

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2007

The Honorable Oscar Berger Perdomo
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Casa Presidencial
6 a. Avenida, 4-18 Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Dear President Berger:

As Members of the United States Congress we are committed to eliminating the barriers that hinder all children from their basic right to a permanent loving family. We are aware that the Guatemalan Solicitor General's Office (PGN) recently took control of the Casa Quivira children's center near Antigua under the authority of a court order. We are writing to express our concerns in regard to this action and the potential for other similar raids on children's homes in Guatemala.

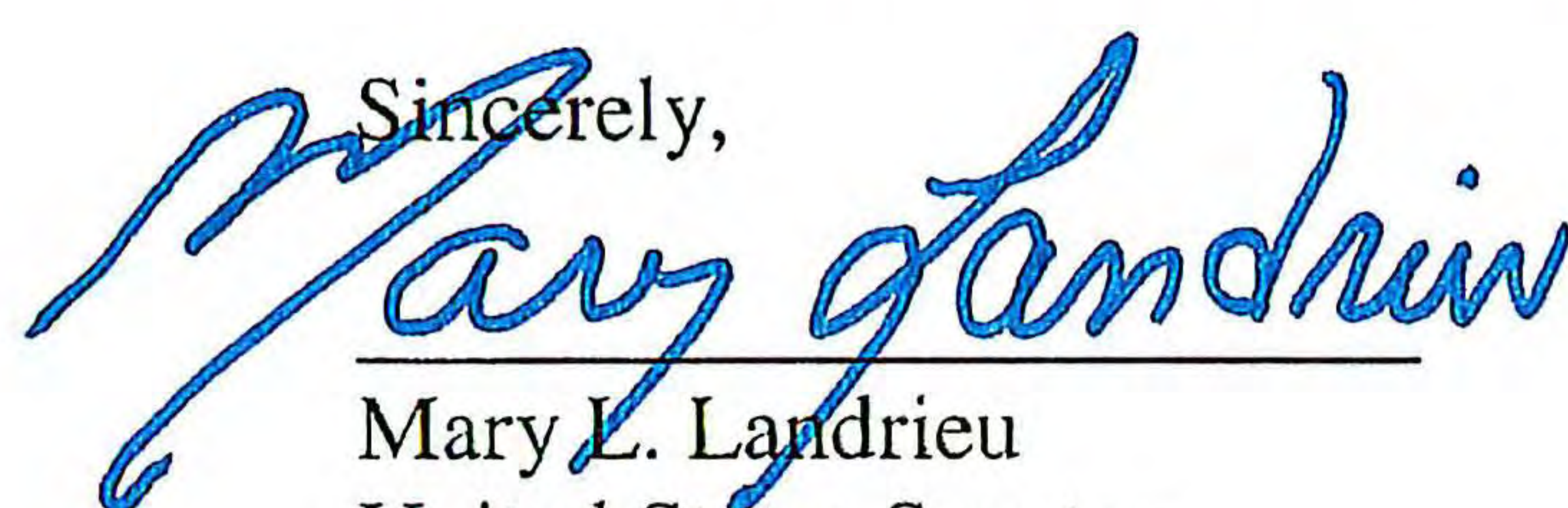
We support Guatemala's efforts to protect the well-being of children through reform of the current system and implementation of the standards set by the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions through pending legislation.

Certainly, it is the government's duty to protect the welfare of children in Guatemala if the care provided by its children's homes is found to be negligent or detrimental. However, if the care in such homes, including that of Casa Quivira, is found to be suitable to the needs of children, we do not believe that seizing control as a means of preventing suspected corrupt adoption practices elsewhere is in the best interest of these Guatemalan children or the adoption process in general. During the reform process, we strongly urge Guatemalan authorities to avoid sudden unwarranted interruptions of established procedures because such changes can seriously and irrevocably disrupt the welfare of the children as well as the stability of the institutions caring for the children.

