

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to urge immediate action to distribute all remaining viable mpox vaccines from the United States that were promised to African countries that are currently experiencing outbreaks.

According to a July 17, 2025 *Politico* article, nearly 800,000 doses of the mpox vaccine that were originally pledged by the United States to African nations may go to waste.¹ **Critically, an estimated 220,000 of these vaccines could still be viable if the State Department acts without delay to ship these vaccines immediately.**

As you are aware, the current mpox outbreak in Africa has resulted in over 47,000 confirmed cases and nearly 1,900 suspected deaths, many among them children who are disproportionately impacted.^{2,3} While the United States has largely contained its mpox outbreak, the unchecked spread in African communities poses a serious and growing global health threat – including to our own nation.

This is a moral, strategic, and public health failure in the making. Your agency has an ever-shortening window of opportunity to act decisively and deliver lifesaving vaccines to people who need them. Letting these vaccines expire while sitting on shelves is indefensible, wasting taxpayer-funded doses, undermining the United States' credibility abroad, and contradicting the entirety of your work while in the Senate.

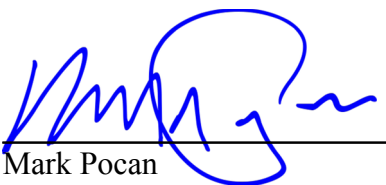
We urge you to act now and immediately ship viable mpox vaccines to save lives and prevent needless suffering and death. Lives hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/17/us-has-wasted-hundreds-of-thousands-of-vaccines-meant-for-africa-health-officials-there-say-00460290>

² Id.

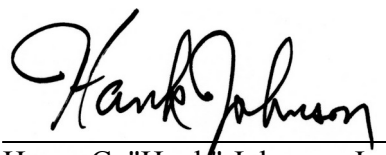
³ https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/#sec-afr



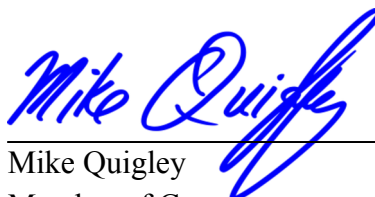
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Africa
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



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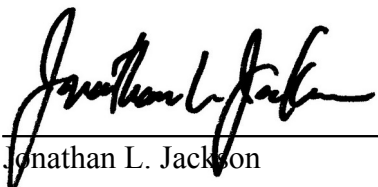
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



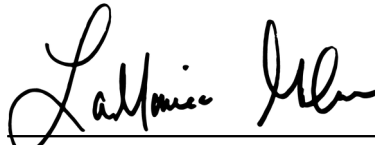
Pramila Jayapal
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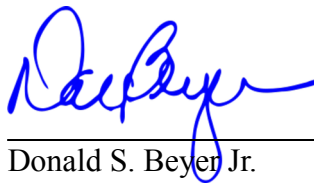
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



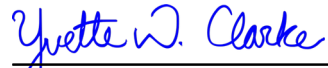
Sarah McBride
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Rashida Tlaib
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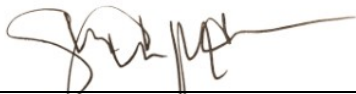
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Delia C. Ramirez
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James P. McGovern
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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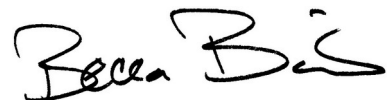
Al Green
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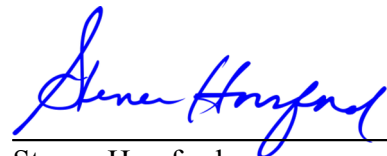
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Lateefah Simon
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Stephen F. Lynch
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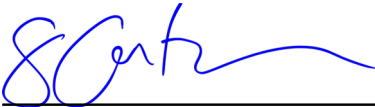
Dina Titus
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Gwen S. Moore
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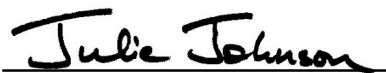
Mike Thompson
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Sean Casten
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Lloyd Doggett
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Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



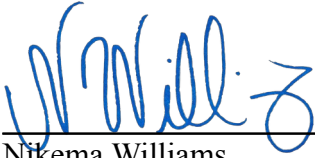
Doris Matsui
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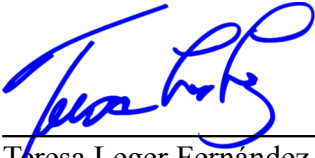
Robert Garcia
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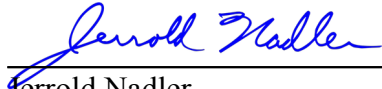
Nikema Williams
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Valerie P. Foushee
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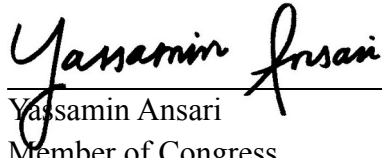
Teresa Leger Fernández
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Jerrold Nadler
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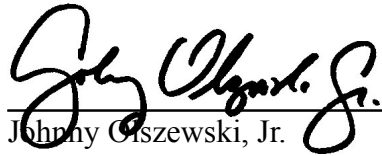
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
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Brad Sherman
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