

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services was approved to receive \$38.6 million annually in its most recent reauthorization.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which employ over 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding multiplies this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state. The reauthorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state level, but many of these activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2017 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,



Paul Tonko



Leonard Lance



Louise M. Slaughter



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Robert A. Brady



Debbie Dingell



Bonnie Watson Coleman



Ann McLane Kuster



Ann Kirkpatrick



Kathy Castor



Frederica S. Wilson



Jackie Speier

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Alma Adams

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

David Scott

David Scott

Brad Ashford

Brad Ashford

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle

Dennis Ross

Dennis Ross

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson

Cedric Richmond

Cedric Richmond

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

Joseph P. Kennedy

Joseph P. Kennedy

John Lewis

John Lewis

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

K. Takai

Mark Takai

G. Kilili

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.

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James P. McGovern

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Eric Swalwell

S. Plaskett

Stacey Plaskett

J. Brownley

Julia Brownley

T. Walz

Tim Walz

E. Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer

D. Heck

Denny Heck

F. Vela

Filemon Vela

S. Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

E. H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

C. Bustos

Cheri Bustos

T. E. Deutch

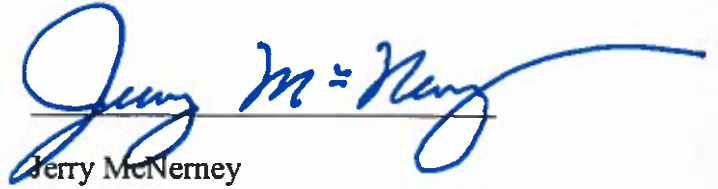
Theodore E. Deutch

J. McDermott

Jim McDermott



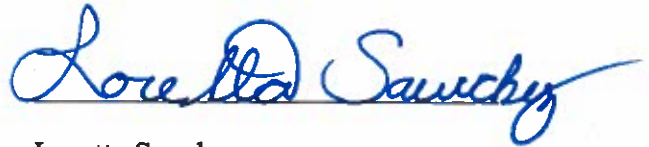
Chris Collins



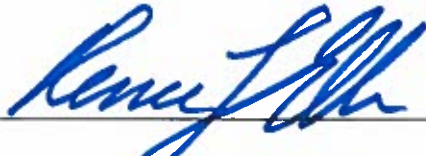
Jerry McNerney



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



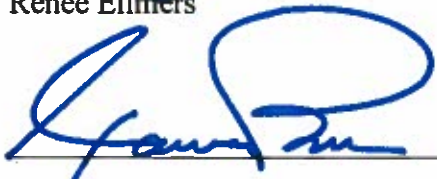
Loretta Sanchez



Renee Ellmers



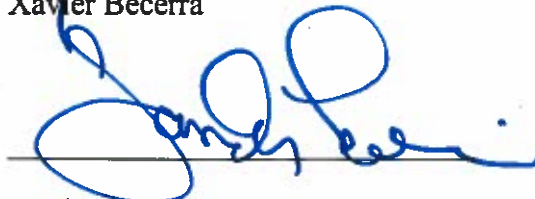
Bill Foster



Xavier Becerra



Jim Himes



Sander Levin



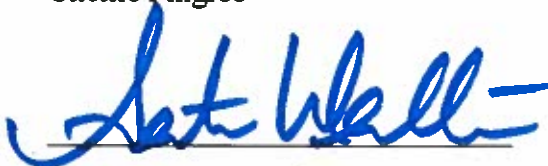
Brenda Lawrence



Chellie Pingree



Zoe Lofgren



Seth Moulton



Ed Perlmutter



Michael E. Capuano



Matt Cartwright



Susan Brooks



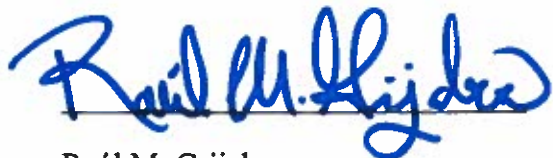
Mark Takano



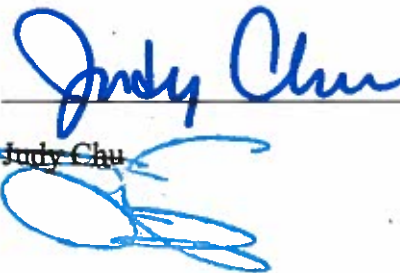
Tony Cárdenas



Kathleen M. Rice



Raúl M. Grijalva

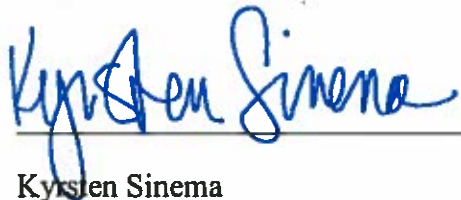


Judy Chu



Dave Loebsack

Sean Patrick Maloney



Kyrosen Sinema



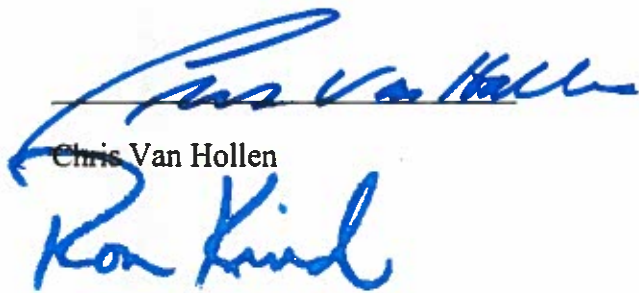
Niki Tsongas



Tulsi Gabbard



John Delaney



Chris Van Hollen



Katherine Clark



Ron Kind



Scott Peters



Collin C. Peterson

Pete DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel

Richard E. Neal

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Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush

Lois Capps

Lois Capps

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Adam Smith

Chaka Fattah

G. K. Butterfield

Don Young

Albio Sires

Daniel W. Lipinski

Joe Courtney

Rubén Hinojosa

Barbara Lee

Peter Welch

Carolyn B. Maloney

Tim Murphy

Marcia Fudge

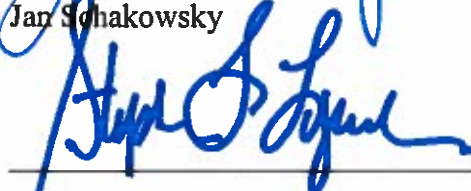
Al Green

Yvette D. Clarke

Alcee L. Hastings


Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky


Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch


Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen


Adam B. Schiff

Adam B. Schiff


William Lacy Clay

William Lacy Clay


John Garamendi

John Garamendi


Mike Coffman

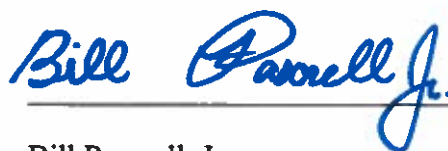
Mike Coffman


Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel


Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette


Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.


Luis V. Gutiérrez

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John Conyers Jr.

John Conyers Jr.


Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui


John P. Sarbanes

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Donna F. Edwards

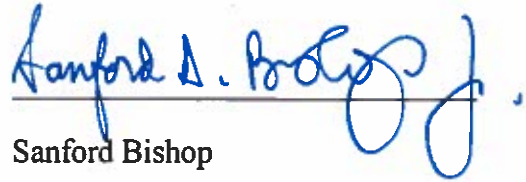
Donna F. Edwards


Ben Ray Luján

Ben Ray Luján



André Carson



Sanford Bishop



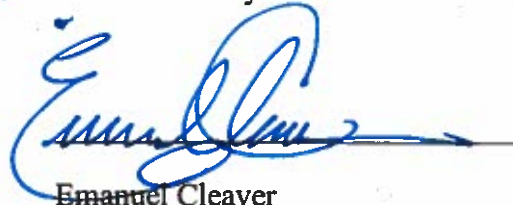
Brian Higgins



Brendan F. Boyle



Lloyd Doggett



Emanuel Cleaver



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Barbara Comstock



Linda T. Sánchez



Kevin Cramer



Beto O'Rourke



Susan Davis



Andy Barr



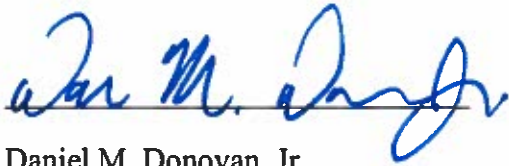
Mark DeSaulnier



Karen Bass

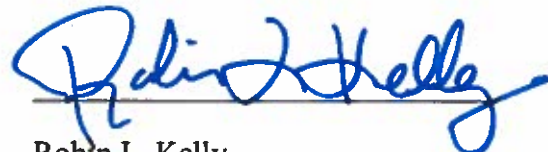


Robert J. Dold,


Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

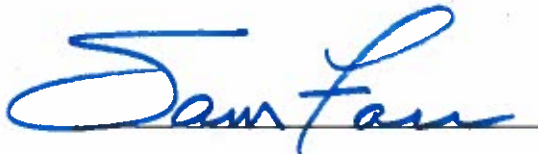

Eddie Bernice Johnson


Tammy Duckworth


Robin L. Kelly


Anna Eshoo

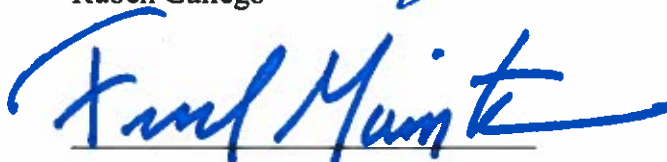

Dan Kildee


Sam Farr


John B. Larson


Ruben Gallego

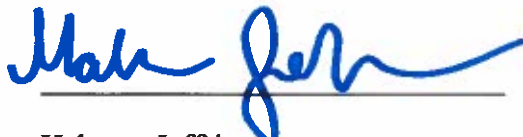

Alan Lowenthal


Frank Guinta


Candice Miller


Will Hurd


Donald Norcross


Hakeem Jeffries


Chellie Pingree

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson

Joe Wilson

Joe Wilson

Nydia H. Velázquez

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