

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to urge your support for the education, workforce, and economic development needs of Americans by providing at least \$187.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Libraries serve a vital role in our communities, offering free access to essential information on a wide range of topics, skills and career training, and computing services. Every day, libraries across the country provide no-fee public access to computers and the Internet in some of our most distressed communities. According to an American Library Association (ALA) survey, 100 percent of public libraries reported offering free Internet access. In rural areas, more than 83 percent of libraries report they serve as their community's only provider of free Internet and computing services. At a time when applications for many jobs and government services must be filled out online, 90 percent of public libraries offer technology training while 76 percent help people use e-government resources.

Libraries, however, provide more than just Internet access. According to another ALA report, more than 92 percent of public libraries offer services that help patrons prepare resumes and conduct job searches. Libraries are also enabling patrons to innovate with 3-D printers and makerspaces and create business plans and growth strategies through access to specialized collections for small businesses. They also provide tailored assistance such as services to veterans to help them acquire the tools to re-integrate back into civilian life.

Moreover, libraries expose children to books and information to help them gain and enhance their literacy skills. Numerous surveys show that many of our nation's children living in poverty have very limited access to books at home. These children depend on their local libraries' story-time and summer reading programs to help them prepare to learn in school and succeed.

Unfortunately, during this time of increased demand, many libraries are facing cuts and severe budget pressures, leading to closures and reduced hours. LSTA is the only federal program that helps public libraries meet community needs, provide enhanced services through technology, reach underserved populations, and retain librarians while recruiting new entrants to this

important field. Consisting of a state formula program, which is amplified by a state match, and competitive grants, LSTA is more essential now than ever.

We greatly appreciate the support for LSTA by this Subcommittee in past years. We urge you to provide at least \$187.6 million this year, the same level provided by the bi-partisan Senate Subcommittee for FY 2018, and to prioritize funding increases for the grants to states program. Doing so will help ensure that Americans of all ages have access to libraries, Internet, and information services; the resources they need to develop literacy skills and achieve academically; and the services and tools to search for, find, and create jobs.

Thank you for your continued support in sustaining and strengthening our nation's libraries.

Sincerely,

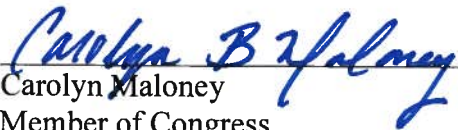
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Gregorio Kilili Camancho Sablan  
Member of Congress


  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

*Kathy Cast*

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

*Yvette D. Clarke*

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

*James R. Langevin*

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

*G. K. Butterfield*

G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

*Terrold Nadler*

Terrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

*Diana DeGette*

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

*Peter DeFazio*

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor H. Norton*

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

*Bobby L. Rush*

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

*Terri Sewell*

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

*Maxine Waters*

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

*Ben Ray Lujan*

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

*Gerard E. Connolly*

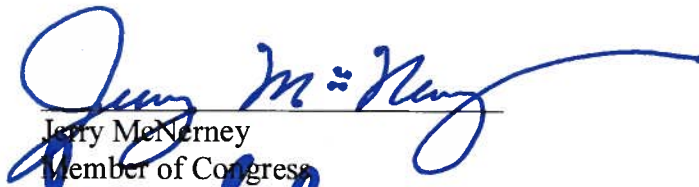
Gerard E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

*David N. Cicilline*

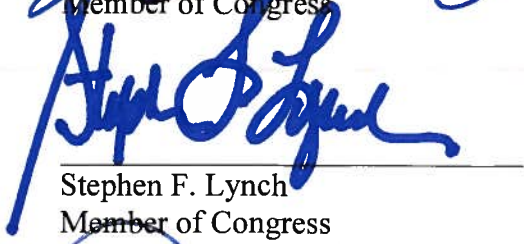
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

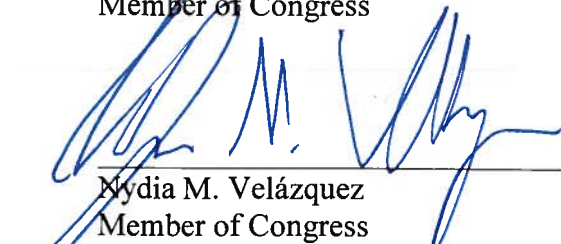
*Keith Ellison*

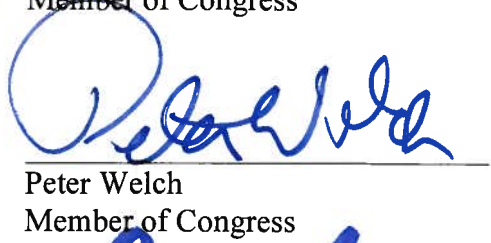
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

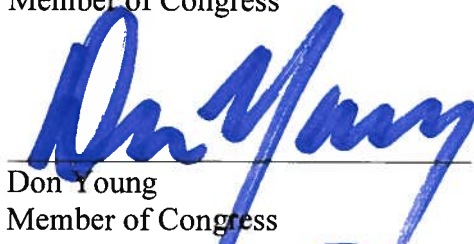
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

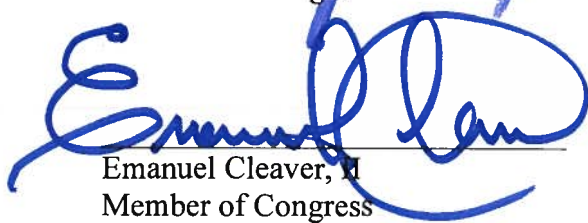
  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

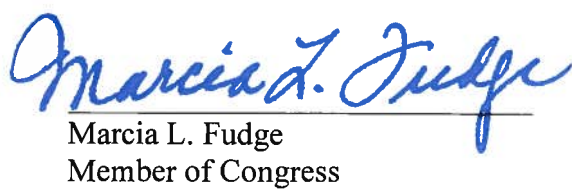
  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress


  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

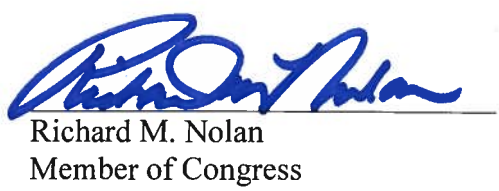
  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

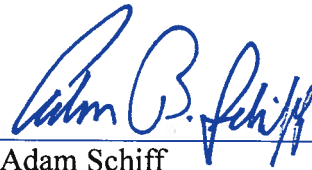
  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress





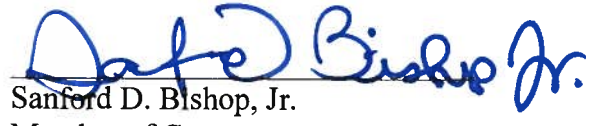
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



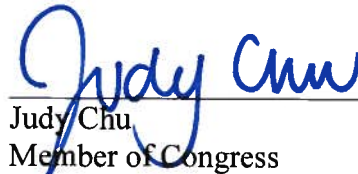
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



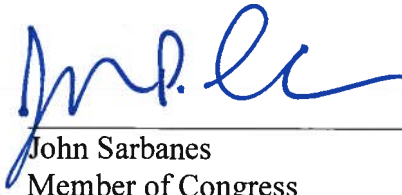
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



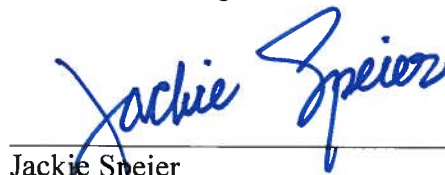
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



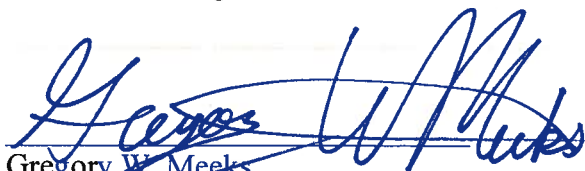
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress



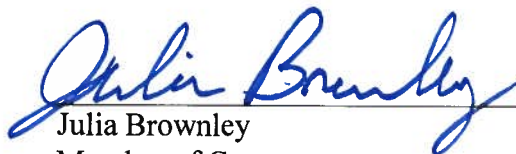
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



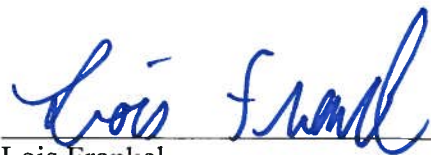
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



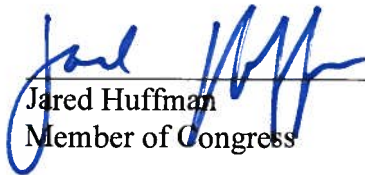
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



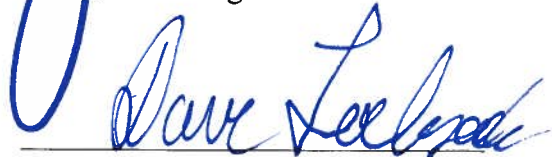
Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



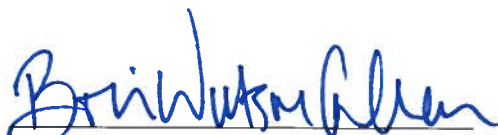
Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



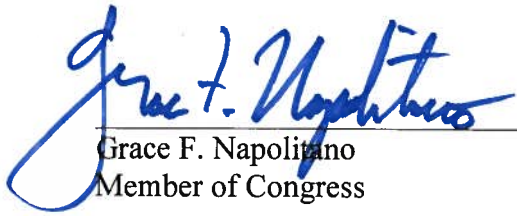
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

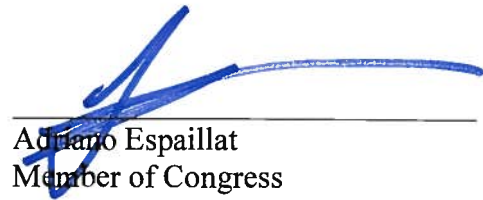


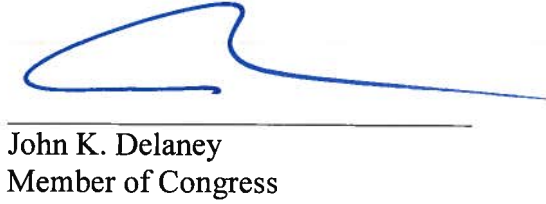
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

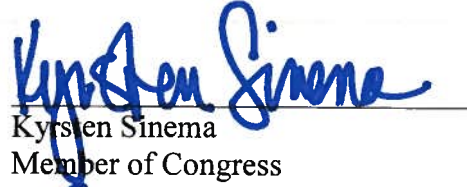


Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

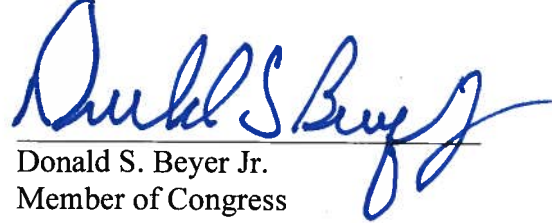
  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Vicente González  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

  
Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

  
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress





Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Alma Adams  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



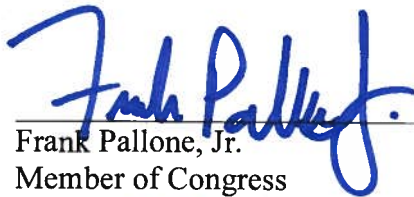
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



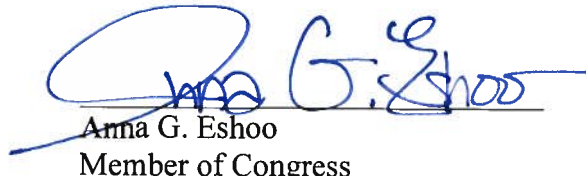
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



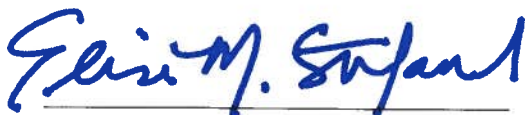
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



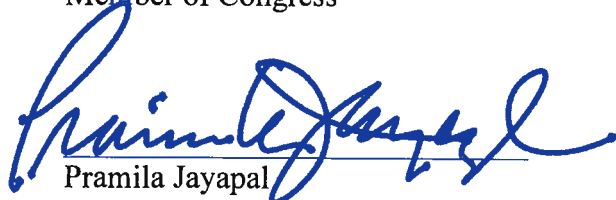
Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



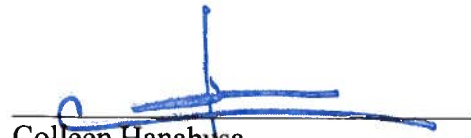
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



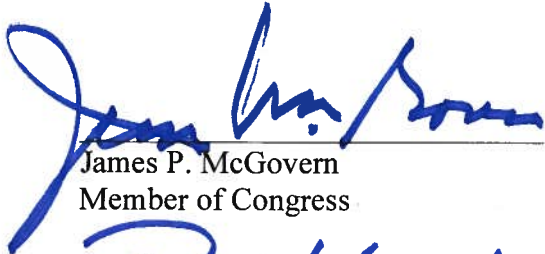
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



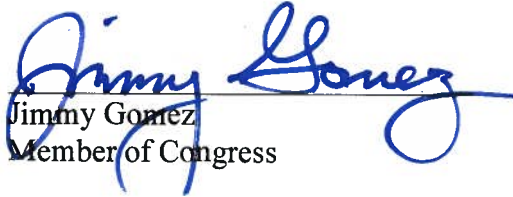
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



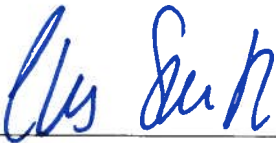
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress