

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

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 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

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.

When the Institute of Museum and Library Services was last reauthorized, the legislation cleared both the House and Senate unanimously. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2018 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.

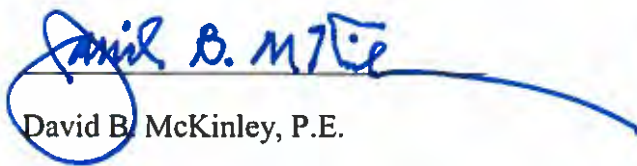
Sincerely,



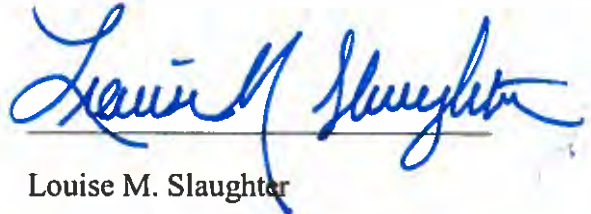
Paul Tonko



Leonard Lance



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Louise M. Slaughter



Alma S. Adams



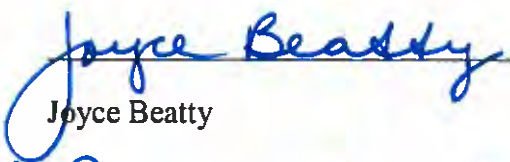
Earl Blumenauer



Karen Bass



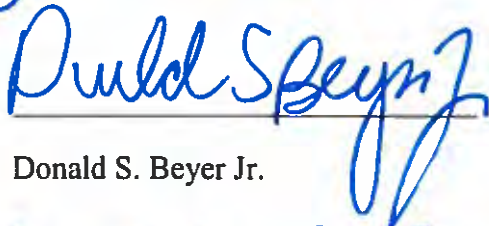
Suzanne Bonamici



Joyce Beatty



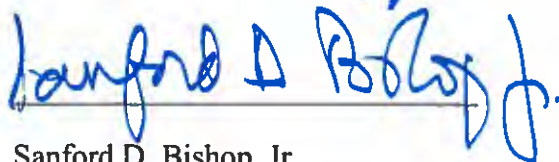
Brendan F. Boyle



Donald S. Beyer Jr.



Robert A. Brady



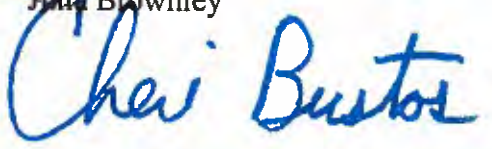
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.



Susan W. Brooks

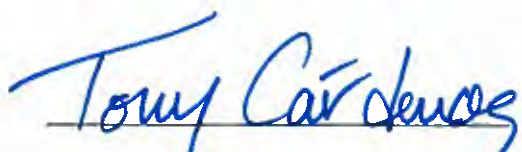

Anthony Brown


Julia Brownley


Cheri Bustos


G. K. Butterfield


Salud Carbajal

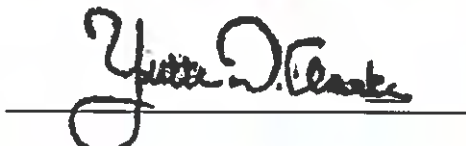

Tony Cárdenas


André Carson

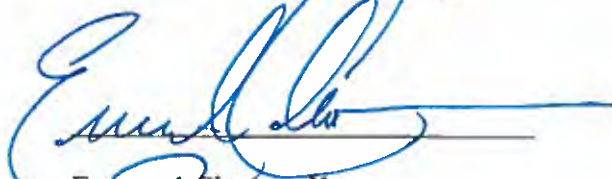

Kathy Castor


Judy Chu


David N. Cicilline


Yvette D. Clarke


Wm. Lacy Clay


Emanuel Cleaver, II

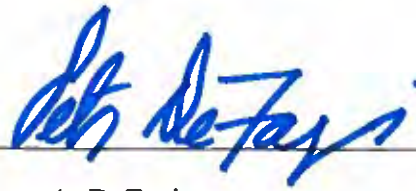

Mike Coffman


Steve Cohen


Chris Collins



Barbara Comstock



Peter A. DeFazio



Gerald E. Connolly



Diana DeGette



Joe Courtney



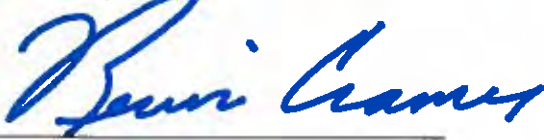
John K. Delaney



John Conyers Jr.



Mark DeSaulnier



Kevin Cramer



Ted Deutch



Charlie Crist



Debbie Dingell



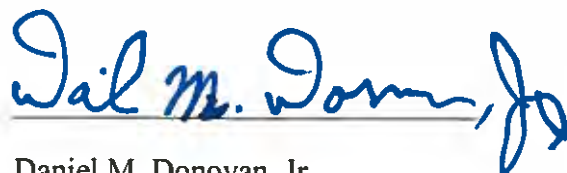
Danny K. Davis



Lloyd Doggett



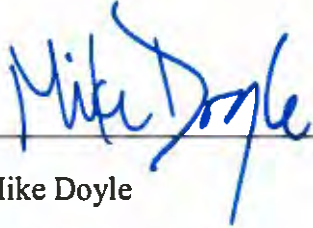
Susan A. Davis



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.



Josh Gottheimer



Mike Doyle



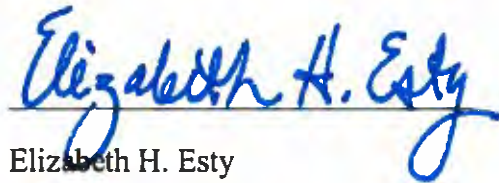
Keith Ellison



Eliot L. Engel



Anna G. Eshoo



Elizabeth H. Esty



John J. Faso



Bill Foster



Marcia L. Fudge



Ruben Gallego



John Garamendi



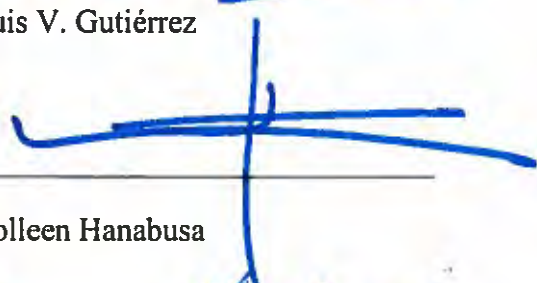
Jenniffer González-Colón



Raúl M. Grijalva



Luis V. Gutiérrez



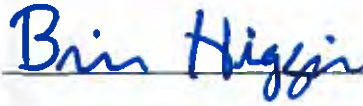
Colleen Hanabusa



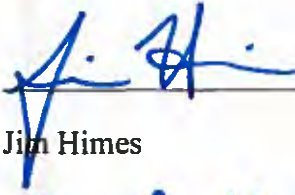
Alcee Hastings



Denny Heck



Brian Higgins



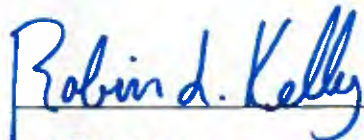
Jim Himes



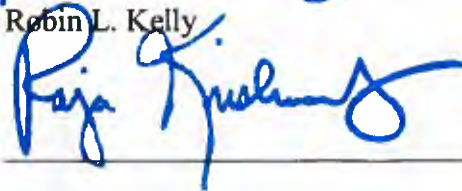
Jared Huffman



Hakeem Jeffries



Robin L. Kelly



Raja Krishnamoorthi



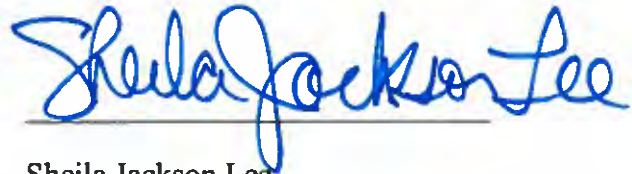
John B. Larson



Brenda L. Lawrence



Al Lawson



Sheila Jackson Lee



Pramila Jayapal



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



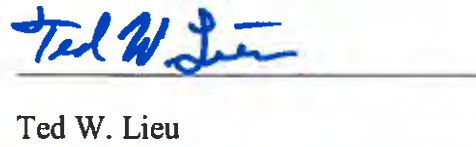
William R. Keating



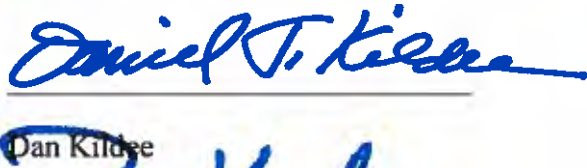
Joseph P. Kennedy, III



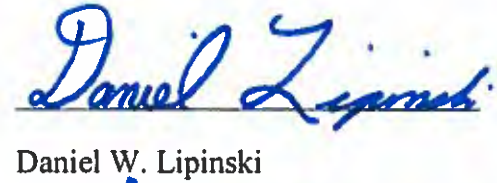
Ruben J. Kihuen



Ted W. Lieu



Dan Kildee



Daniel W. Lipinski



Ron Kind



Dave Loebsack

Ron Kind

Dave Loebsack



Ann McLane Kuster



Zoe Lofgren

Ann McLane Kuster

Zoe Lofgren



Jim Langevin



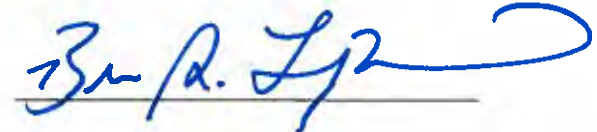
Alan Lowenthal

Jim Langevin

Alan Lowenthal



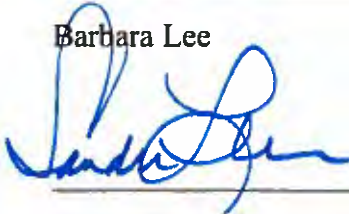
Barbara Lee



Ben Ray Luján

Barbara Lee

Ben Ray Luján



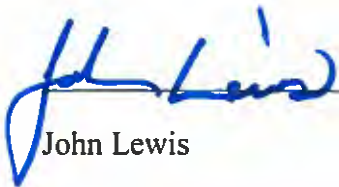
Sander Levin



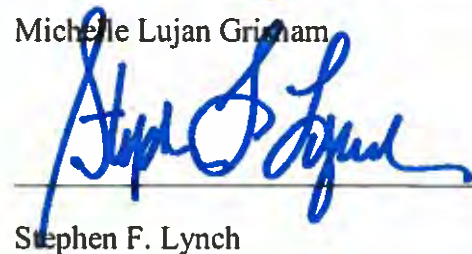
Michelle Lujan Grisham

Sander Levin

Michelle Lujan Grisham



John Lewis



Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney

[Signature]

Sean Patrick Maloney

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

[Signature]

Stephanie Murphy

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy

A. Donald McEachin

A. Donald McEachin

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

Jim McGovern

James P. McGovern

Richard E. Neal

Richard E. Neal

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney

Donald Norcross

Donald Norcross

Gregory W. Meeks

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Eleanor H. Norton

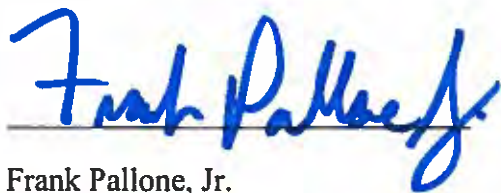
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Gwen S. Moore

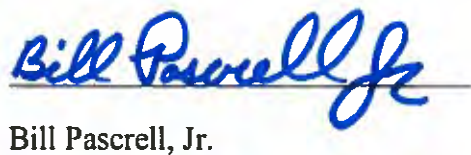
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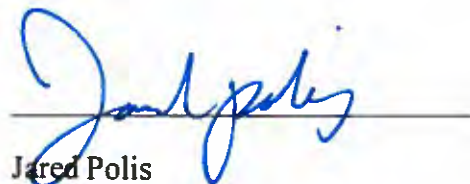
Beto O'Rourke

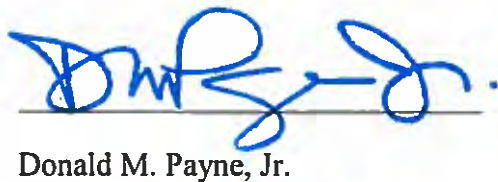
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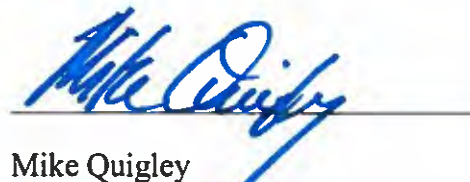

Frank Pallone, Jr.


Mark Pocan

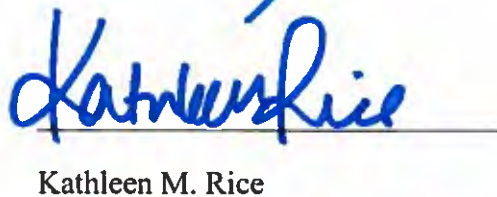

Bill Pascrell, Jr.


Jared Polis


Donald M. Payne, Jr.

