

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2003

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
2358 RHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
2314 RHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Congressman Obey:

As you consider the conference report for the fiscal year 2004 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, we the members of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus, encourage you to adopt the Senate language addressing proposed changes by the Department of Labor (DoL) to overtime rules. It is our belief that these proposed changes jeopardize the fair and equitable treatment guaranteed to millions of American workers and their families by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

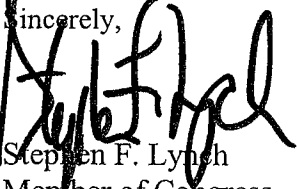
As you know, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) offered an amendment in the Senate, which was adopted by a vote of 54-45, which would prohibit the use of any funds from this spending measure to promulgate or implement any regulation that would exclude millions of Americans from overtime compensation. Senator's Harkin's amendment will protect the overtime pay of millions of American workers while permitting the DoL to update overtime regulations to raise the salary threshold from \$8,000 to \$22,100 a year to qualify for overtime pay.


Additionally, the House of Representatives recently passed by a vote of 221-203, a motion to instruct House Conferees on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill. This Motion instructs conferees to accept Senate-passed language to block the DoL's proposed rule changes denying overtime pay to millions of American workers.

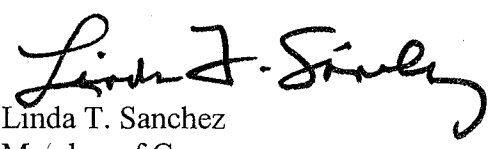
It is estimated that the majority of occupations to be affected by DoL's proposed changes would be those on the front line protecting our nation from terrorism—our first responders and healthcare workers. It is our understanding that under these proposed regulations, over 5 million American workers will lose their access to overtime pay. If the Senate language is not included as part of this appropriations bill, workers will lose overtime protection and essentially be forced to work longer hours for less pay.

We urge your support for the preservation and extension of overtime protection. With the adoption of the Senate language, we would be renewing our commitment to working Americans. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Brad Miller

BRAD MILLER

Donna M. Christian-Christensen

DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN

Collin Peterson

COLLIN PETERSON

Carolyn McCarthy

CAROLYN MCCARTHY

Robert A. Brady

ROBERT A. BRADY

Joe Hoegge

JOSEPH M. HOEGL III

Adam Smith

ADAM SMITH

Marty Meehan

MARTY MEEHAN

Jerrold Nadler

JERROLD NADLER

Mike Ross

MIKE ROSS

Betty McCollum

BETTY MCCOLLUM

Donald M. Payne

DONALD M. PAYNE

Hilda L. Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS

Lynn C. Woolsey

LYNN WOOLSEY

Jan Schakowsky

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

Henry A. Waxman

HENRY A. WAXMAN

Julia M. Carson

JULIA M. CARSON

Louise Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER

Tom Udall

TOM UDALL

Michael E. Capuano

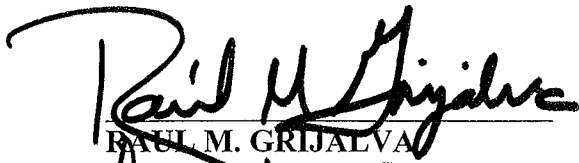
MICHAEL CAPUANO

Thomas H. Allen

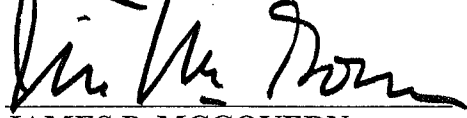
THOMAS H. ALLEN

Frank Pallone Jr.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.



PAUL M. GRIJALVA



JAMES P. MCGOVERN



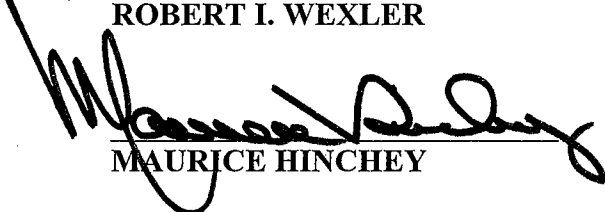
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON



RICHARD E. NEAL



ROBERT I. WEXLER



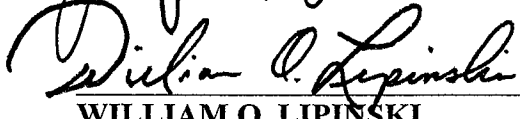
MAURICE HINCHEY



CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ



JERRY KLECZKA



WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI



DENNIS J. KUCINICH



NICK V. LAMPSON



BARBARA LEE



TED STRICKLAND



ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA



JAMES L. OBERSTAR



KAREN MCCARTHY



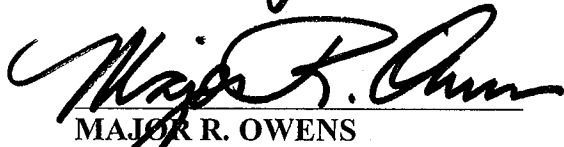
MICHAEL R. MCNULTY



DENNIS CARDOZA


JOHN CONYERS, JR.


TIM RYAN

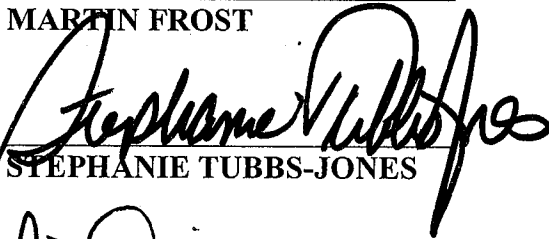

MAJOR R. OWENS

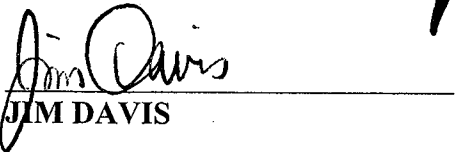

MARCY KAPTUR


STEVE J. ISRAEL

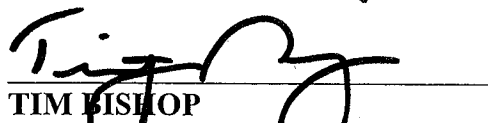

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD


MARTIN FROST


STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES


JIM DAVIS


BOBBY RUSH


TIM BISHOP


MICHAEL M. HONDA


TAMMY BALDWIN

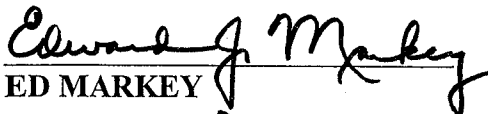

PETE STARK


NEIL ABERCROMBIE


DANNY DAVIS


BRAD SHERMAN


JIM LANGEVIN


ED MARKEY


SHERROD BROWN

William Delahunt

WILLIAM DELAHUNT

George Miller

GEORGE MILLER

Lincoln Davis

LINCOLN DAVIS

Loretta Sanchez

LORETTA SANCHEZ

Mike McIntyre

MIKE MCINTYRE

Brad Carson

BRAD CARSON

Mike Doyle

MIKE DOYLE