

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We appreciate your past support for libraries by providing funding increases for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and urge you to provide at least \$206.4 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Your support helps ensure libraries have the resources to maintain vital services, and we urge the Subcommittee to continue its support for community libraries by providing additional federal resources.

Librarians continue to serve as a vital source of trusted information regarding COVID-19 and vaccines. Librarians are helping residents register for vaccines and obtain testing kits, including seniors and other at-risk residents. Libraries offer one-stop access to local, state, and federal public health resources homework assistance, career, and employment services, and help with emergency assistance applications. Many residents, employees and students in rural areas rely on libraries as the only resource for hotspots, tablets, and related assistance to those who lack Internet access at home.

Libraries play a vital role in our communities; they offer free access to essential information on a wide range of topics, skills and career training, and computing services. According to an American Library Association (ALA) [survey](#), nearly 100 percent of public libraries reported offering free Internet access. In rural areas, more than [83 percent of libraries](#) reported serving 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 completed online, nearly [90 percent of public libraries](#) offer technology training, and 76 percent assistance navigating digital government resources.

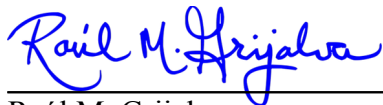
Libraries, however, provide more than just Internet access: according to another [ALA report](#), nearly all public libraries offer services which help patrons prepare resumes and conduct job searches. Libraries offer 3-D printers and makerspaces to help entrepreneurial designers innovate, and they provide access to specialized collections for small businesses. They also provide tailored assistance to help individuals, such as veterans, access earned benefits and acquire the tools to re-integrate back into civilian life.

Moreover, libraries expose children to books, digital resources, and information to help them gain and enhance their literacy skills. [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, with growing demand for services, libraries continue to face increased cuts and severe budget pressures. LSTA is more essential now than ever; it is the only federal program which helps public libraries meet community needs by providing enhanced services through technology, reach underserved populations, and retain staff while recruiting new and diverse future librarians.

We greatly appreciate the strong support for LSTA provided by this Subcommittee in recent years, including the \$197.4 million appropriated in FY 2021 and FY 2022 and urge the committee to provide at least \$206.4 million in FY 2023. Increasing funding for LSTA in FY 2023 will help ensure that Americans of all ages have access to, Internet, information services, academic and employment resources at public libraries. We encourage the Subcommittee to continue to address the ongoing needs of libraries through increasing regular annual funding.

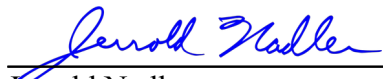
Sincerely,



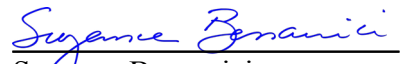
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer M.C.
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



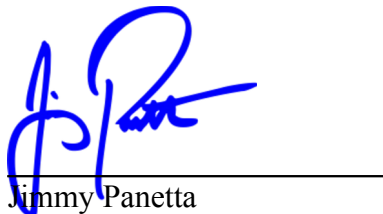
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



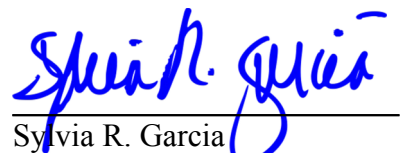
Gwen S. Moore
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Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



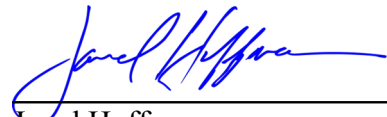
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



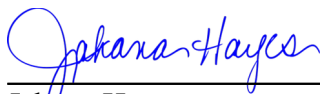
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



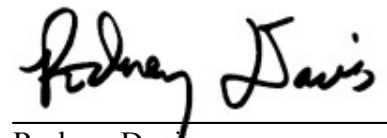
Jahana Hayes
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Peter Welch
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Rodney Davis
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Ron Kind
Member of Congress



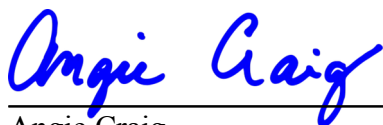
Marilyn Strickland
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Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



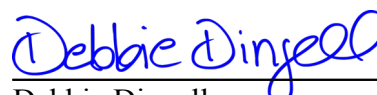
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



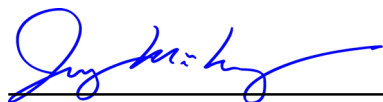
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



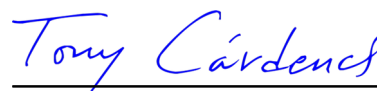
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress
, Communications and
Technology



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



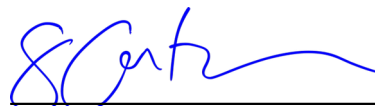
Jerry McNerney
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Tony Cárdenas
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John Yarmuth
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Sean Casten
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Adam Smith
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John P. Sarbanes
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Earl Blumenauer
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Alan Lowenthal
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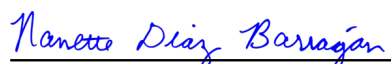
Dina Titus
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Nikema Williams
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



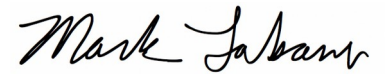
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



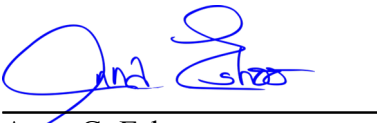
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



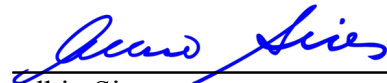
Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



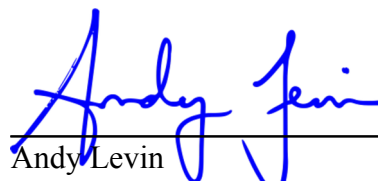
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



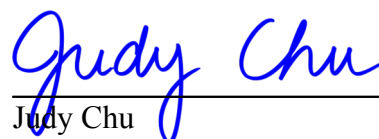
Stacey E. Plaskett
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Andy Levin
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Conor Lamb
Member of Congress




Judy Chu
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



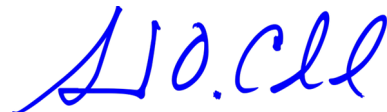
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



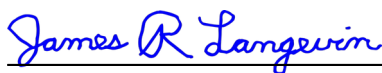
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



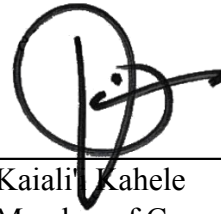
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



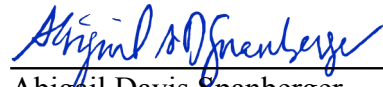
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



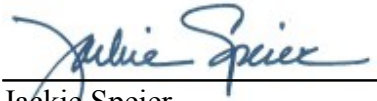
Kaiuli Kahele
Member of Congress



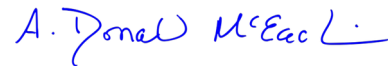
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



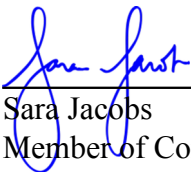
Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



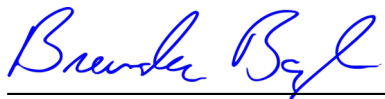
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesús G. García". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress