

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-309, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we encourage you to help close opportunity and resource gaps in our nation's public schools by funding the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program at its authorized level of \$1.6 billion.

In 2015, Congress passed a bipartisan education bill that replaced the failed policies of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The new law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), returns a great deal of control to states and school districts, and it eliminates federally-mandated one-size-fits-all interventions for struggling schools. Unlike NCLB, the ESSA empowers school districts to identify and respond to the unique needs of their students and communities.

To enable school districts to provide locally-tailored programming and supportive services for students who need them most, Title IV, Part A, of ESSA authorizes flexible funding through the new Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grant program. This new formula program will deliver federal funding to promote safe and healthy students, ensure all students have access to a well-rounded education, and equip schools with effective technology.


More specifically, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program will enable states and local school districts to support a variety of services, such as school-based mental health programs, drug and violence prevention programs, and physical education programs. The grant will also support well-rounded learning opportunities, including expanded access to arts, music, civics, and foreign language courses; Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, and other rigorous and accelerated courses; and STEM courses, which may integrate arts and music to foster innovation and creative thinking.


As states and school districts implement the ESSA, they are looking to the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program to play a central role in helping them provide all students with the resources and opportunities they need to prepare for success in college and career. Bipartisan members of Congress recognized the value of this flexible formula funding to support and enrich students in school districts across the country when, in drafting the ESSA, we authorized \$1.6 billion for the program in FY 2018.

Although we appreciate the funding you proposed for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program in your committee's FY 2017 draft report, we respectfully ask that you appropriate no less than the authorized amount for this program in FY 2018. Investing in our nation's students is an investment in the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to make sure students in every community are supported and enriched to reach their maximum potential.

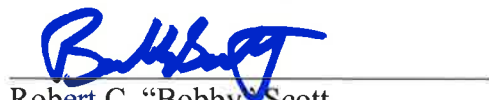
Sincerely,

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

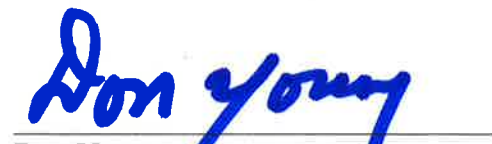
  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress


  
Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

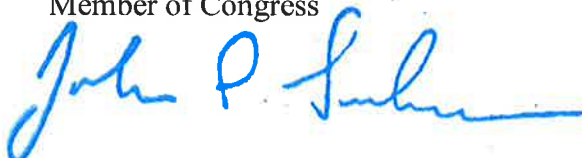
  
Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress

  
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Don Young  
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Paul Tonko  
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*Kathy Castor*

Kathy Castor  
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James R. Langevin  
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
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Eric Swalwell  
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*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

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*Danny K. Davis*

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

*Adriano Espaillat*

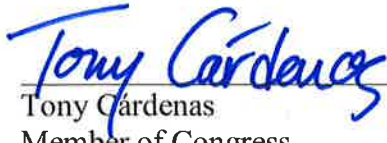
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Member of Congress



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Kyrsten Sinema  
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Tony Cardenas  
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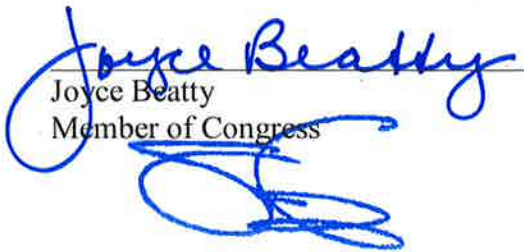
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



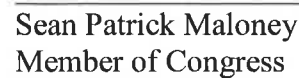
Bobby L. Rush  
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Barbara Lee  
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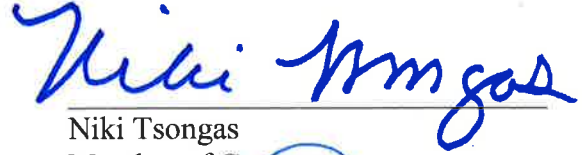
Joyce Beatty  
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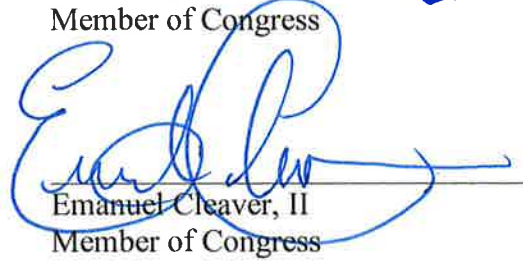
Sean Patrick Maloney  
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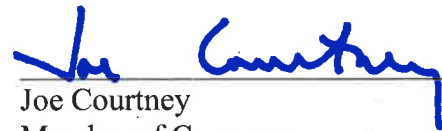
Ron Kind  
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Niki Tsongas  
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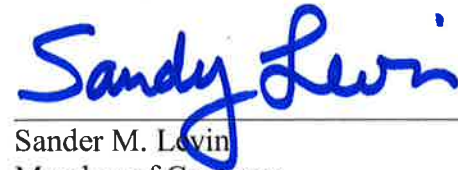
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
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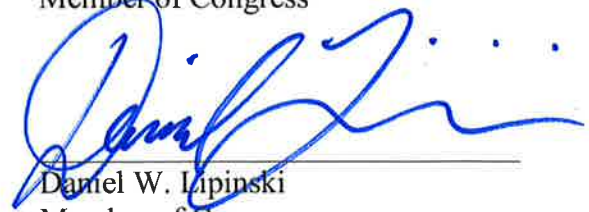
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Jackie Speier  
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Sander M. Levin  
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Daniel W. Lipinski  
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J. Luis Correa  
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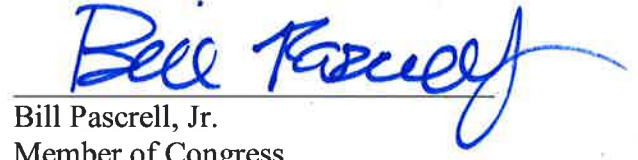
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



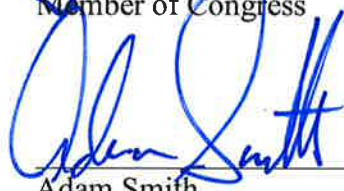
Ruben Gallego  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



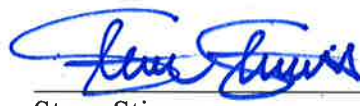
John K. Delaney  
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Bill Foster  
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Anthony Brown  
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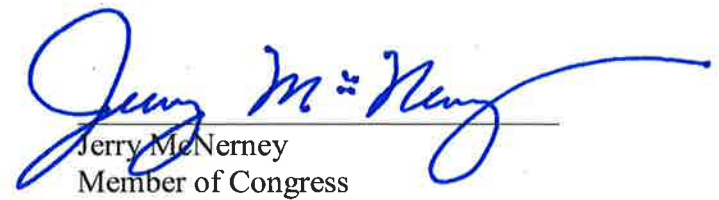
Steve Stivers  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
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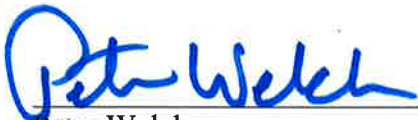
David Scott  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
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Dave Loebsack  
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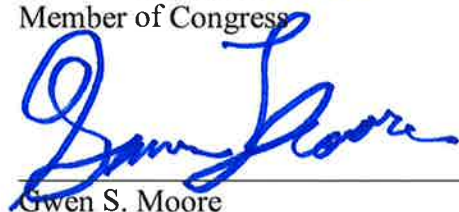
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



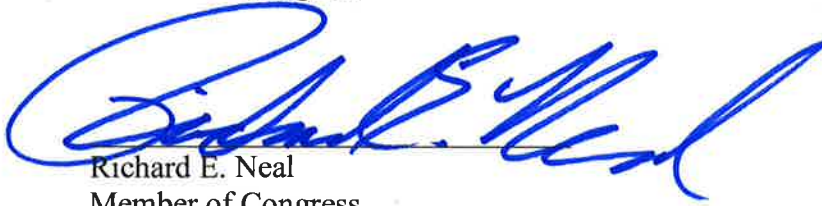
Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



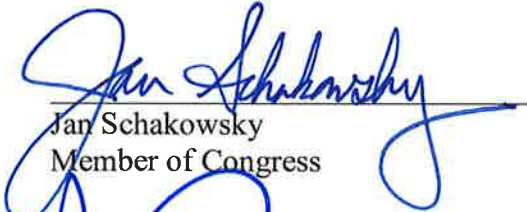
Gwen S. Moore  
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Richard E. Neal  
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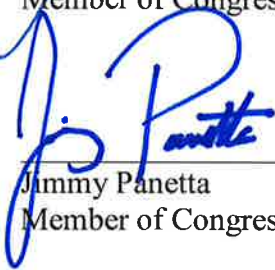
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Jimmy Panetta  
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Will Hurd  
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Elijah E. Cummings  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



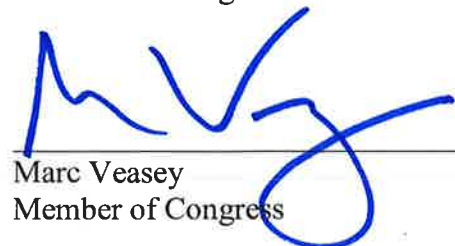
Grace F. Napolitano  
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Ben Ray Lujan  
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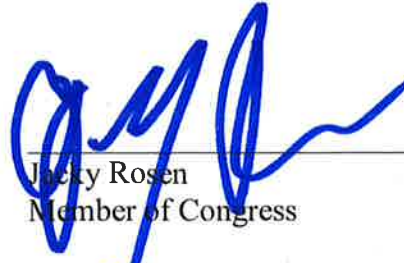
Randy Hultgren  
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Marc Veasey  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Jacky Rosen  
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John B. Larson  
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Louise M. Slaughter  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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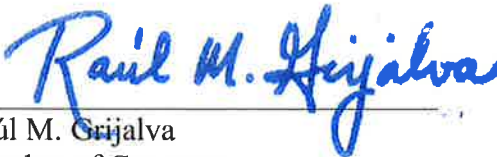
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
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Brian Higgins  
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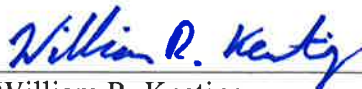
Zoe Lofgren  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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William R. Keating  
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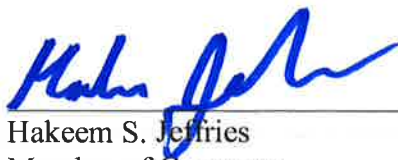
Ruben J. Kihuen  
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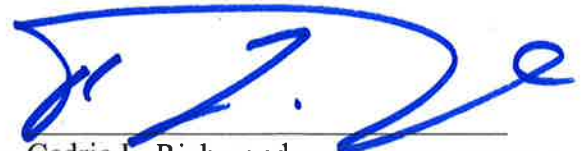
Adam B. Schiff  
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Diana DeGette  
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Hakeem S. Jeffries  
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Cedric L. Richmond  
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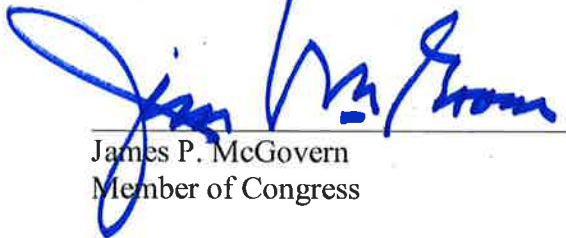




Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



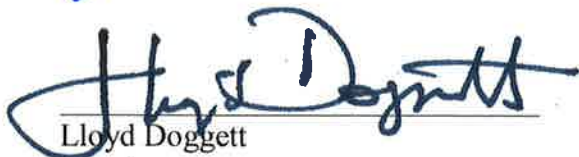
Frederica S. Wilson  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



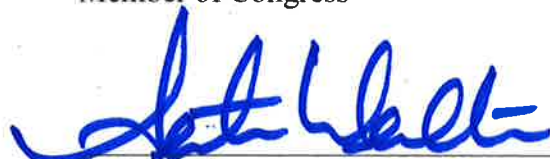
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



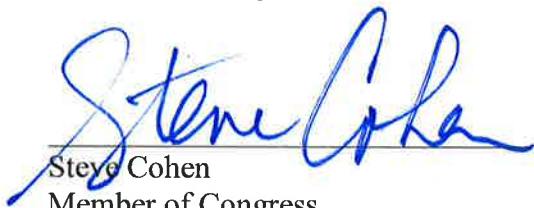
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Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress