

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write regarding the election of North Korea to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO). We have serious concerns that North Korea (DPRK) can now decide the official agenda of the World Health Assembly, the WHO's decision-making body.


North Korea has a well-documented history of human rights abuses, including severe restrictions on civil liberties, limited access to information, and the absence of a transparent healthcare system. Pyongyang has failed to meet the medical needs of its population for years, leading to widespread malnutrition. The WHO has delivered medical assistance to North Korea a countless number of times. However, the DPRK did not allow WHO personnel or other humanitarian workers to enter the country to monitor the delivery of aid for much of the COVID-19 pandemic. North Korea's track record in responding to public health crises raises concerns about its ability to effectively contribute to the WHO's decision-making process. The country's past handling of outbreaks, such as the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza, has been plagued by secrecy, lack of transparency, and delayed reporting.

We are baffled that North Korea, who has consistently violated U.N. Security Council Resolutions, meets the standards of the WHO Executive Board. They do not comply with international norms or contribute to improving global health. The country has faced chronic economic difficulties, resulting in a struggling healthcare system and limited access to essential medical supplies.

The DPRK will be a board member for three years and will be represented by Dr. Jong Min Pak, a director at the Department of External Affairs of Pyongyang's Ministry of Public Health. It is not in the best interest of global health to allow the current supreme leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, to influence the WHO's agency and policies. It is shameful that a dictatorial regime that holds no regard for its own people has been elected as a member of the Executive Board, while a beacon of democracy and a leader of healthcare in the region, Taiwan, is still barred from joining the organization at all.

We demand that you adamantly oppose North Korea as a member of the Executive Board and urge the World Health Organization to reevaluate its decision. Doing so would reaffirm the United States' commitment to human rights, transparency, and effective global health governance.

Sincerely,



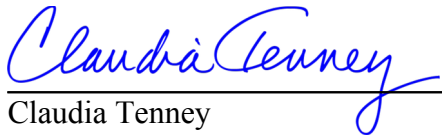
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Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



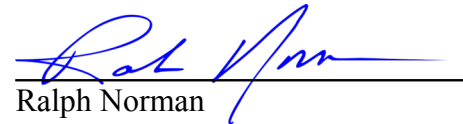
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



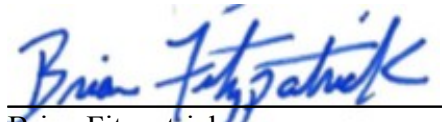
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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



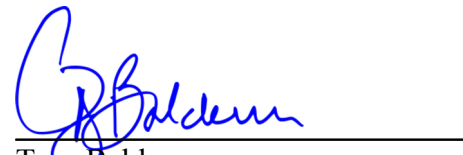
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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



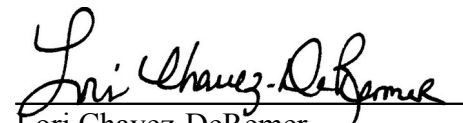
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Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



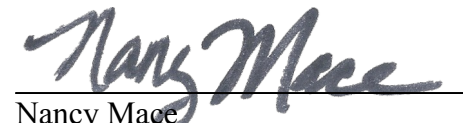
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Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress



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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



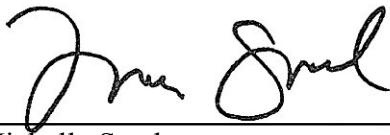
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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



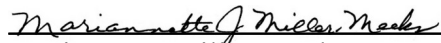
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Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress



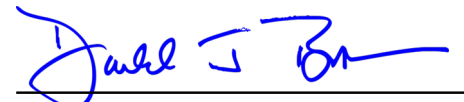
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



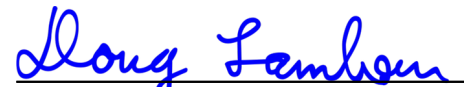
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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



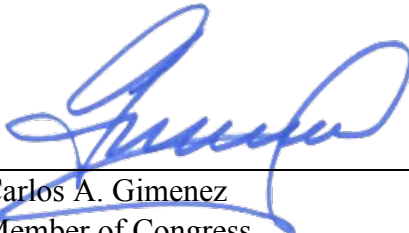
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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



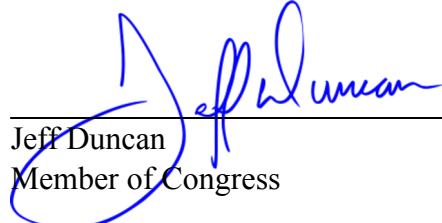
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Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



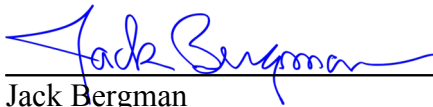
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Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress




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Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress




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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



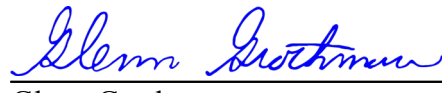
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



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Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



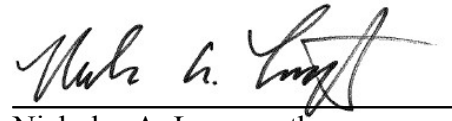
Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



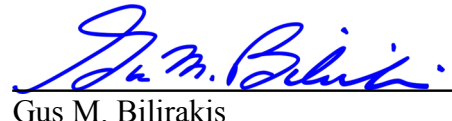
Aaron Bean  
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



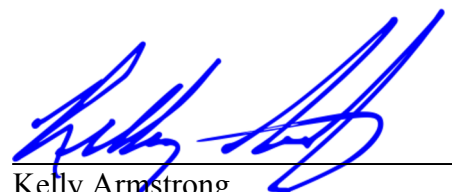
August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



Young Kim  
Member of Congress





Bill Posey  
Member of Congress




Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress


  
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress


  
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress


  
A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress


  
Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress

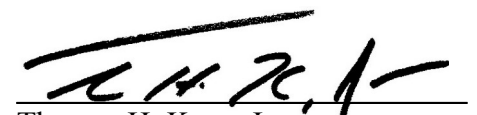
  
Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

  
Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

  
Brandon Williams  
Member of Congress

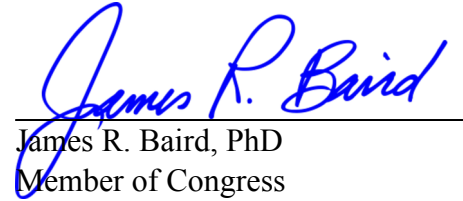
  
Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



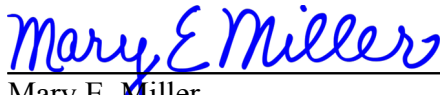
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Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



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James R. Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress



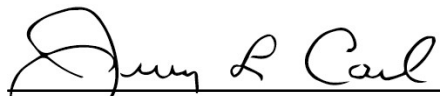
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Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



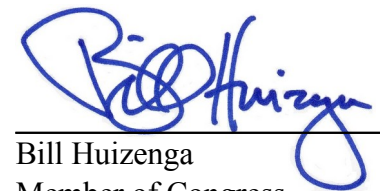
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Mike Gallagher  
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Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress




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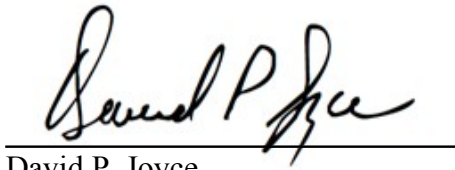
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

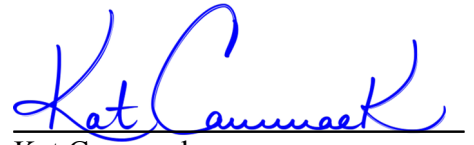
  
Doug LaMalfa  
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Pat Fallon  
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Lance Gooden  
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Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress


  
David P. Joyce  
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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress

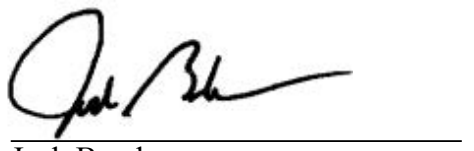
  
Brad Finstad  
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Roger Williams  
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Zach Nunn  
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Michael Guest  
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Richard Hudson  
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Josh Brecheen  
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