

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

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:

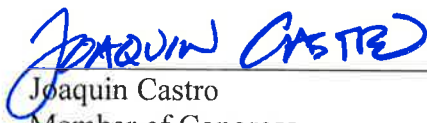
As the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee develops its Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to fund the Preschool Development Grant program at \$350 million. We appreciate the Subcommittee's commitment to this program as demonstrated through the Fiscal Year 2018 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
Member of Congress



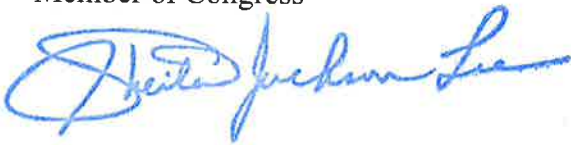
John Katko
Member of Congress



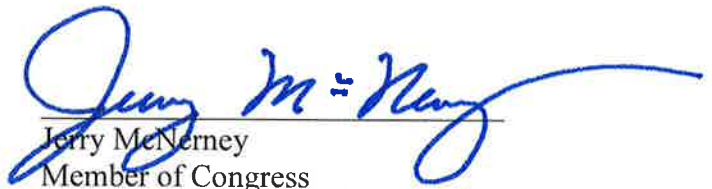
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



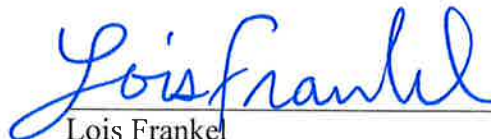
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



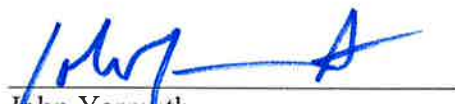
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



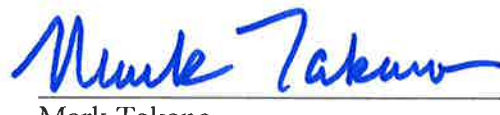
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



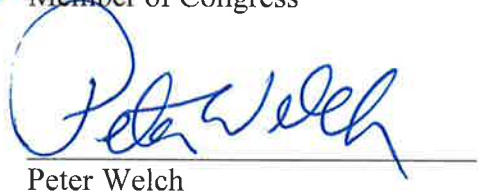
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



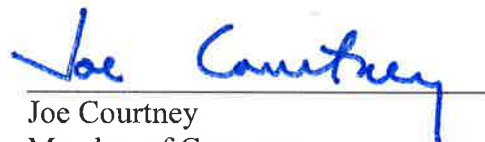
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



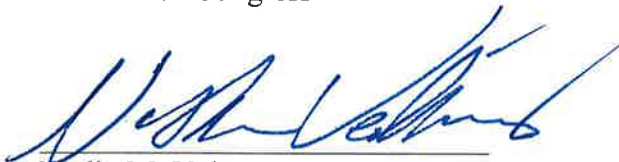
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



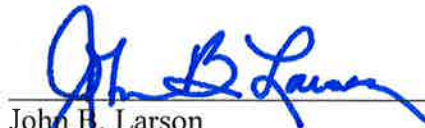
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



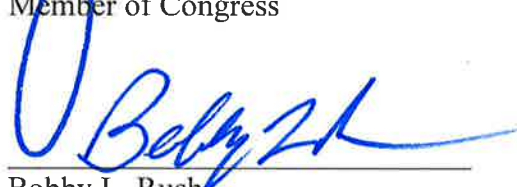
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



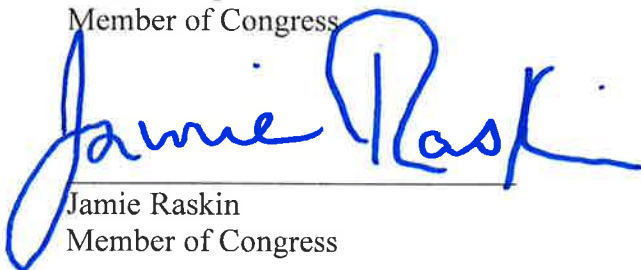
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



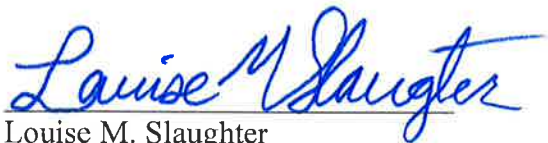
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



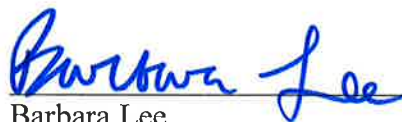
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



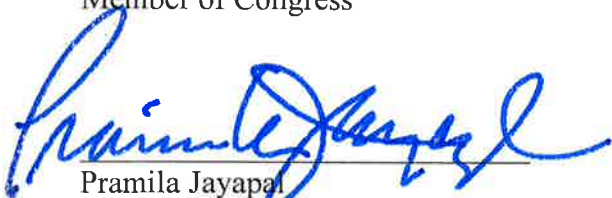
Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



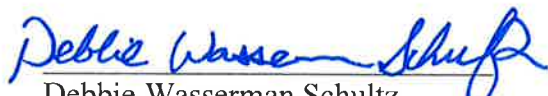
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



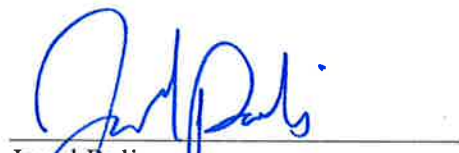
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



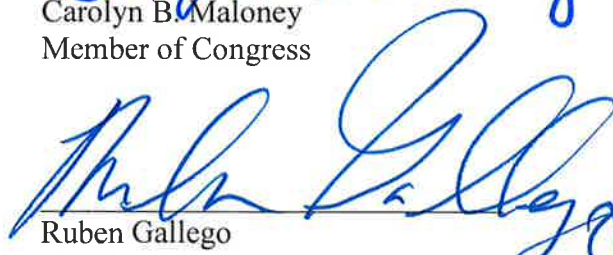
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress