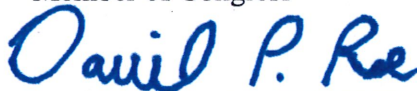
Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



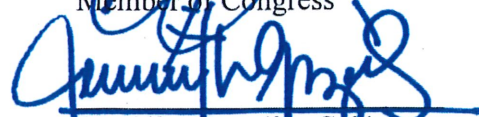
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress




David P. Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress



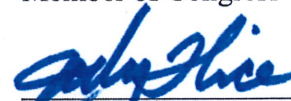
W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



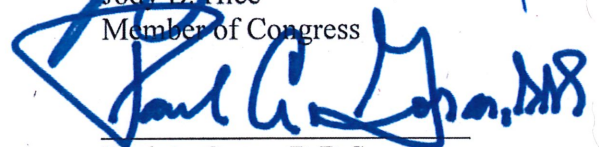
Jenniffer González Colón  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Jody B. Hice  
Member of Congress



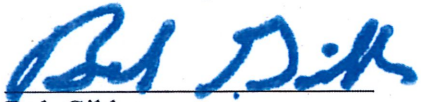
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Tom Graves  
Member of Congress



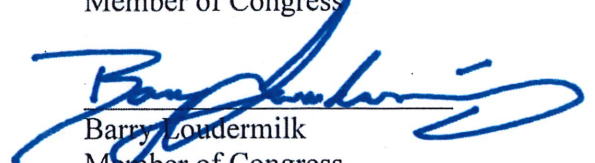
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



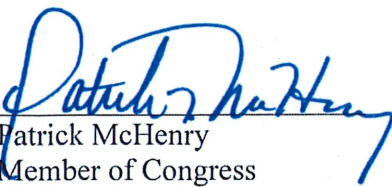
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress




Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

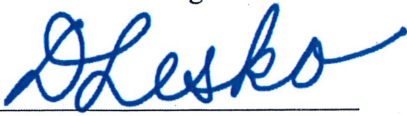


Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Estes  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/10/women-on-web-safe-abortion-mail/573322/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-online-sales-of-mifeprex-and-misoprostol-for-self-abortion/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/forindustry/importprogram/importbasics/ucm432661.htm>