

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.

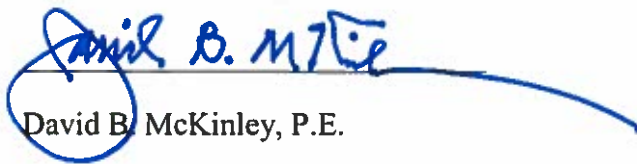
Sincerely,



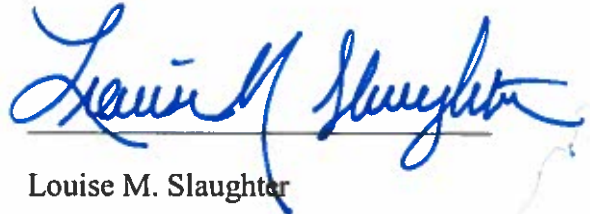
Paul Tonko



Leonard Lance



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Louise M. Slaughter



Alma S. Adams



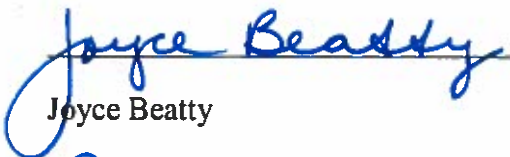
Earl Blumenauer



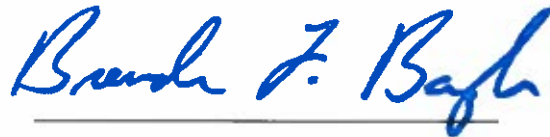
Karen Bass



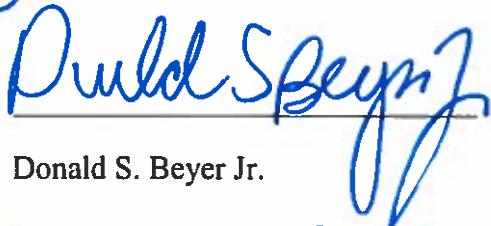
Suzanne Bonamici



Joyce Beatty



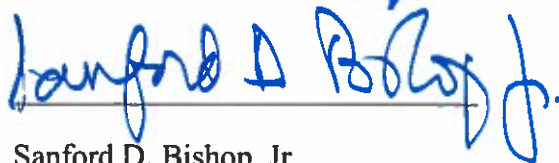
Brendan F. Boyle



Donald S. Beyer Jr.



Robert A. Brady



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.



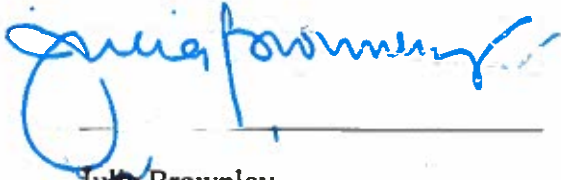
Susan W. Brooks



Anthony Brown



Judy Chu



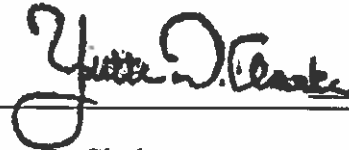
Julia Brownley



David N. Cicilline



Cheri Bustos



Yvette D. Clarke



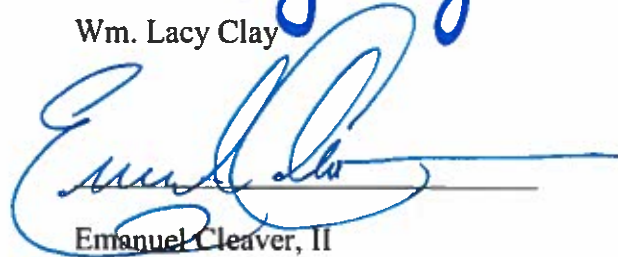
G. K. Butterfield



Wm. Lacy Clay



Salud Carbajal



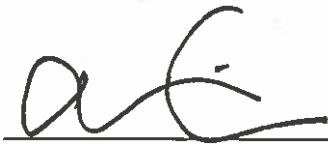
Emanuel Cleaver, II



Tony Cárdenas



Mike Coffman



André Carson



Steve Cohen



Kathy Castor



Chris Collins

Barbara Comstock

Barbara Comstock

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

John K. Delaney

John K. Delaney

John Conyers Jr.

John Conyers Jr.

MARK DeSic

Mark DeSaulnier

Kevin Cramer

Kevin Cramer

Ted Deutch

Ted Deutch

Charlie Crist

Charlie Crist

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett

Susan A. Davis

Susan A. Davis

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

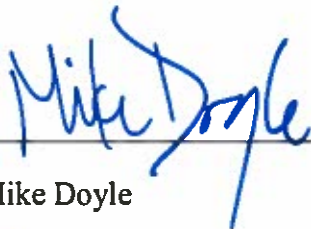
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.



Josh Gottheimer



Marcia L. Fudge



Mike Doyle



Ruben Gallego



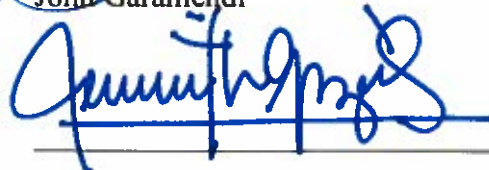
Keith Ellison



John Garamendi



Eliot L. Engel



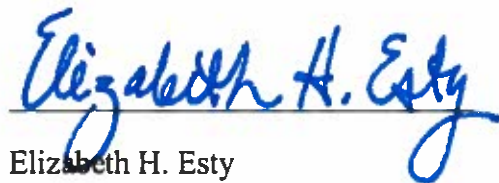
Jenniffer González-Colón



Anna G. Eshoo



Raúl M. Grijalva



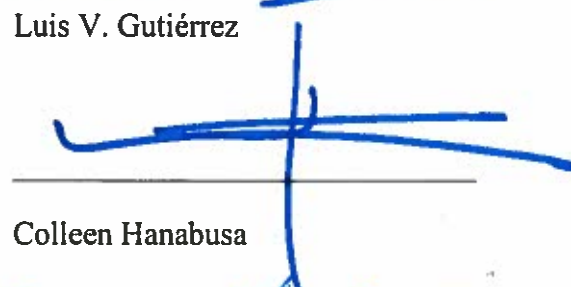
Elizabeth H. Esty



Luis V. Gutiérrez



John J. Faso



Colleen Hanabusa



Bill Foster



Alcee Hastings

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

J. Himes

Jim Himes

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Raja Krishnamoorthi

John B. Larson

John B. Larson

Brenda L. Lawrence

Brenda L. Lawrence

Al Lawson

Al Lawson

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Hank Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

Joseph P. Kennedy, III

Joseph P. Kennedy, III



Ruben J. Kihuen



Ted W. Lieu



Dan Kildee



Daniel W. Lipinski



Ron Kind



Dave Loebsack



Ann McLane Kuster



Zoe Lofgren



Jim Langevin



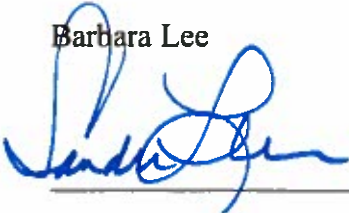
Alan Lowenthal



Barbara Lee



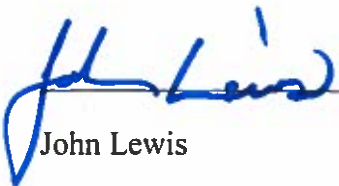
Ben Ray Luján



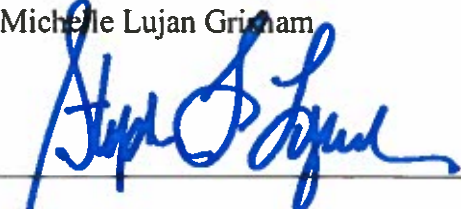
Sander Levin



Michelle Lujan Grisham



John Lewis



Stephen F. Lynch

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney

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Sean Patrick Maloney

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

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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

Gregory W. Meeks

Eleanor H. Norton

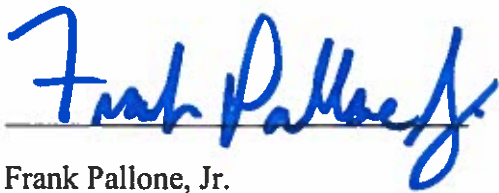
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Gwen S. Moore

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Beto O'Rourke

Beto O'Rourke



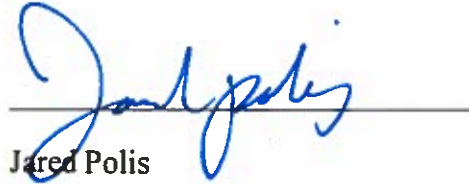
Frank Pallone, Jr.



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



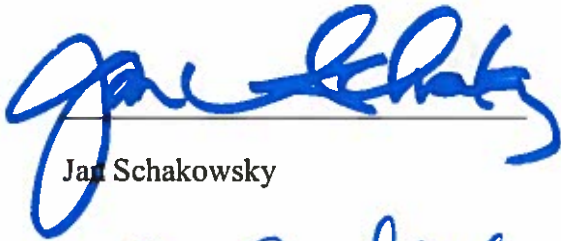
Linda T. Sánchez



John Sarbanes



Kyrsten Sinema



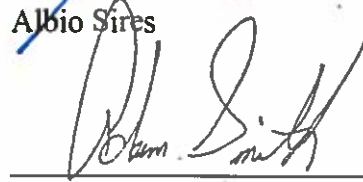
Jan Schakowsky



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



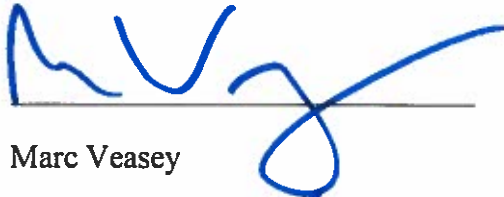
Joe Wilson



Niki Tsongas



John Yarmuth



Marc Veasey



Ted S. Yoho, DVM



Filemon Vela



Don Young



Nydia M. Velázquez



Darren Soto



Tim Walz



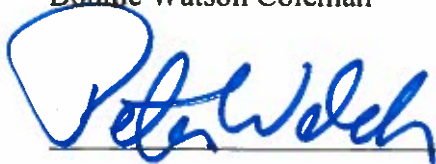
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger



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