

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

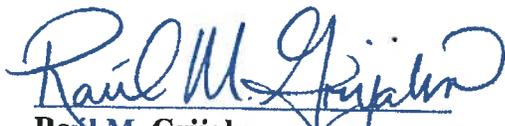
On January 8, 2011, events in Tucson shook our city, our state and the country at large as a gunman targeted a sitting Member of Congress and constituents she was meeting with at a local grocery store. Six people lost their lives that day, and 13 more – including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords – were wounded in a barrage of gunfire.

That attack laid bare the darkest depths of mental illness and gun violence in our nation, but it also brought out signs of our shared humanity that are rarely visible in our national discourse. Less than three weeks after the shooting, as you came to Capitol Hill for the annual State of the Union address, Members of the House and Senate departed from the longstanding practice of sitting with fellow partisans, instead spending the evening side-by-side with someone from their opposing party. The Arizona delegation – itself divided with passionate members of both parties – sat together in a show of unity. Throughout the House chamber, black and white lapel ribbons honored the victims of the worst political attack since the Kennedy assassination.

In Tucson, the desert community came together in a spirit of solidarity as three spontaneous memorial sites honored the lives we had lost and the victims struggling to recover. Since then the community has come together to provide strategic planning and financial support for a permanent memorial. Over the past four years, community leaders, civic organizations, local governments and shooting survivors have worked to select a site and design firm. The plan envisions a memorial that is not only a tribute to the fallen, but to the local and national response to a heartbreaking tragedy. It will be a place where visitors young and old can learn not only about one horrific event, but about the resilience of a community and the durability of American democracy.

As the members of Congress personally impacted by this tragedy, we ask that you work with federal agencies to help identify and secure federal resources to assist the community with their goal of a permanent memorial that will pay tribute to the victims of the January 8, 2011 shooting, including our former colleague, Ms. Gabrielle Giffords.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



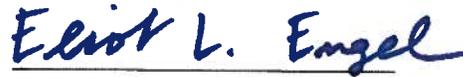
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress

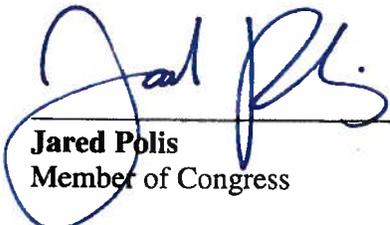


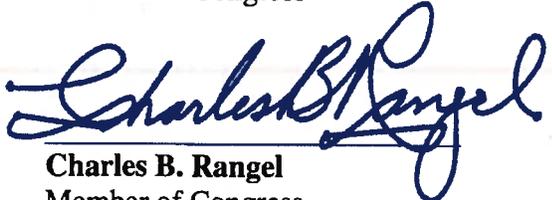
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone
Member of Congress


Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress

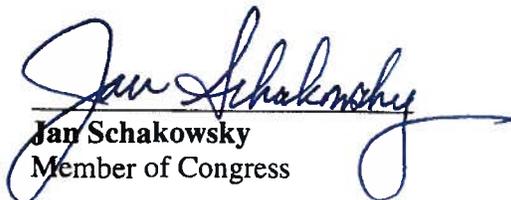

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

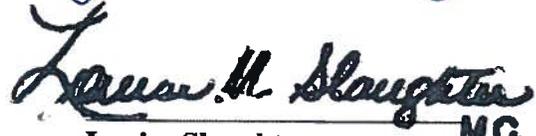

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

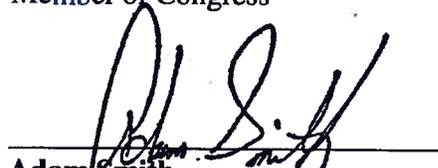

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Matt Salmon
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress