

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write with serious concern about the impact of the Trump Administration's trade policy on American families with babies and toddlers. As you know, the Administration has issued blanket tariffs on goods imported from Canada, Mexico, and China. We fear that these tariffs will raise the cost of goods necessary to care for young children, such as car seats, highchairs, strollers, and cribs. We urge you to work with the President either to take executive action or to create a waiver process to consider exemptions for these products.

President Trump campaigned on the promise to "bring down the price of everything" for working families. In September, Vice-President Vance stated his desire to pursue a "pro-family" agenda, noting that he wants to "make it easier for moms to afford to have babies."¹ Despite these promises, the costs of food, shelter, and health care have continued to rise in the early months of the Trump Administration. We remain concerned that the Administration's tariffs will exacerbate the cost of caring for babies and toddlers. According to a recent survey conducted by BabyCenter, it costs about \$20,000 for new parents to care for their newborn during their first year – including nearly \$1,000 on baby safety gear.² Absent an exemption and investment in American manufacturing of these products, these tariffs will force families to pay even more to purchase these products, which are essential to care for young children and keep them safe.

For parents, car seats, highchairs, strollers, and cribs are not optional purchases – they are necessities. American families should not be forced to choose between their livelihoods and reliance on poor quality baby gear. In addition, we are particularly sensitive to the cost of car seats because all 50 states have laws designed to protect children traveling in motor vehicles. Families should not have to pay more to comply with the laws that help keep their babies and toddlers safe.

We acknowledge that tariffs, when used effectively, are an essential tool to protect American workers from unfair trade practices, reshore American jobs and manufacturing, and defend our

¹ <https://www.semafor.com/article/10/02/2024/vance-wants-a-pro-family-republicanism-his-party-isnt-there-yet>

² https://www.babycenter.com/family/money/first-year-baby-related-expenses_41002904

national security. However, we worry that the Administration's blunt approach will undermine these goals and leave parents with fewer affordable options to keep their babies safe.

Notably, the first Trump Administration has previously recognized the necessity of excluding baby safety products from tariffs, when the United States Trade Representative exempted some of these goods from Section 301 tariffs in 2018.³ We hope that the Administration will take to heart its promise to lower costs for American families by taking similar action to exempt these products from its blanket tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China and invest in American-made baby safety products.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



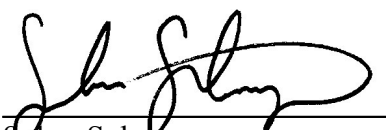
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



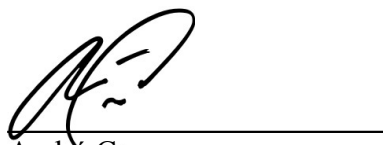
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



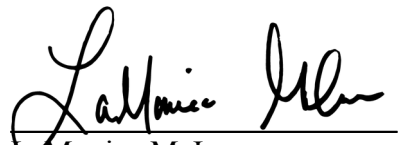
Sarah McBride
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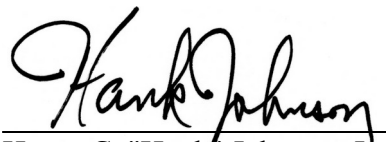
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



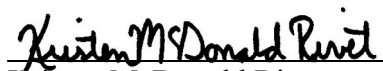
Andre Carson
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Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
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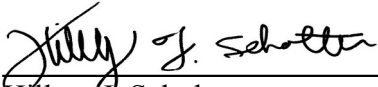


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

³ <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/september/ustr-finalizes-tariffs-200>



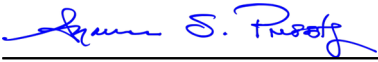
Hillary J. Scholten
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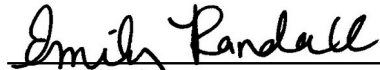
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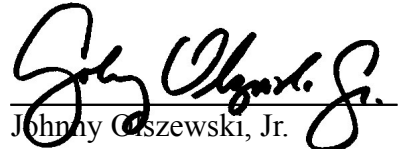
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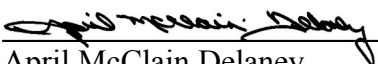
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April McClain Delaney
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Robert Garcia
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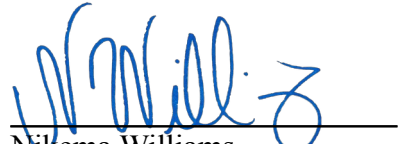
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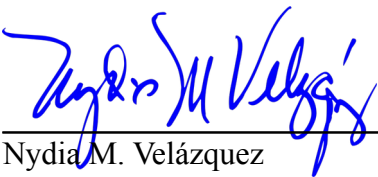
Jahana Hayes
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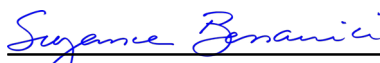
Chris Pappas
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Nikema Williams
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Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



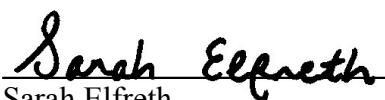
Suzanne Bonamici
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Maxine Dexter
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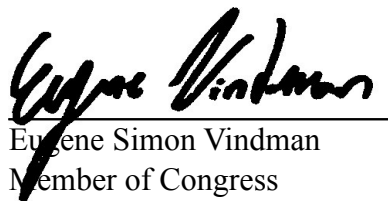
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Sarah Elfreth
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Derek T. Tran
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Eugene Simon Vindman
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Lori Trahan
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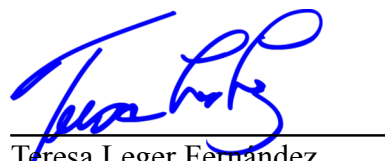
Terri A. Sewell
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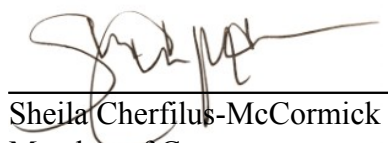
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



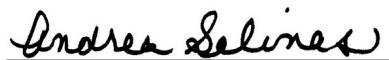
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Cc:

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006