

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
2368-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to urge you to prioritize funding for Head Start, including implementation of the new streamlined Program Performance Standards called for in the bipartisan 2007 Head Start reauthorization, in the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Like you, we are keenly aware of the serious constraints on the federal budget generally and on the Labor-HHS bill in particular. We believe that Head Start, which offers education, health and nutrition services to economically disadvantaged children, as well as parenting and employment supports to their parents, is a wise and cost-effective investment in families and local communities. Research has amply demonstrated that high quality early childhood education programs generate a significant return on investment, and that the advantage of Head Start can last a lifetime.

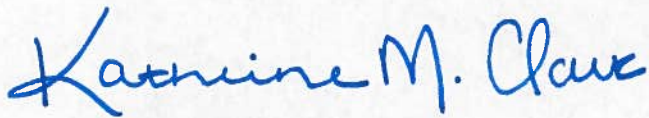
Through educational, health and comprehensive social services to children and families, Head Start promotes healthy development, school readiness, and lifetime success. It does so by tailoring high quality services to each community's local preferences and priorities. But quality comes at a cost. In FY 2018, Head Start programs will strain to pay competitive wages and retain highly qualified staff. Implementation of the new performance standards will further enhance Head Start quality and improve child outcomes if properly resourced. The new performance standards emphasize local flexibility to respond to the needs of families by adding additional program hours and days so parents can work; serving more infants and toddlers; requiring more extensive background checks on Head Start staff; and elevating teacher quality through real-time mentoring and coaching.

Head Start represents our nation's commitment to building strong families and communities, and to breaking the cycle of poverty that prevents too many children from achieving their God-given potential. Head Start graduates score higher on school readiness measures such as verbal achievement, perceptual reasoning, and social competence than their peers who do not attend

preschool. For every dollar invested in Head Start children and families, the country realizes almost nine dollars in benefits through increased earning, decreased welfare dependence, and reduced reliance on other social programs.

We respectfully request that the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies mark maintain or increase the current number of children and families served while supporting progress on implementation of the new performance standards so that Head Start can continue to provide much-needed education, health and economic development services to America's most vulnerable children and families.

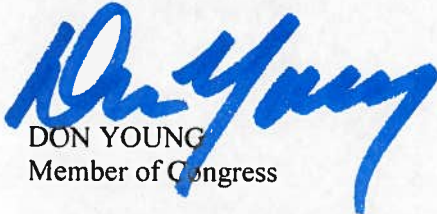
Sincerely,



KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS, CPA
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



SUSAN BROOKS
Member of Congress



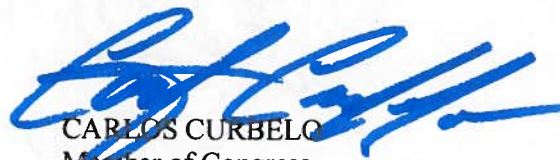
DAN DONOVAN
Member of Congress



JOHN FASO
Member of Congress



RYAN COSTELLO
Member of Congress



CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
ERIC SWALWELL
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John Yarmuth
JOHN YARMUTH
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Donald Payne, Jr.
DONALD PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress

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ANN MCLANE KUSTER
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Josh Gottheimer
JOSH GOTTHEIMER
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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
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ELIZABETH ESTY
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ALMA ADAMS
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David Scott
DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

Daniel J. Kildee
DAN KILDEE
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Jimmy Panetta
JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

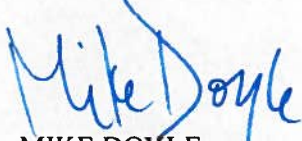
Mike Thompson
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



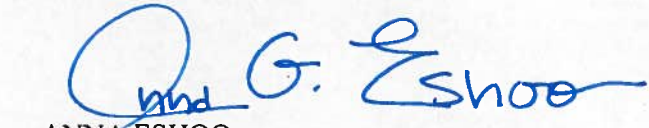
TED LIEU
Member of Congress



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ANNA ESHOO
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RUBEN J. KIHUEN
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DONALD MCEACHIN
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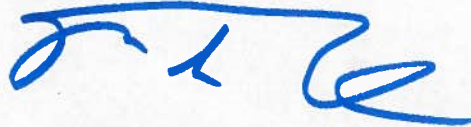
STACEY PLASKETT
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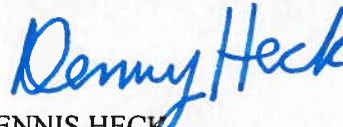
JOHN LEWIS
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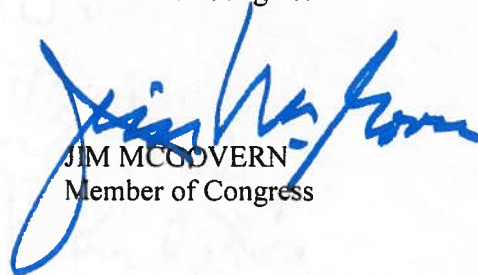
JAMIE RASKIN
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JOSEPH KENNEDY III
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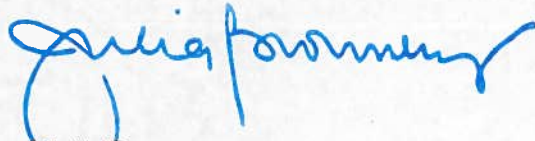


FILEMON VELA
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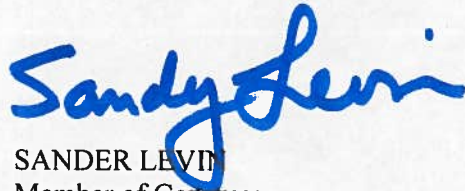

RUBEN GALLEGO
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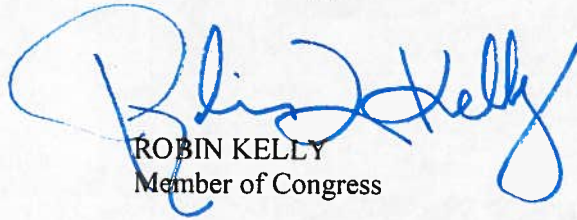
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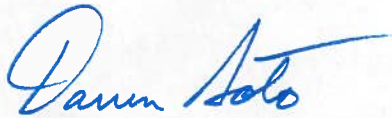
ED PERLMUTTER
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MARK TAKANO
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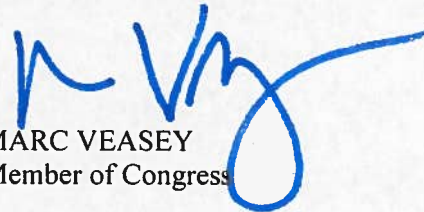
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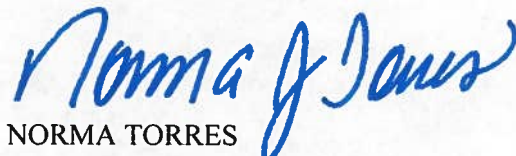
HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



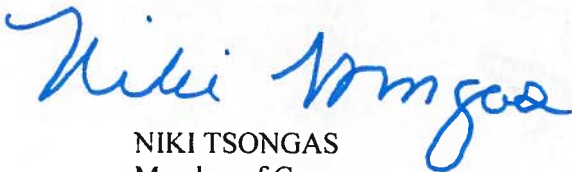
GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



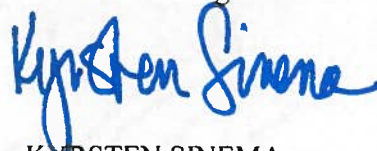
JOHN DELANEY
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NORMA TORRES
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KYRSTEN SINEMA
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JARED POLIS
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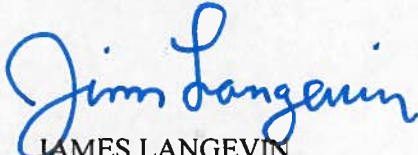
ROBERT BRADY
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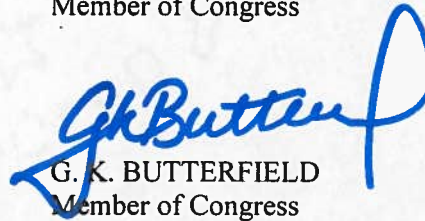
KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress



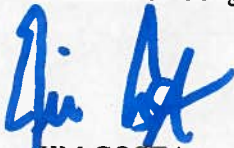
YVETTE D. CLARKE
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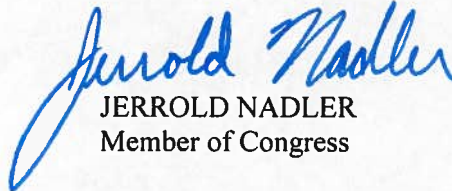
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ANDRÉ CARSON
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CHELLIE PINGREE
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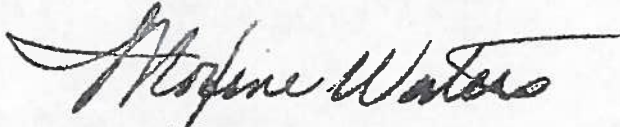
ELIJAH CUMMINGS
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
Member of Congress

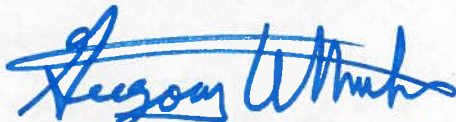

BOBBY RUSH
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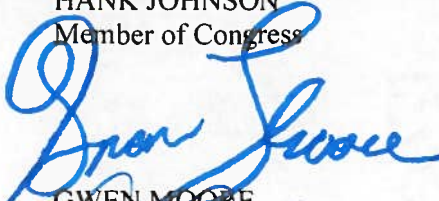

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GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress

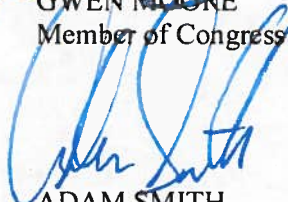

GERRY CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

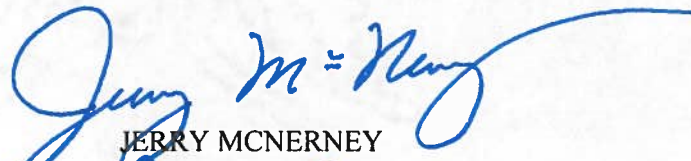

HANK JOHNSON
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DAVID CICILLINE
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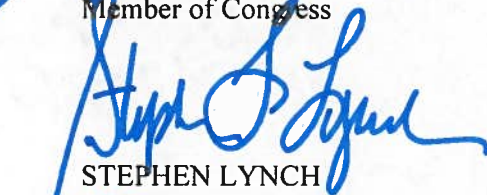

GWEN MOORE
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KEITH ELLISON
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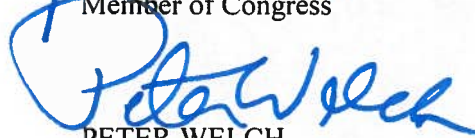

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JERRY MCNERNEY
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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress


STEPHEN LYNCH
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NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

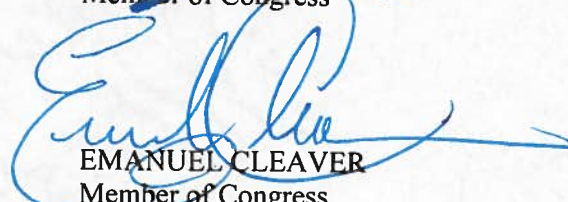

LLOYD DOGGETT
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CAROLYN MALONEY
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DORIS MATSUI
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Member of Congress


LINDA SÁNCHEZ
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EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

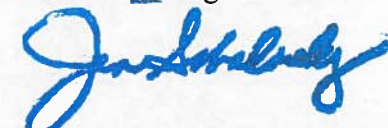

MARCIA FUDGE
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AL GREEN
Member of Congress


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

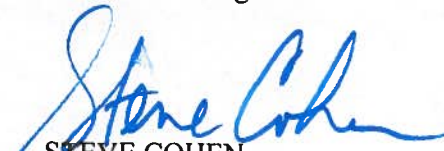

BILL KEATING
Member of Congress

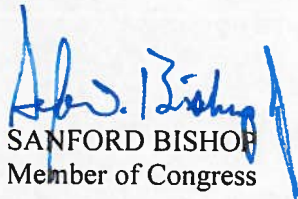

RICHARD M. NOLAN
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JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

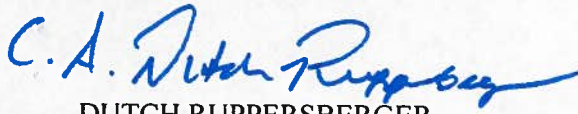

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ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress


STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



SANFORD BISHOP
Member of Congress


GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress


DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress


JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress


WILLIAM LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress

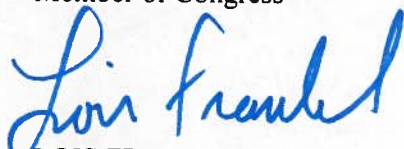

JOHN GARAMENDI
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MADELEINE BORDALLO
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SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress


JOHN SARBANES
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FREDERICA WILSON
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LOIS FRANKEL
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DINA TITUS
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Bennie Thompson

BENNIE THOMPSON
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Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
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THOMAS SUOZZI
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EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
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Gene Green

GENE GREEN
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DANIEL LIPINSKI
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