

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 20, 2017

His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén
President of El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
Alameda Dr. Manuel Enrique Arauji No. 5500
San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

CC: The Honorable Guillermo Gallegos Navarrete, President of the Congress of El Salvador

Dear President Sánchez Cerén,

We are writing to you to express our support for efforts to decriminalize abortion in El Salvador. Decriminalization is particularly important for those cases in which abortion is necessary to save a woman's life; in cases of rape; in cases of rape of a minor; and in cases of fetal impairment.

We remain opposed to the current abortion ban in El Salvador, as it violates women's most basic rights. In addition, El Salvador's current criminalization of abortion in all circumstances poses serious implications for the lives of women and girls, the majority of whom live in poverty and lack access to basic health or education services. The decriminalization of abortion in certain circumstances, while falling short of full reproductive access for Salvadoran women, would nonetheless significantly improve the situation, and bring El Salvador closer to compliance with international human rights standards.


We therefore respectfully urge you to support the decriminalization of abortion in at least these aforementioned specific circumstances. Your leadership is critical to improving the plight of Salvadoran women, and we encourage you to continue working closely with civil society and the Salvadoran Congress to protect the rights of Salvadoran women and girls.

Respectfully,


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress


NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

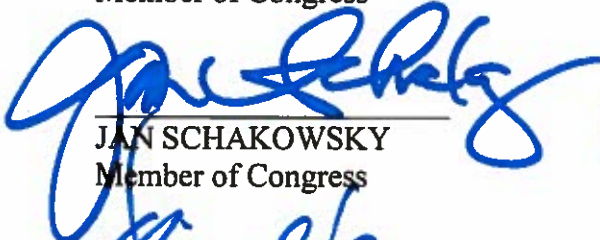

DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress



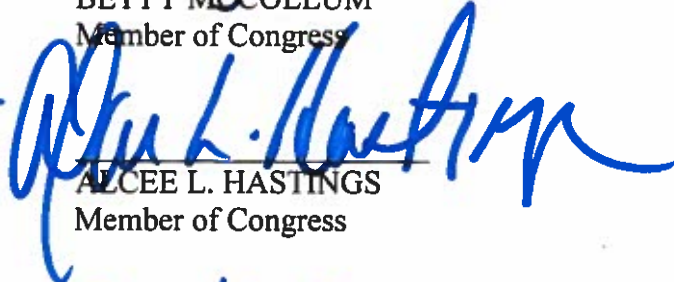
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



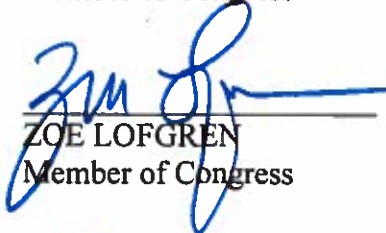
WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

President Sánchez Cerén
Page Three
March 20, 2017



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress