

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

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
1016 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

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

As you work on the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, we strongly urge you to include the President's request of \$9.6 billion for the Head Start program.

We understand the serious constraints on the federal budget, however funding for a high performing federal program, like Head Start, is a critical investment in our children's future and the prosperity of our country. Requirements from the 2007 reauthorization significantly increased the number of teachers with BA or advanced degrees from 38% to 73%. Additionally, all programs are now required to use scientifically-valid curricula and programs that fail to meet rigorous standards and measures are required to compete for their grants. However, despite these increasing requirements, Head Start programs have not seen adequate increases to meet the rising costs of quality. In order to ensure Head Start's continued success with children and their families each year, we must commit to providing adequate funding for Head Start through the annual budget and appropriations process.

The purpose of Head Start is to improve the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development in a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, and physical skills. Year after year, Head Start programs around the nation have served this purpose and transformed the lives of children and their families in dramatic ways. Enrollment in Head Start can break the cycle of poverty that affects too many

American families. Children who are in the program are better prepared to learn and have higher self-esteem and more advanced social behavior when they enter school. They also score higher on school readiness measures such as verbal achievement, perceptual reasoning, and social competence than children who did not attend preschool.

The most efficient way to reduce the achievement gap between certain affluent and disadvantaged students in the 12th grade is to reduce the achievement gaps that exist in the 1st grade. Head Start also creates an economic benefit for the country; for every dollar spent on Head Start, the country realizes almost nine dollars in benefits through participants' increased earnings, decreased welfare dependence, and other factors.

Thus, we respectfully request that the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee mark include Head Start program funding at \$9.6 billion. Head Start is an investment in our future that merits adequate funding so the program can continue to provide much needed education and health services to America's most vulnerable children.

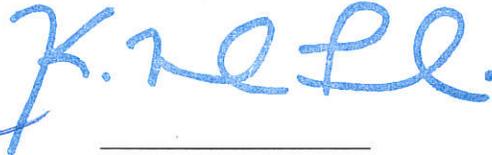
Sincerely,


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

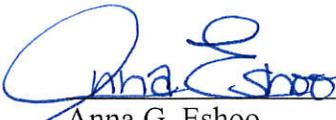

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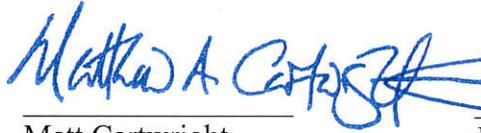
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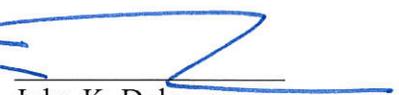
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Xavier Becerra
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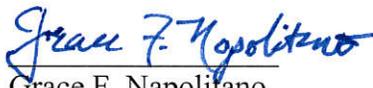
Matt Cartwright
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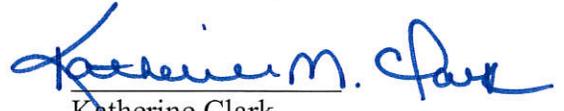
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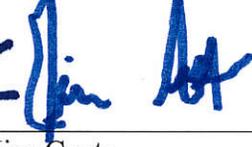
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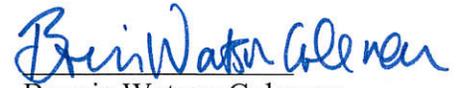


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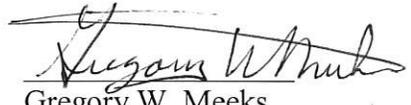
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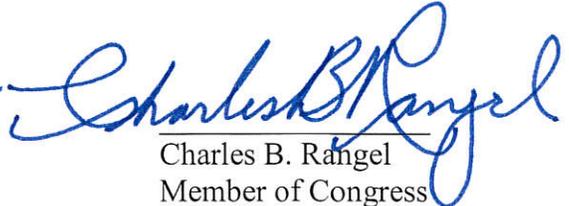
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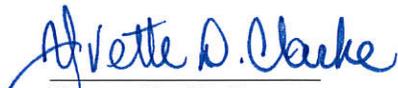
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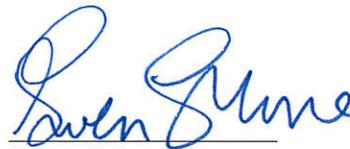


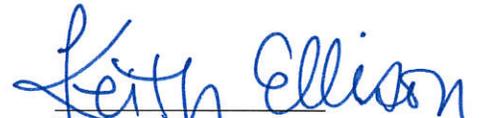
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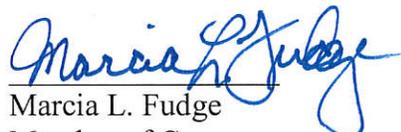

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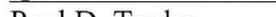

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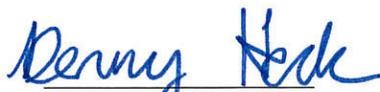

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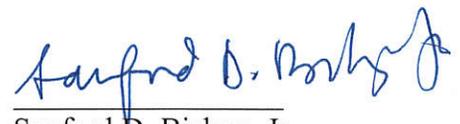

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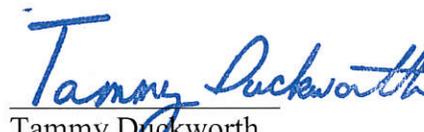

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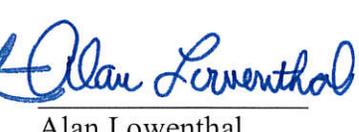

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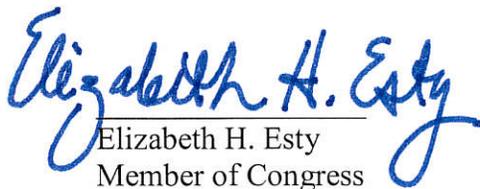

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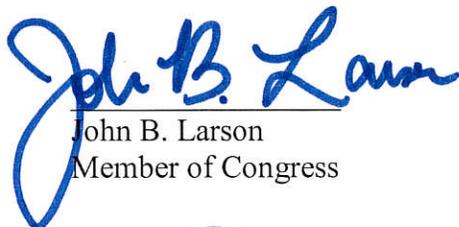

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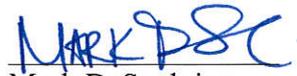

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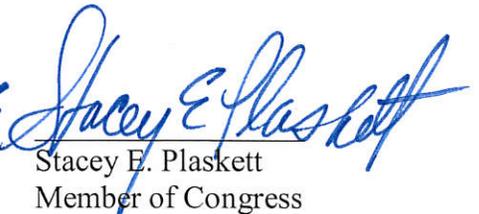

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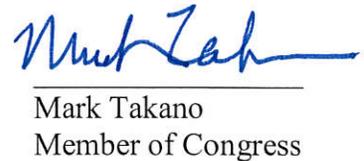

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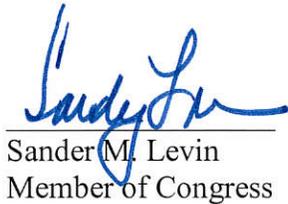

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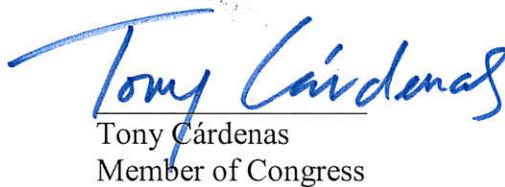

Juan Vargas
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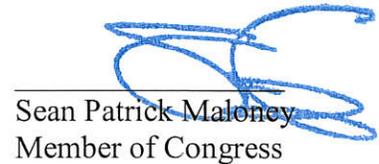

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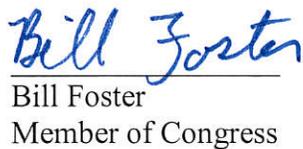

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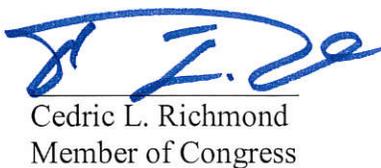

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Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah
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Frederica S. Wilson
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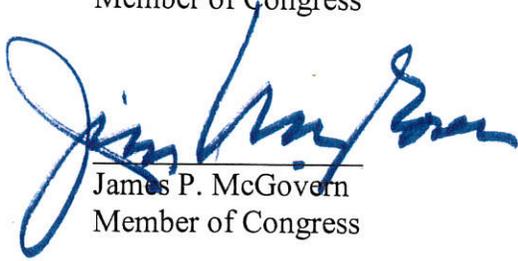
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



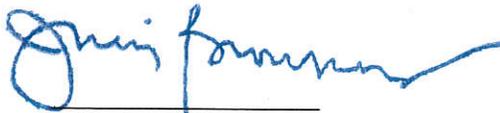
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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress