

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support robust funding for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) program. We appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for this program and the critical role it plays in expanding state and local capacity to provide high quality early care and education for children, and we hope to continue to build upon this support.

Congress established the PDG B-5 program in 2015 through the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), marking the first time that Congress dedicated specific funds to promote access to high-quality early childhood education as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The PDG B-5 program affirms both the importance of early learning in advancing equitable access to education and the central role of states in leading early childhood coordination and quality efforts. The program also represents a unique opportunity for the federal government to support state investments and initiatives as they consider how to best align and continue to grow their early learning systems. States and territories use the PDG B-5 grant to build capacity, create infrastructure, pilot new work, and provide direct services to meet identified needs of their children and families. The competitive grant program has traditionally offered three funding tracks: one-year Planning Grants to conduct a needs assessments of child care and early learning in a state and then develop a strategic plan, and three-year Renewal Grants which help grantees implement their strategic plan.

The PDG B-5 program empowers states to increase the quality and efficiency of existing early learning programs and systems, while thinking strategically about how to optimize federal and state funding streams. To date, 49 of the 50 states, Washington, DC, and four territories have participated, and most have applied for multiple rounds of funding to strengthen their early childhood care and education systems. PDG B-5 grants are currently being used to build and streamline online portals to eliminate duplicative processes; provide families with comprehensive inventories of early childhood education programs; and simplify application, eligibility, and enrollment processes for families seeking child care. States continue to demonstrate successful utilization of this program to

reach more children and families, whether by shifting resources to where they're most needed or realizing efficiencies within their existing systems.

We were glad to see the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announce a new round of funding opportunities in November 2025, for states and territories to carry out the Systems-Building Grants, which focus on maximizing parent choice, expanding access through mixed-delivery systems, and improving coordination, efficiency, and quality across early childhood systems. We look forward to seeing how grantees use these resources to strengthen and expand quality child care and early learning programs across the United States.

Congress has a unique opportunity to continue to foster state-led early learning initiatives by providing additional federal investments for this critical program to ensure all states and territories have the resources they need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their early learning and child care programs. We respectfully request that the Subcommittee include robust funding for the PDG B-5 program to allow all states and territories the opportunity to move forward in their development of comprehensive early learning systems.


Sincerely,




Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



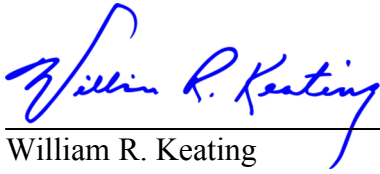
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Sarah Elfreth
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Richard E. Neal
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William R. Keating
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Jason Crow
Member of Congress



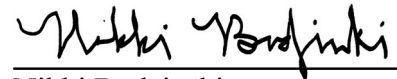
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



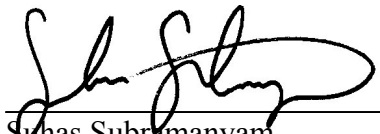
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



David Scott
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



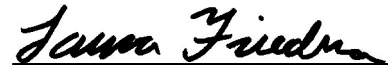
Lori Trahan
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Sara Jacobs
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Dan Goldman
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Laura Friedman
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Ayanna Pressley
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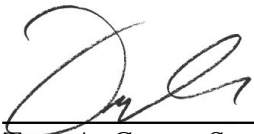
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



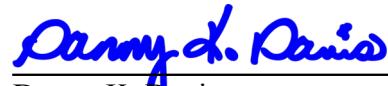
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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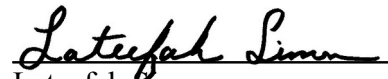
Val Hoyle
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George Whitesides
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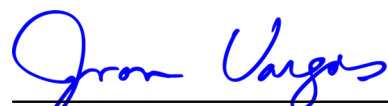
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
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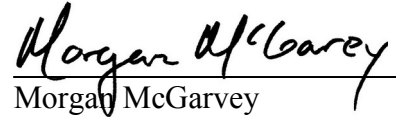
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



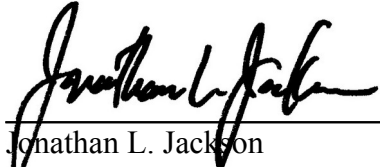
Juan Vargas
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Eric Sorensen
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Morgan McGarvey
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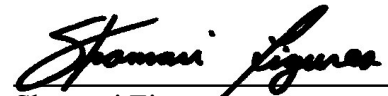
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



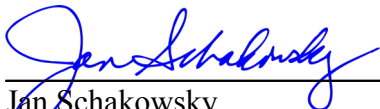
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



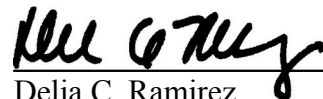
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



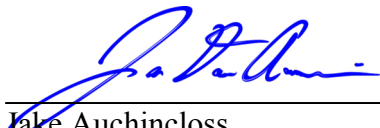
Shomari Figures
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Delia C. Ramirez
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Jake Auchincloss
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Gwen S. Moore
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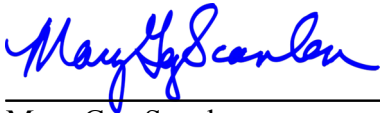
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



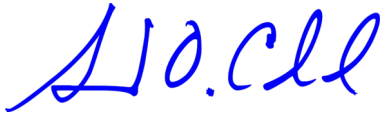
Julia Brownley
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Joe Courtney
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Salud Carbajal
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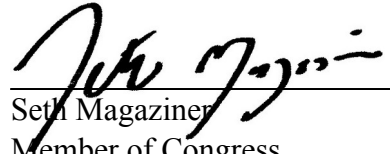
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
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Chris Deluzio
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Seth Magaziner
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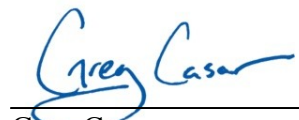
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



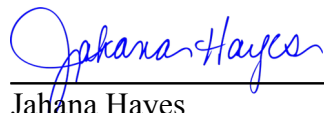
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
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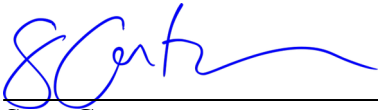
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
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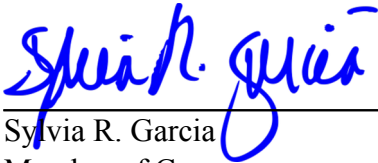
James P. McGovern
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Sean Casten
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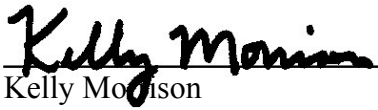
Marilyn Strickland
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Robert J. Menendez
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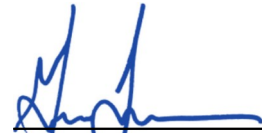
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



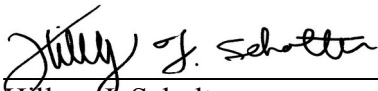
Maxine Dexter
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Steve Cohen
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Greg Landsman
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Shri Thanedar
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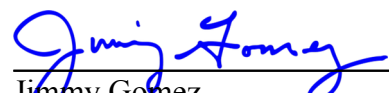
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



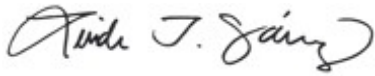
Mark DeSaulnier
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Nellie Pou
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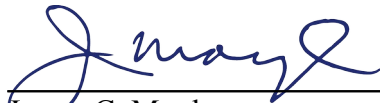
Jimmy Gomez
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Summer L. Lee
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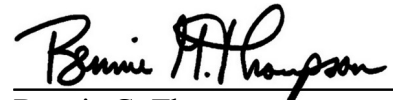
James C. Moylan
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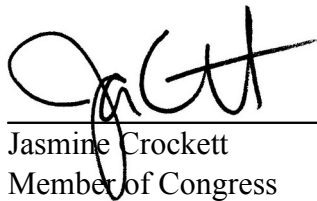
Stacey E. Plaskett
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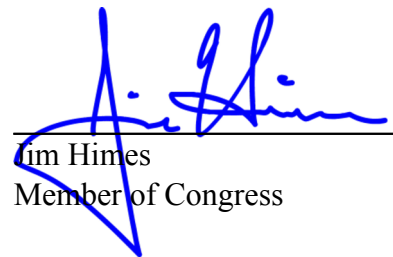
André Carson
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Bennie G. Thompson
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Jasmine Crockett
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Tim Himes
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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April McClain Delaney
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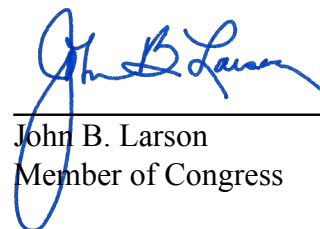
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



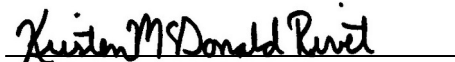
Greg Stanton
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Mark Takano
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John B. Larson
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Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



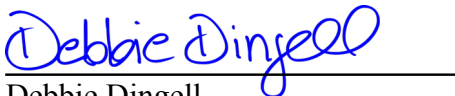
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
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