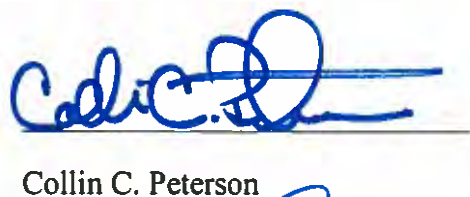

Mike Quigley


Ed Perlmutter

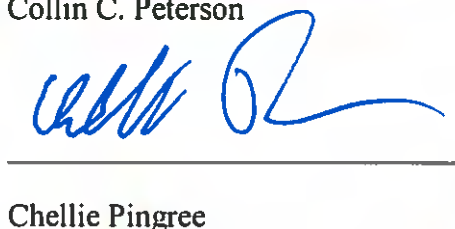

Kathleen M. Rice

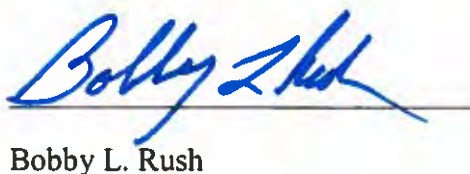

Scott H. Peters


Cedric L. Richmond


Collin C. Peterson

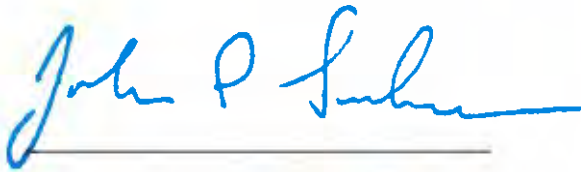

Jacky Rosen


Chellie Pingree

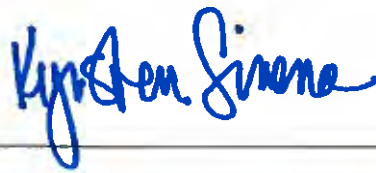

Bobby L. Rush


Stacey E. Plaskett

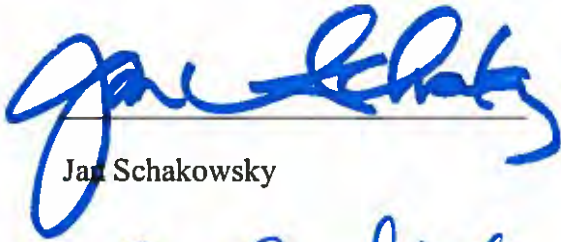

Linda T. Sánchez



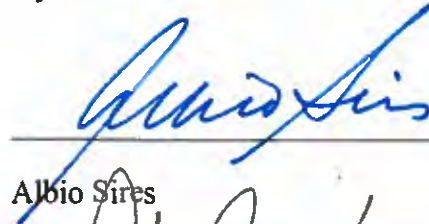
John Sarbanes



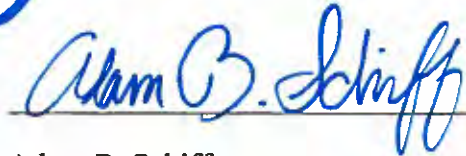
Kyrsten Sinema



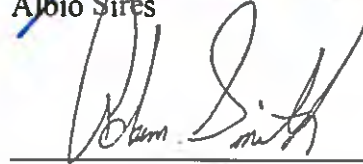
Jan Schakowsky



Albio Sires



Adam B. Schiff



Adam Smith



Bradley S. Schneider



Jackie Speier



David Scott



Elise Stefanik



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Eric Swalwell



Pete Sessions



Mark Takano



Carol Shea-Porter



Mike Thompson



Dina Titus



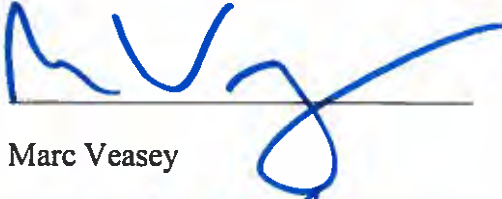
Joe Wilson



Niki Tsongas



John Yarmuth



Marc Veasey



Ted S. Yoho, DVM



Filemon Vela



Don Young



Nydia M. Velázquez



Darren Soto



Tim Walz



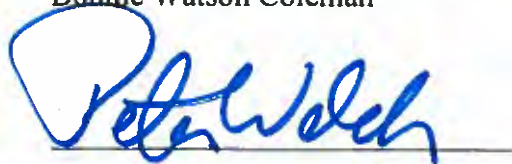
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger



Bonnie Watson Coleman



Dennis A. Ross



Peter Welch



Michael E. Capuano

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson

Tom O'Halleran

Tom O'Halleran

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

Ami B.

Ami Bera, M.D.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans

Will Hurd

Will Hurd

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton