

# 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

Kilili

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell

Stacey Plaskett

Stacey Plaskett

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley

Tim Walz

Tim Walz

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos

Theodore E. Deutch

Theodore E. Deutch

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott



Chris Collins

Chris Collins

Jerry McNeerney

Jerry McNeerney

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Loretta Sanchez

Loretta Sanchez

Renee Ellmers

Renee Ellmers

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Xavier Becerra

Xavier Becerra

Jim Himes

Jim Himes

Sander Levin

Sander Levin

Brenda Lawrence

Brenda Lawrence

Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

Ed Perlmutter

Ed Perlmutter

Michael E. Capuano

Michael E. Capuano

Matt Cartwright

Matt Cartwright

Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks

Mark Takano

Mark Takano

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas

Kathleen M. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

Judy Chu

Judy Chu

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack

Sean Patrick Maloney

Sean Patrick Maloney

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

John Delaney

John Delaney

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen

Ron Kind

Ron Kind

Katherine M. Clark

Katherine Clark

Scott Peters

Scott Peters

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel

Richard E. Neal

Richard E. Neal

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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



Stephen F. Lynch



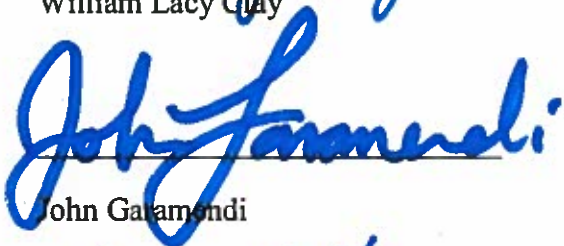
Steve Cohen



Adam B. Schiff



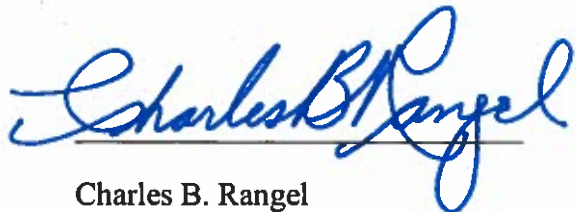
William Lacy Clay



John Garamendi




Mike Coffman



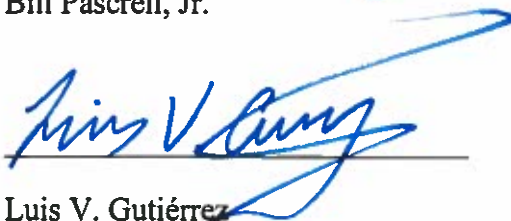
Charles B. Rangel



Diana DeGette



Bill Pascrell, Jr.




Luis V. Gutiérrez



John Conyers Jr.



Doris Matsui



John P. Sarbanes



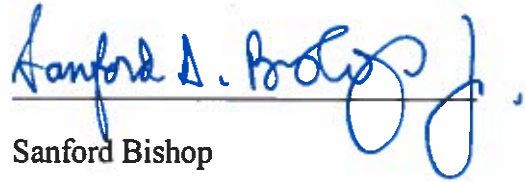
Donna F. Edwards



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



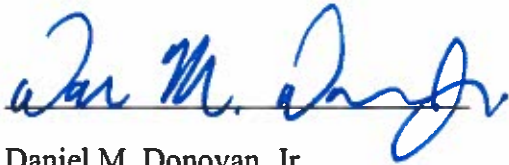
Mark DeSaulnier



Karen Bass



Robert J. Dold,



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Tammy Duckworth



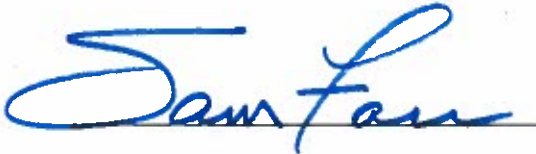
Robin L. Kelly



Anna Eshoo



Dan Kildee



Sam Farr



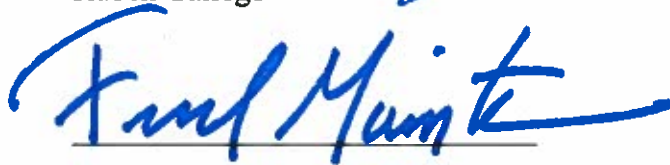
John B. Larson



Ruben Gallego



Alan Lowenthal



Frank Guinta



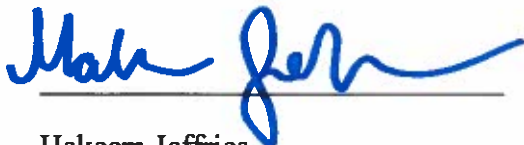
Candice Miller



Will Hurd



Donald Norcross



Hakeem Jeffries



Chellie Pingree

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson

Joe Wilson

Joe Wilson

Nydia H. Velázquez

Nydia Velázquez