

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

September 20, 2004

The Honorable John Warner  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Armed Services  
2120 Rayburn HOB

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Member, House Committee  
on Armed Services  
2120 Rayburn HOB

Dear Conferees:

In anticipation of the House-Senate conference committee on the fiscal 2005 defense authorization bill (HR 4200), we urge the conferees to retain the House position on the number of US military personnel that can be assigned to Colombia.

The troop cap amendment offered by Representative Gene Taylor won strong bipartisan approval in committee and reflects a reasonable increase that will not place undue strain on US military personnel.

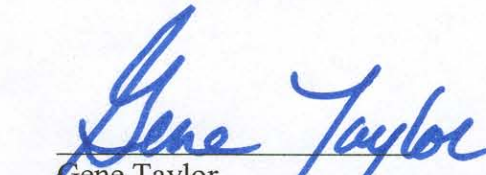
Moreover, we do not believe that increased U.S. military involvement in Colombia's civil conflict is in the United States' best interest. According to General Richard Cody our troops are already "stretched thin." Further militarization of aid to Colombia hurts US military readiness across the globe.

Additionally, the Colombian Government has already received billions of dollars in aid over the last four years and should be taking steps to increase their responsibility for their own internal conflict. Before we continue to expand our commitment to Colombia, we should ensure that we are actually training Colombians to take on this responsibility and not commit our forces to becoming entrenched in yet another open ended conflict.

We therefore urge you, as conferees, to work to ensure that the House position prevails in conference.

Sincerely,

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

  
Gene Taylor  
Member of Congress

Charlie Stenholm

Charlie Stenholm  
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie

Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

Mike Honda

Mike Honda  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

James McGovern

James McGovern  
Member of Congress

Tom Lantos

Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

Lane Evans

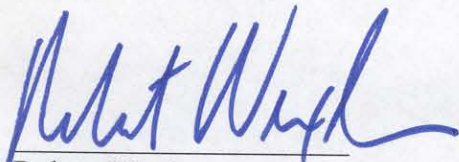
Lane Evans  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

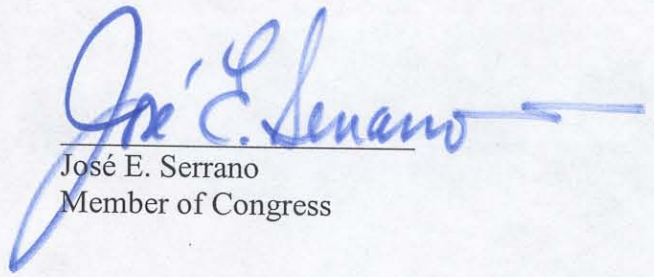
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Lois Capps

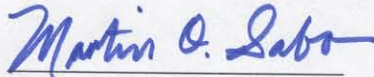
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



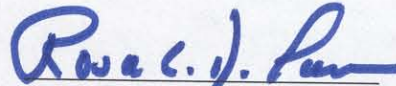
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



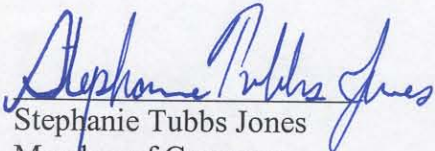
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



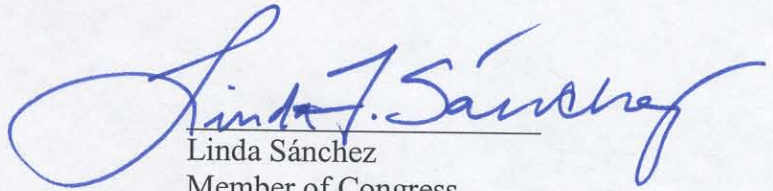
Martin Sabo  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



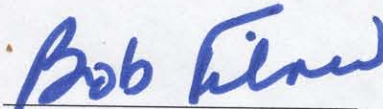
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



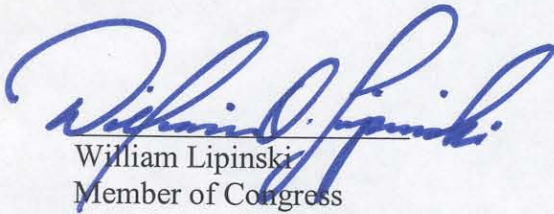
Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress



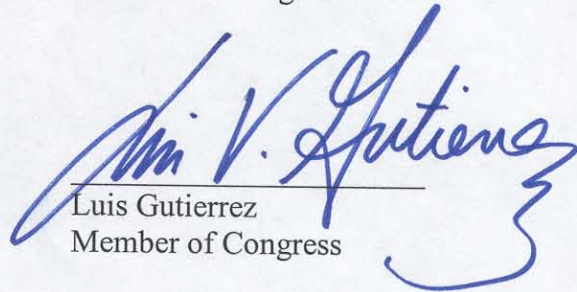
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



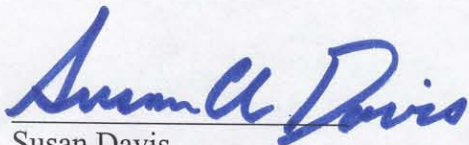
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



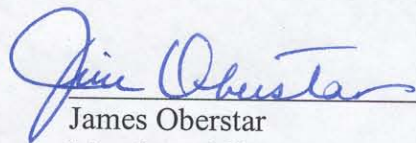
William Lipinski  
Member of Congress



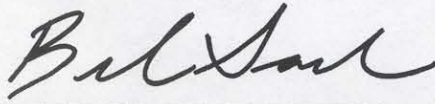
Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



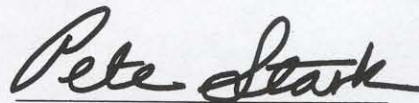
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



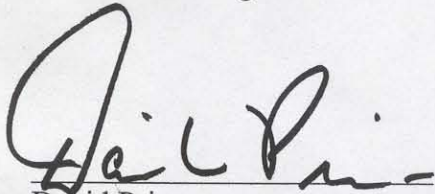
James Oberstar  
Member of Congress



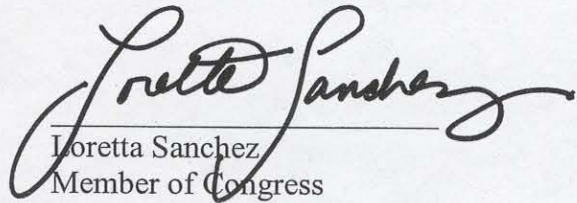
Bernie Sanders  
Member of Congress



Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



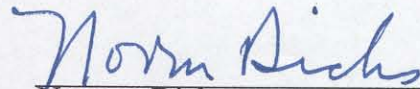
David Price  
Member of Congress



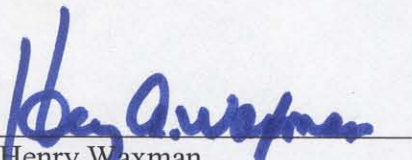
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Hilda Solis  
Member of Congress



Norman Dicks  
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress