

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We write to urge your support for the education, workforce, and economic development needs of Americans by providing a \$17 million increase from the current level of \$189.3 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the fiscal year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. This amount is necessary to implement changes included in the recently enacted Museum and Library Services Act.

Libraries serve a vital role in our communities, offering 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, 100 percent of public libraries reported offering free Internet access. In rural areas, more than 83 percent of libraries report they serve 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 filled out online, 90 percent of public libraries offer technology training and 76 percent help people use e-government resources. And, as the 2020 census prepares to go paperless, libraries are gearing up to assist patrons in responding online.

Libraries, however, provide more than just Internet access. According to another ALA report, more than 92 percent of public libraries offer services that help patrons prepare resumes and conduct job searches. Libraries help entrepreneurs innovate with 3-D printers and makerspaces and create business plans and growth strategies through access to specialized collections for small businesses. They also provide tailored assistance such as services to veterans to help them access earned benefits and acquire the tools to re-integrate back into civilian life.

Moreover, libraries expose children to books and information to help them gain and enhance their literacy skills. Numerous 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, during this time of increased demand, many libraries continue to face cuts and severe budget pressures, leading to closures, reduced hours, and/or staff reductions. LSTA is the only federal program that helps public libraries meet community needs, provide enhanced services through technology, reach underserved populations, and retain librarians while recruiting new entrants to this important field. Consisting of a state formula program, which is

amplified by a state match, and competitive grants, LSTA is more essential now than ever. With the recently enacted Museum and Library Services Act, Congress strengthened LSTA to support data driven tools to tailor services to address and meet community needs, help libraries prepare for and provide services after a disaster or emergency, enhance services for Native Americans, and recruit and train library and information science professionals from a broad range of backgrounds. The new law also enables increases in the Grants to States program to be shared more broadly across states, while ensuring no state loses funding.

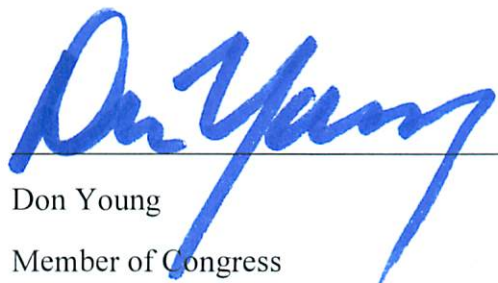
Increasing funding for LSTA, by providing a \$17 million increase for the Grants to States program, will help ensure that Americans of all ages have access to libraries, Internet, and information services; the resources they need to develop literacy skills and achieve academically; and the services and tools to search for, find, and create jobs.

Thank you for your attention to this request and your continued support in sustaining and strengthening our nation's libraries.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



Colin Allred  
Member of Congress




Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



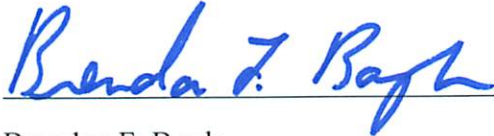
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

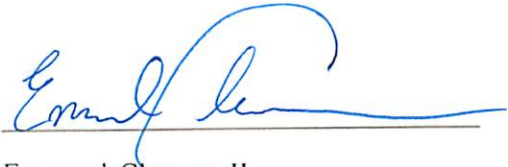


David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress





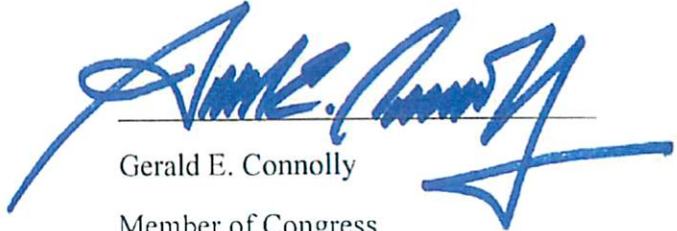
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Sharice Davids  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



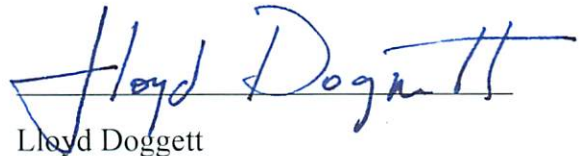
Antonio R. Delgado  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



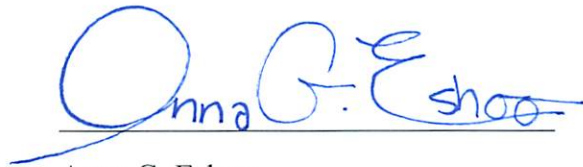
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



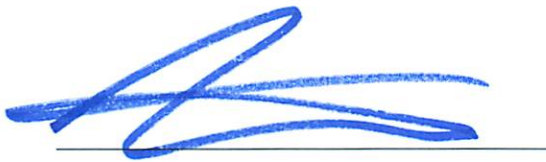
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi

Member of Congress



Jared Golden

Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez

Member of Congress



Jennifer González-Colón

Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer

Member of Congress



Al Green

Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings

Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes

Member of Congress



Denny Heck

Member of Congress



Brian Higgins

Member of Congress



Jim Himes

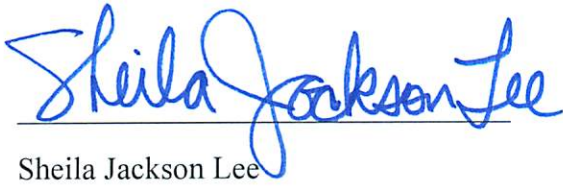
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford

Member of Congress





---

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



---

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



---

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



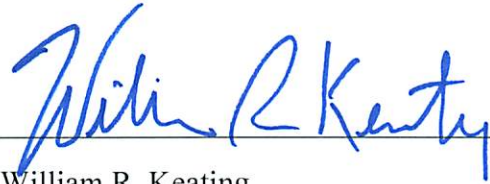
---

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

John Katko  
Member of Congress



---

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



---

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



---

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



---

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



---

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



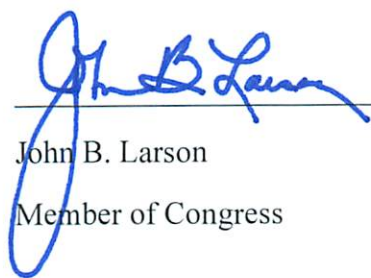
---

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



---

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



---

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



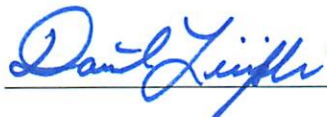
---

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



---

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress



---

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



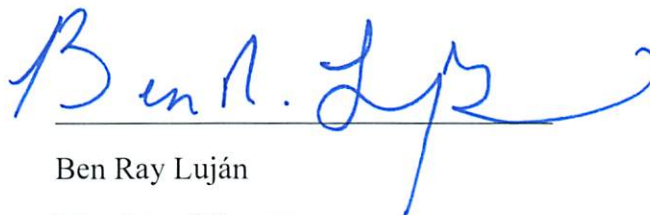
---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



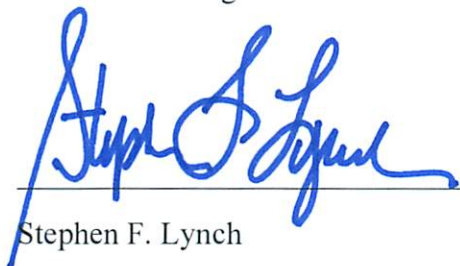
---

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



---

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



---

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



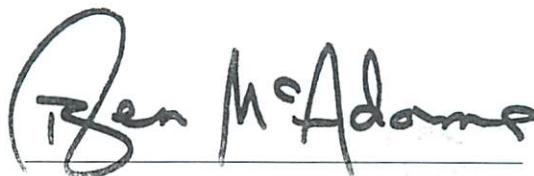
---

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



---

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



---

Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

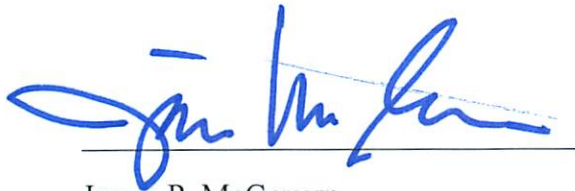


  
M.C.

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



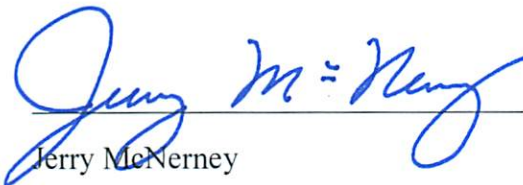
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNeerney  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



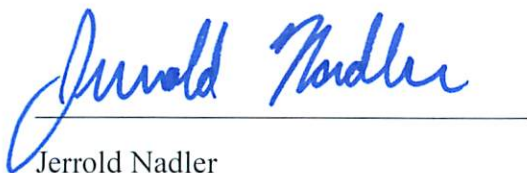
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



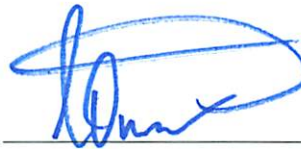
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress




Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree

Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett

Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley

Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin

Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond

Member of Congress



Harley Rouda

Member of Congress



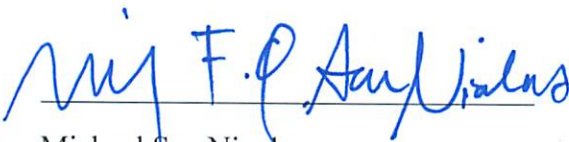
Dutch Ruppersberger

Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Member of Congress



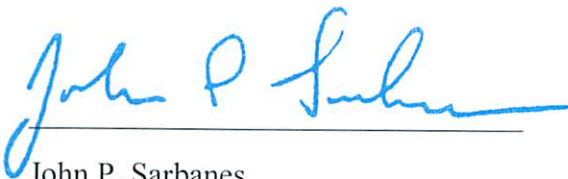
Michael San Nicolas

Member of Congress



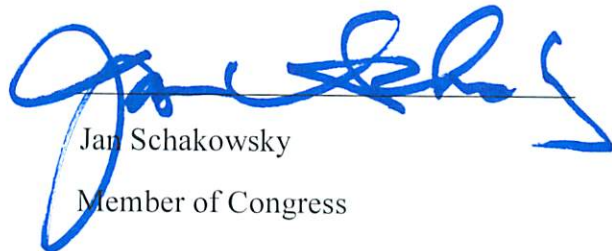
Linda T. Sánchez

Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes

Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress





Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress




Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



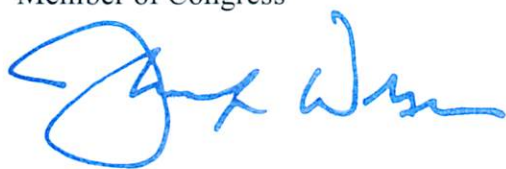
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



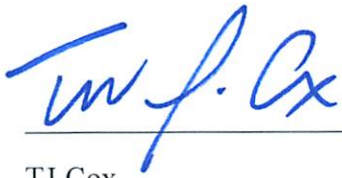
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



TJ Cox

Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush

Member of Congress



Jared Huffman

Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib

Member of Congress



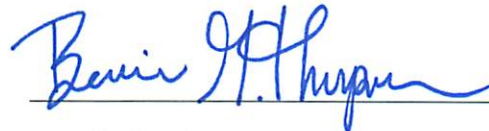
Joe Neguse

Member of Congress



Dan Kildee

Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson

Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez

Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings

Member of Congress