

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

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 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

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 the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2016 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



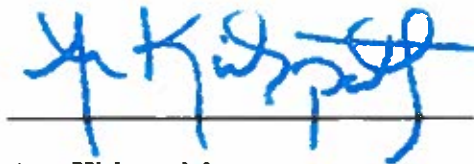
Debbie Dingell



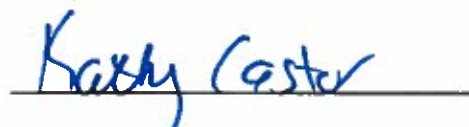
Bonnie Watson Coleman



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

Dennis Ross

Dennis Ross

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle

Cedric Richmond

Cedric Richmond

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson

Joseph P. Kennedy

Joseph P. Kennedy

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

John Lewis

John Lewis

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Mark Takai

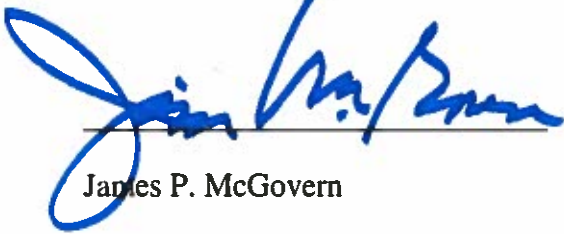
Mark Takai

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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Donald S. Beyer Jr.



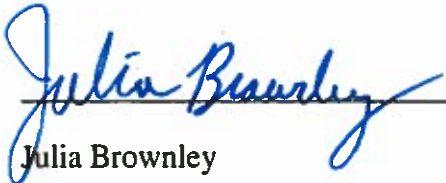
James P. McGovern



Eric Swalwell



Stacey Plaskett



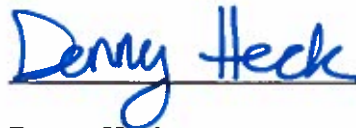
Julia Brownley



Tim Walz



Earl Blumenauer



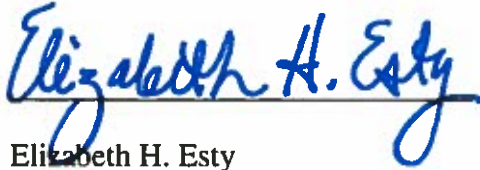
Denny Heck



Filemon Vela



Suzanne Bonamici



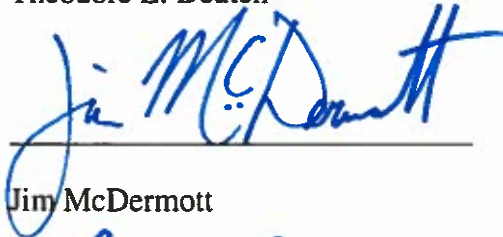
Elizabeth H. Esty



Cheri Bustos



Theodore E. Deutch



Jim McDermott



Chris Collins



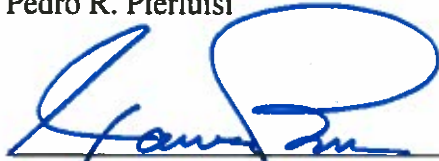
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Renee Ellmers



Pedro R. Pierluisi



Xavier Becerra



Sander Levin



Chellie Pingree




Seth Moulton



Michael E. Capuano



Jerry McNerney



Loretta Sanchez



Bill Foster



Jim Himes



Brenda Lawrence



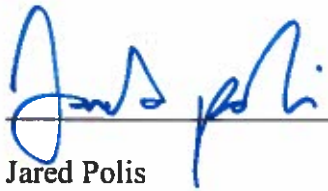
Zoe Lofgren



Ed Perlmutter



Matt Cartwright

  
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Jared Polis

  
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Ron Kind

  
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Susan Brooks

  
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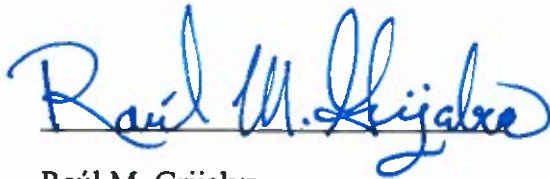
Mark Takano

  
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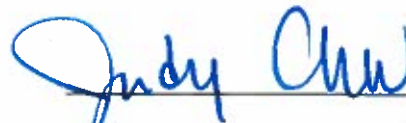
Tony Cárdenas

  
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Kathleen M. Rice

  
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Raúl M. Grijalva

  
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Judy Chu

  
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Dave Loebsack

  
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Sean Patrick Maloney

  
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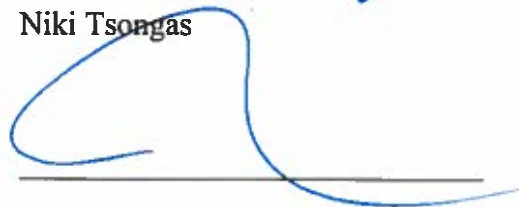
Kyrsten Sinema

  
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Niki Tsongas

  
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Tulsi Gabbard

  
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John Delaney

  
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Chris Van Hollen

  
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Katherine Clark

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush

Richard E. Neal

Richard E. Neal

Lois Capps

Lois Capps

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

David N. Cicilline

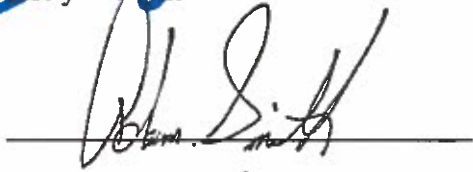
David N. Cicilline

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore



Betty McConium



Adam Smith



Chaka Fattah



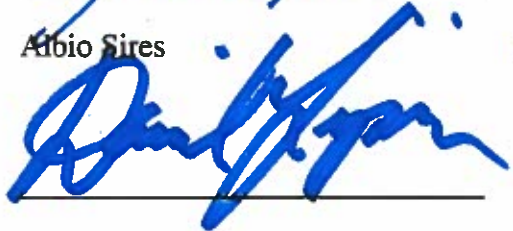
G. K. Butterfield



Don Young



Abio Sires



Daniel W. Lipinski



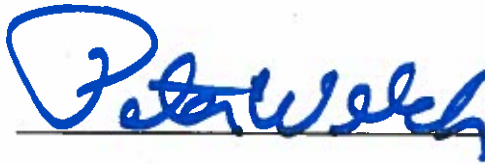
Joe Courtney



Rubén Hinojosa



Barbara Lee



Peter Welch



Carolyn B. Maloney



Tim Murphy



Marcia Fudge



Al Green



Yvette D. Clarke



Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Luis V. Gutiérrez

Luis V. Gutiérrez

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Adam B. Schiff

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John Conyers Jr.

William Lacy Clay

William Lacy Clay

Doris O. Matsui

Doris Matsui

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes

Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards

Ben Ray Luján

Ben Ray Luján

André Carson

André Carson

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Linda T. Sánchez

Linda T. Sánchez

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin

Beto O'Rourke

Beto O'Rourke