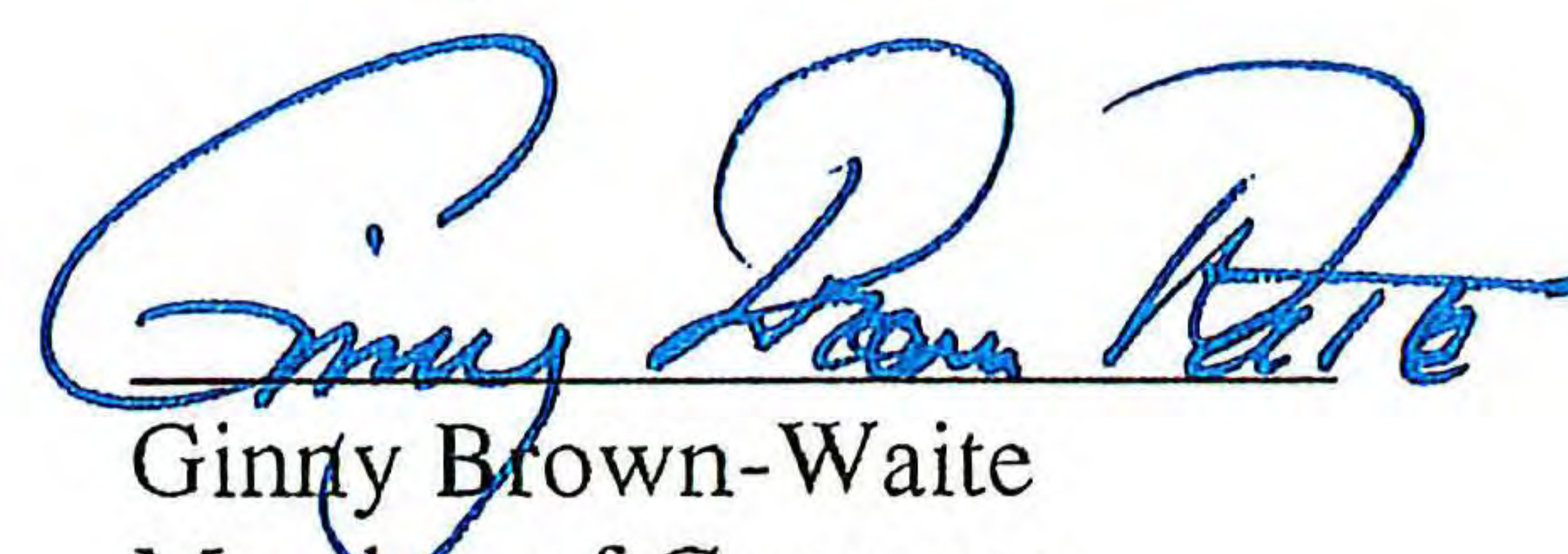
We respectfully request that you open the lines of communication to the prospective adoptive parents of each Casa Quivira child, detailing the status of their specific whereabouts, care and health. We ask for your leadership in pressing for a judicious investigation of each Casa Quivira child's legal status and the timely processing of their anticipated adoption, should the child still be found to be available for adoption under Guatemala's current law.

Thank you for your concern and work to protect the best interests of the children of Casa Quivira and all vulnerable children in Guatemala.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator



Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress

Jim Oberstar

James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress

Julia Carson

Julia M. Carson
Member of Congress

John F. Kerry

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

Dan Lipinski

Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress

Steven R. Rothman

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

Mark Souder

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie A. Stabenow
United States Senator

Robert Wexler

Robert I. Wexler
Member of Congress

Barney Frank

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Frank R. Lautenberg

Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

Jim Saxton

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

Dave Camp

Dave Camp
Member of Congress

Susan M. Collins

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Carl Levin

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Donald M. Payne

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

Chris Smith

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Arlen Specter

Arlen Specter
United States Senator

Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Christopher S. Bond

Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

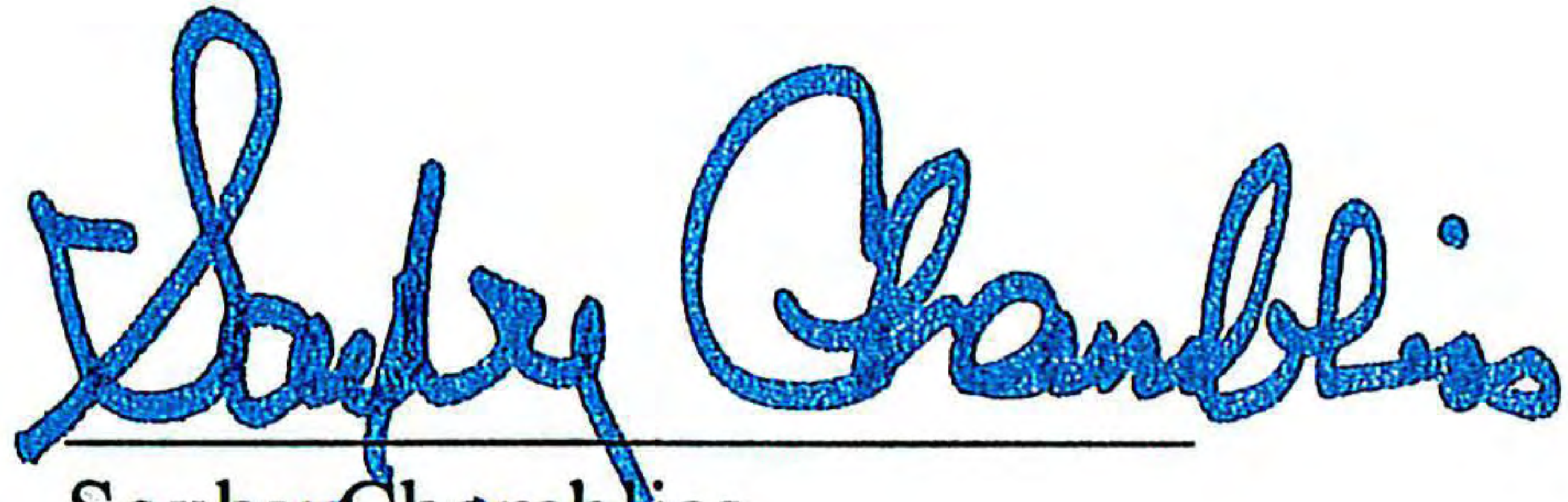
Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

Barack Obama

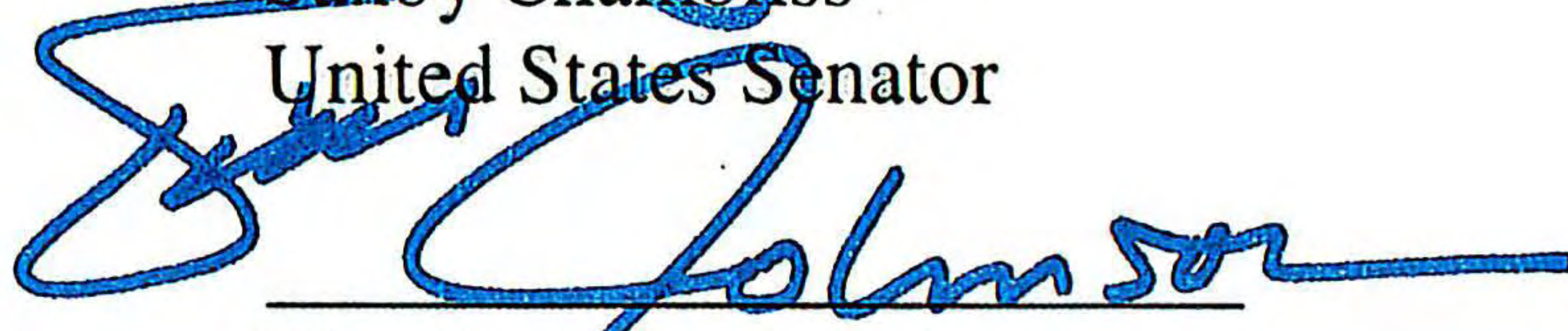
Barack Obama
United States Senator

Russ Carnahan

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress