

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We urge you to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for his unparalleled basketball career as well as his commitment to educational equity, human rights, and social justice.

Throughout Abdul-Jabbar's 20-year career in professional basketball, he was a six-time NBA champion, a six-time league Most Valuable Player, a 19-time All-Star and remains the league's all-time leading scorer with a staggering 38,387 points. However, Abdul-Jabbar is much more than a Hall of Fame basketball player. He is an accomplished author, philanthropist, and social activist, and was appointed a U.S. Cultural Ambassador by the State Department.

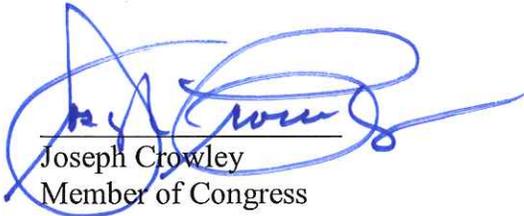
Those who have followed Abdul-Jabbar's career know that he has never shied away from speaking out. He was always conscious of the celebrity and platform basketball provided him and was courageous in using it to set a positive example and advocate for a fairer and just America.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving his community and our country as a whole. Through his Skyhook Foundation, Abdul-Jabbar has served vulnerable students from under-served communities by exposing them to innovative literacy programs and engaging them in hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning. He has sought to open up science and technology opportunities to children of all backgrounds, boosting interest in a critical field for our nation's success.

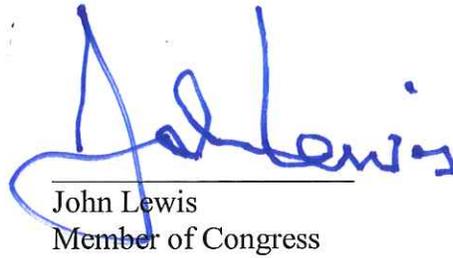
Furthermore, Abdul-Jabbar continues to speak out against intolerance of every form – from gender-based to racial to religious. He has drawn from his background in speaking out about his Muslim faith and in writing numerous books focusing on the history of African-Americans, including the Harlem Renaissance and the 761st Tank Battalion in World War II. He encourages us all through his writings and commentary to always keep working for a more perfect union.

During his time on the court, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar mesmerized a nation with his performance and his flawless "skyhook" shots. Since stepping off the court, he has remained a vital voice in our nation's conversation on major issues through his columns and articles in national magazines and newspapers. He has embodied the ideal of athlete-scholar to become a leading intellectual observer of politics and society as well as an advocate for social justice. He is a role model for today's youth and a champion in more ways than one, and we urge you to award him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition of his many and varied contributions to our country.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



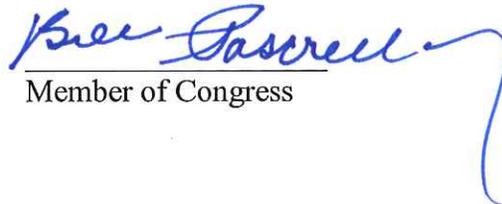
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



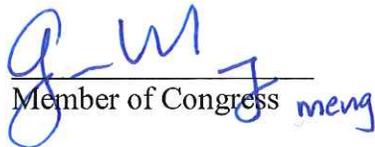
Tuberville
Member of Congress



Dan Claitor
Member of Congress



Keri Gosnell
Member of Congress



G. M. Meng
Member of Congress



Greg Shott
Member of Congress

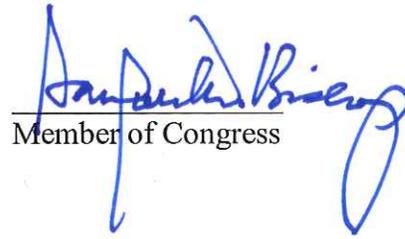


Mike Simpson CA30
Member of Congress



Hal G. Rogers
Member of Congress


Member of Congress


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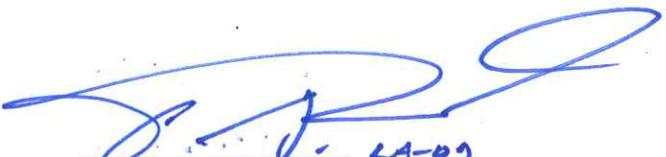

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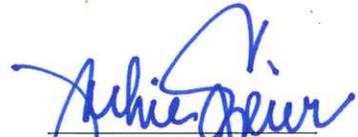

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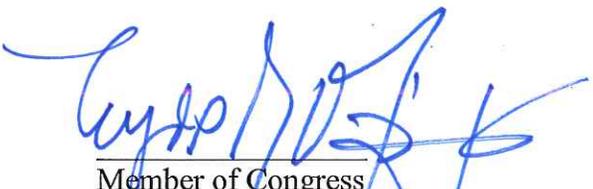

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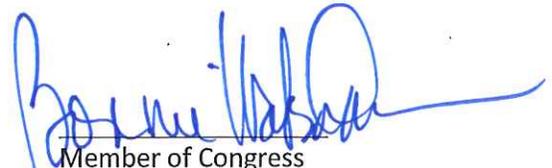

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Colo #7


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Mich Sharpson
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Marcia Dudge
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Frank Lautenberg
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Ernie Cauter
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Jackie Speer
Member of Congress

Bob Duff
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Richard Nolan
Member of Congress 08 MN

Rita Long
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Ami Bera
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Gene Holden
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Alvin Water
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Ernie L. Enze
Member of Congress

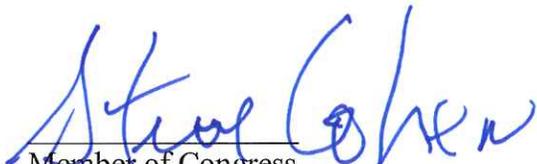
Ed Stroyan
Member of Congress

Bob Duff
Member of Congress

Ed Stroyan
Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress FL-14


Member of Congress
aka Leonard


Member of Congress CA-02


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Member of Congress MA-2


Member of Congress

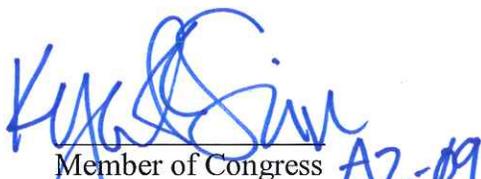

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Member of Congress CA-52


Member of Congress AZ-09


Member of Congress CA-31

Carrie Brown
Member of Congress

Eleanor H. Norton
Member of Congress

Alan H. Davidson
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
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Joyce Beatty
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Jeff D. ...
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Anna Adams
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David M. Cicilline
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Carole B. Maloney
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Jeri Sewell
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Robert ...
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Robt. Kelly
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Cathy
NY-19
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Dan Rostenkowski CA-48
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Dwight D. Bishop
Member of Congress

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Danny D. Davis
Member of Congress