

**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.

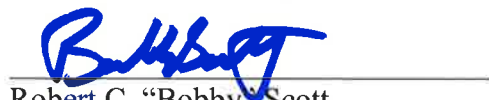
Sincerely,

  
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

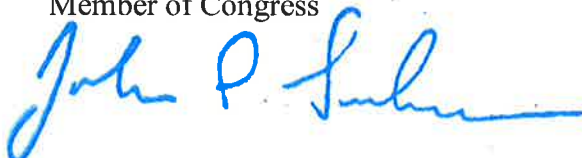
  
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Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress

  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

  
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John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Peter DeFazio  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Paul Tonko  
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*Kathy Cast*

Kathy Castor  
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*Mark DeSaunier*

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Ann McLane Kuster  
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Al Green  
Member of Congress

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Val Demings  
Member of Congress

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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

*Carol Shea-Porter*

Carol Shea-Porter  
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*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

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*Danny K. Davis*

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*Adriano Espaillat*

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Kyrsten Sinema  
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Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



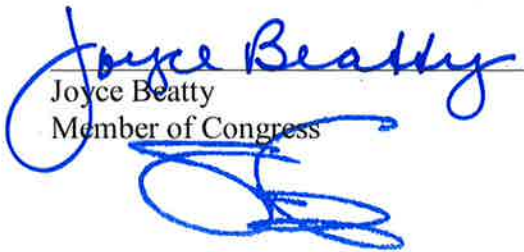
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



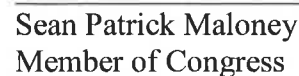
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
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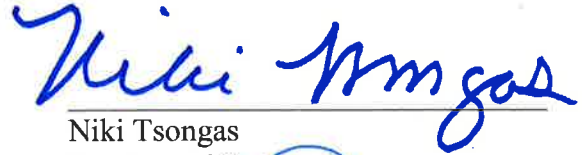
Joyce Beatty  
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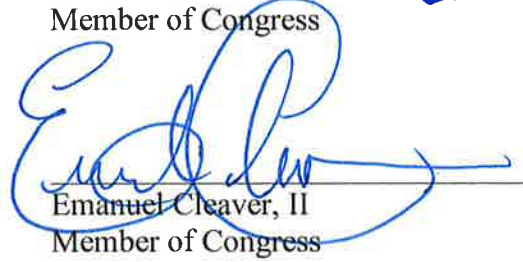
Sean Patrick Maloney  
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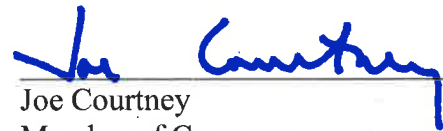
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
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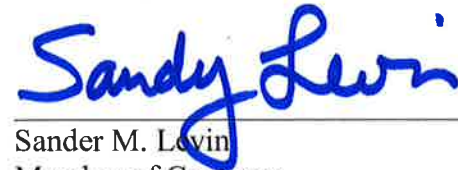
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
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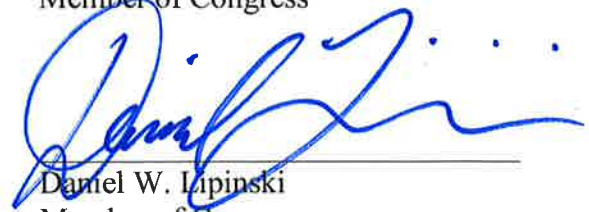
Joe Courtney  
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Jackie Speier  
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Sander M. Levin  
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Daniel W. Lipinski  
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J. Luis Correa  
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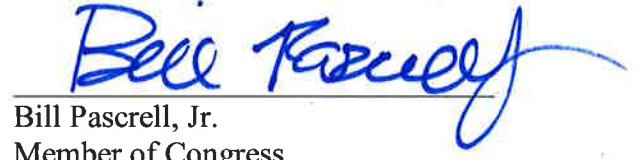
Earl Blumenauer  
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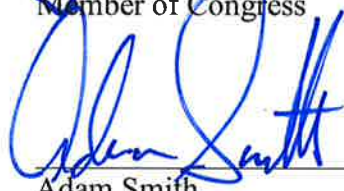
Ruben Gallego  
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Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



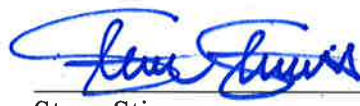
John K. Delaney  
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Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



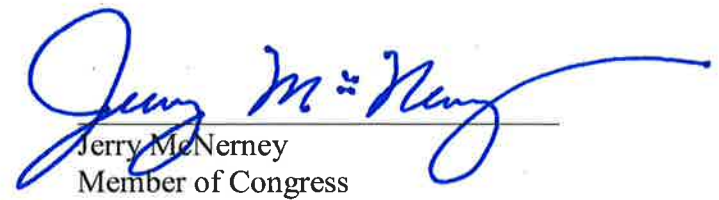
Steve Stivers  
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Jim Himes  
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Jerry McNerney  
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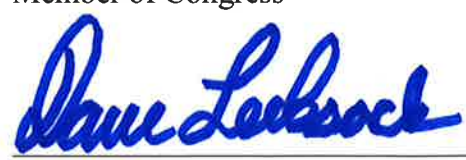
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



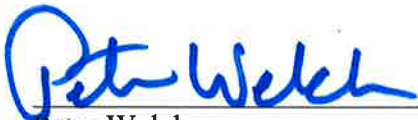
David Scott  
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Anna G. Eshoo  
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Dave Loebsack  
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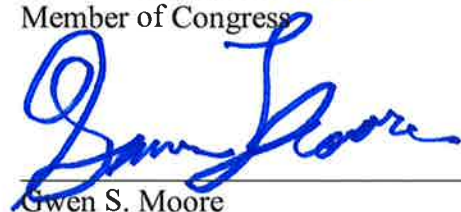
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



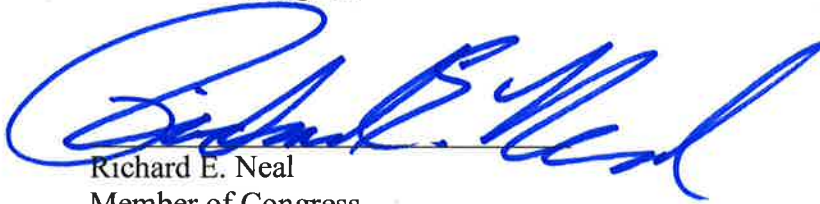
Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



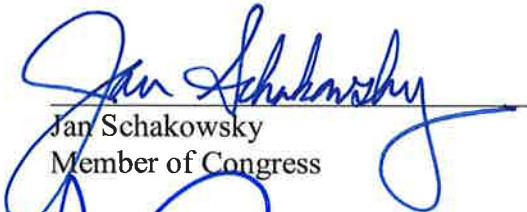
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Kathleen M. Rice  
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



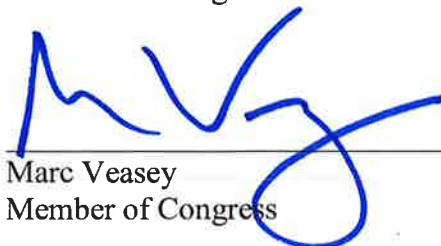
Grace F. Napolitano  
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Ben Ray Lujan  
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Randy Hultgren  
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Marc Veasey  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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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  
Member of Congress



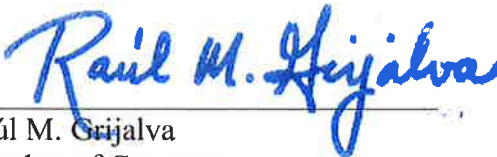
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
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Brian Higgins  
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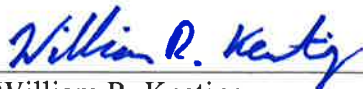
Zoe Lofgren  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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William R. Keating  
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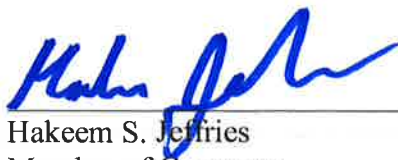
Ruben J. Kihuen  
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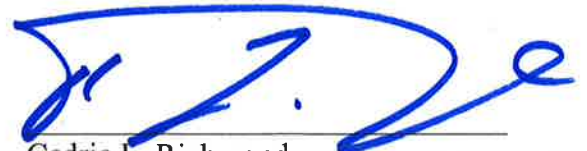
Adam B. Schiff  
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Diana DeGette  
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Hakeem S. Jeffries  
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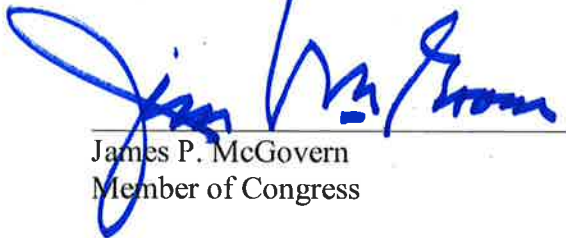
Cedric L. Richmond  
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



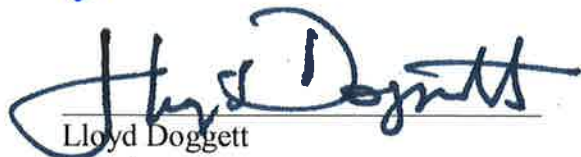
Frederica S. Wilson  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



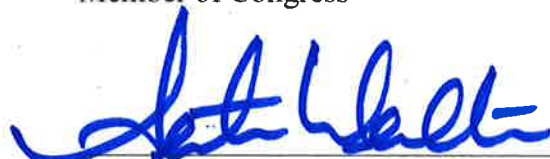
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



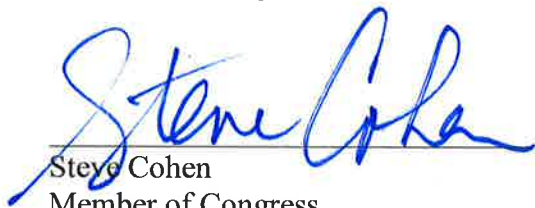
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Michael E. Capuano  
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Seth Moulton  
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Steve Cohen  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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