

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

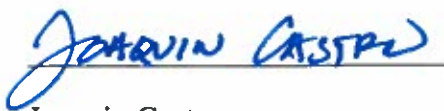
As the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee develops its Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to fund the Preschool Development Grant program at \$350 million. We appreciate the Subcommittee's commitment to this program as demonstrated through the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process and hope to build on its success in the coming fiscal year.

When the Preschool Development Grant program first began in 2013, 36 states applied and, due to the limited availability of funds, the Department of Education awarded only 18 states with four-year grants to either expand or improve high quality, full-day preschool programming. These competitive grants made it possible for states like Alabama, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Virginia to bolster preschool programs for children and bring high-quality programming to communities across the country that lacked such access. To date, the grants have served more than 130,000 children.

We were pleased that Congress authorized Preschool Development Grants in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at \$250 million per fiscal year (P.L. 114-95). The inclusion of Preschool Development Grants in ESSA builds upon the solid body of research that says high-quality preschool improves school readiness and long-term academic success of children by supporting their academic and social-emotional skills. Support for this grant is an important step to fostering a globally competitive 21st century workforce. Under ESSA, all states are now eligible to apply for a Preschool Development Grant. However, we urge you to provide funding above the authorized amount so every state that meets the grant's requirements can receive adequate funding.

We respectfully request that the Subcommittee fund this program at \$350 million to help states develop comprehensive early learning systems that will serve children in high-need communities across the country.

Sincerely,



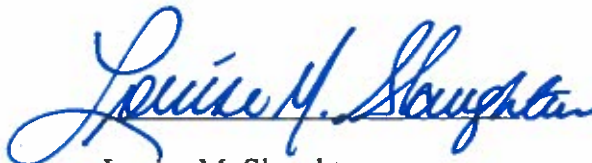
Joaquin Castro



John Katko



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Louise M. Slaughter



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Yvette D. Clarke



Mark Takano



Chellie Pingree



Richard M. Nolan



Kathleen M. Rice



Alcee L. Hastings



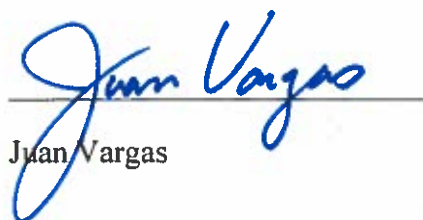
Mark Pocan



Albio Sires



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Juan Vargas



Gregory W. Meeks

Mark DeSic

Mark DeSaulnier

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

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Bonnie Watson Coleman

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Stephen F. Lynch

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Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

Darren Soto

Darren Soto

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Tom O'Halleran

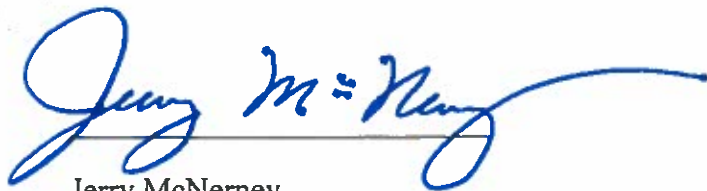
Tom O'Halleran



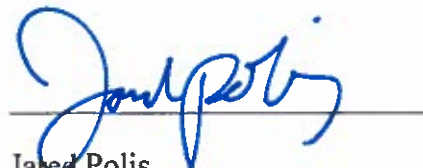
Lois Frankel



Danny R. Davis



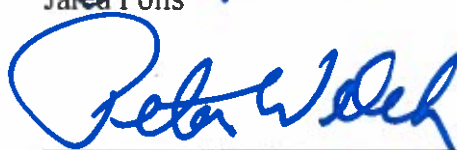
Jerry McNerney



Jared Polis



Anthony Brown



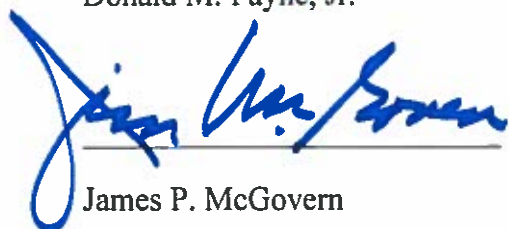
Peter Welch



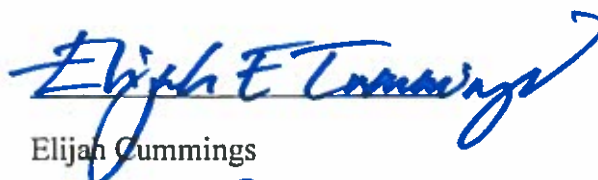
Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Keith Ellison



James P. McGovern



Elijah Cummings



Suzanne Bonamici



Kyrsten Sinema



Jacky Rosen



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



A. Donald McEachin



David N. Cicilline



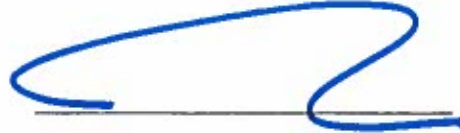
Al Green



Jamie Raskin



Pramila Jayapal



John K. Delaney



Frederica S. Wilson



Barbara Lee



Ryan A. Costello