

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Financial Services
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Financial Services
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing to let you know of our strong support for funding the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program at the highest possible level in FY 2014, to include funding from within the total amount appropriated for the training and technical assistance authorized by section 805 of P.L. 109-469.

This program warrants the highest possible funding level in FY 2014 because it has proven effective in reducing youth drug use and has the potential to do more. Indeed, the DFC program historically has only been able to fund one-third of qualified applicants—at a time when the drug problem is increasing.

A national evaluation of the DFC program, conducted by ICF International, found that DFC coalitions have achieved significant reductions in youth substance abuse. In those communities where DFC coalitions exist, prevalence of past 30 day use of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco declined significantly across all school levels (middle and high school).

The program has achieved impressive outcomes in communities throughout the country:

- In LaBelle, FL, the Drug Free Hendry County Coalition contributed to a **13.9% decrease** in past 30 day use of marijuana among middle school students, from 7.2% in 2010 to 6.2% in 2012.
- In Lakeland, FL, the Stand Up Polk Coalition contributed to a **47.6% decrease** in past 30 day use of marijuana among middle school students, from 8.2% in 2006 to 4.3% in 2010.
- In Binghamton, NY, the KYDS Coalition contributed to a **25% decrease** in lifetime use of marijuana among 7th to 12th graders, from 28% in 2002 to 21% in 2012.
- In Carmel, NY, the Putnam County Communities That Care Coalition contributed to a **34.4% decrease** in past 30 day use of prescription narcotics among 8th – 12th graders, from 3.2% in 2005 to 2.1% in 2012.

Other community anti-drug coalitions nationwide are achieving similar results (please see attachment).

At the same time that the DFC program is achieving measureable results at the local level, youth drug use is on the rise nationally. In fact, the latest (2012) Monitoring the Future study found that nationally: more 8th, 10th and 12th grade students are smoking marijuana than cigarettes every 30 days; 6.5% of high school seniors reported daily marijuana use, among the highest levels in 30 years; the percentage of 12th graders reporting the nonmedical use of

Adderall in the past year increased by 16.9% in one year (between 2011 and 2012); and 1 in 9 12th graders have used K2/spice in the past year.

In addition, the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs is now the nation's fastest growing drug problem, and the Centers for Disease Control have classified it as an epidemic. The misuse and abuse of prescription drugs now kills more people than traffic accidents, and, according to the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, when added together, the number of initiates for the nonmedical use of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives is higher than the number of initiates for marijuana.

Preventing youth drug use is especially important in light of recent research funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, which found that those youth who were early, persistent marijuana users showed a **permanent drop in IQ of 8 points**. A loss of 8 IQ points could drop a person of average intelligence into the lowest third of the intelligence range. This research held true, even when controlled for factors such as socioeconomic status. Considering that 6.5% of high school seniors are already smoking marijuana on a daily basis, and are therefore at risk of lowering their IQ scores, we must focus on preventing youth drug use if the United States wants to remain a global leader.

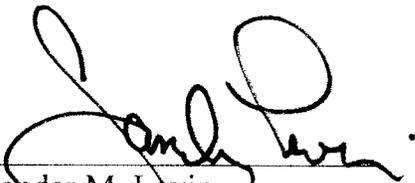
Given the host of negative consequences associated with youth drug use, it should come as no surprise that youth drug use is a top concern for Americans. According to an August 2012 C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health, for the fourth year in a row, a representative sample of American adults aged 18 and older rated drug abuse a top health concern facing America's youth.

The DFC program is uniquely structured to ensure effectiveness, outcomes and sustainability. It requires a community to demonstrate local commitment before becoming eligible to receive federal funds. All grantees are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal funds, up to the maximum grant amount of \$125,000 per year. The required emphasis on local data collection, community buy-in and participation among multiple sectors, including schools, law enforcement, parents, media and business, is a key to DFC coalitions being able to achieve outcomes in reducing youth drug use rates. This emphasis also allows DFC coalitions to respond rapidly and effectively at the local level to address new and emerging drug trends such as meth, K2, spice, bath salts and the misuse and abuse of prescription drug abuse.

Considering that the DFC program has successfully reduced substance use/abuse at the local level, even as rates at the national level are rising, it is absolutely essential that this program is funded at the highest possible level in FY 2014. This will ensure the maximum number of communities are equipped to effectively reduce youth drug use.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

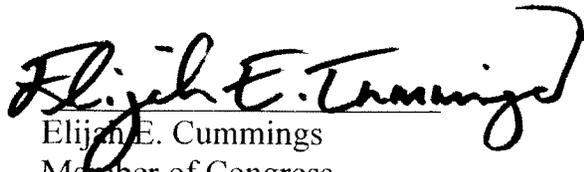
Sincerely,

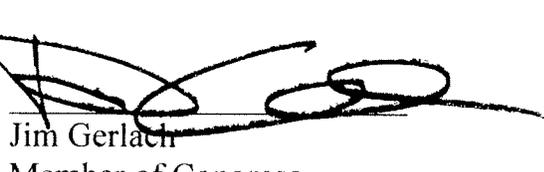


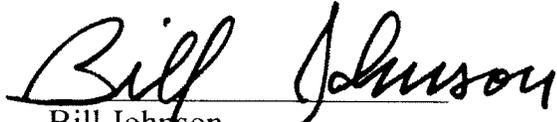
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

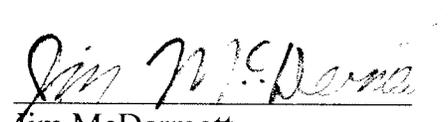


Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

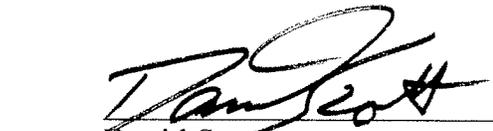

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

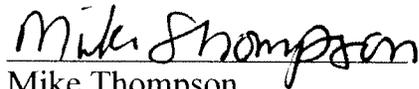

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

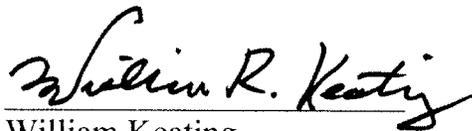

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

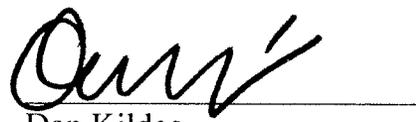

David Cicilline
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress

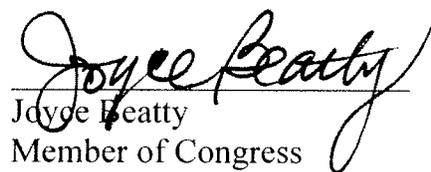

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

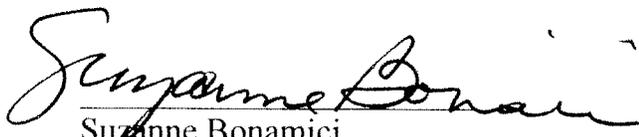

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


William Keating
Member of Congress

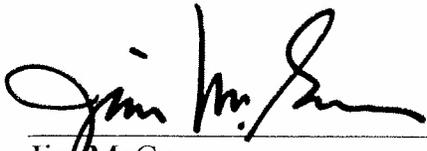

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



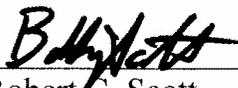
Theodore Deutch
Member of Congress



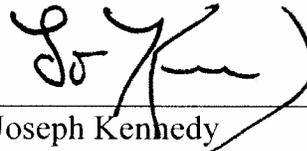
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



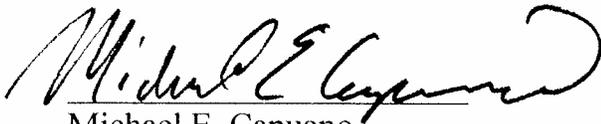
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



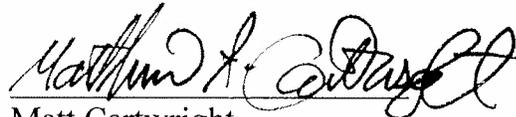
Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress



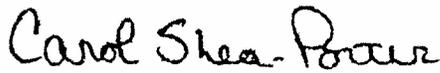
Joseph Kennedy
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



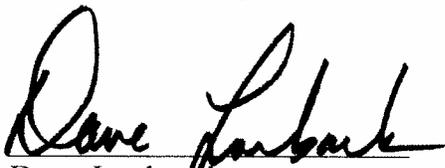
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



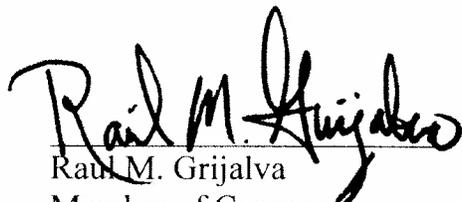
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



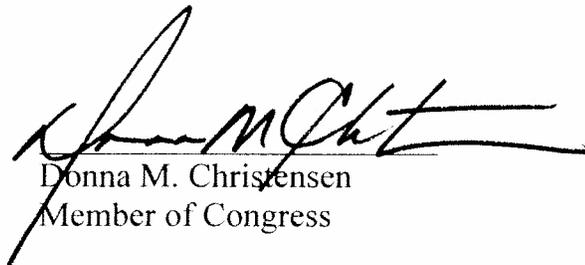
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



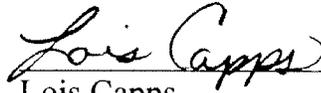
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



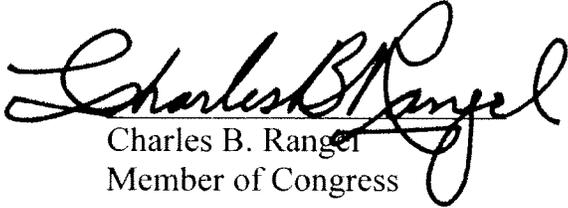
Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



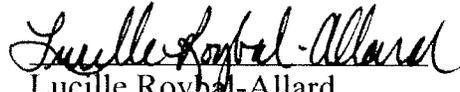
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



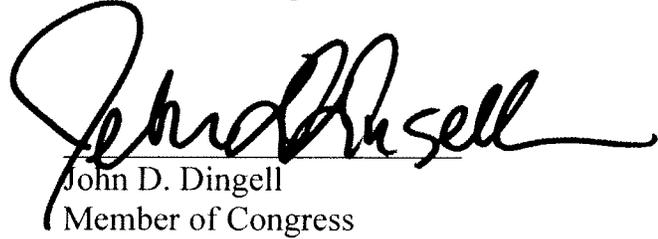
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress



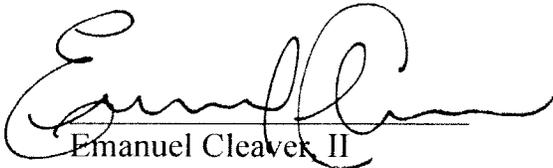
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



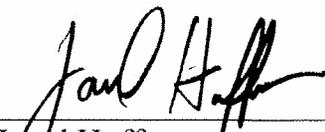
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



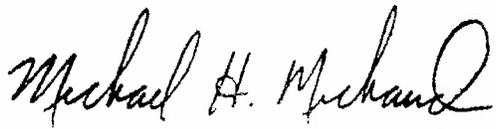
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

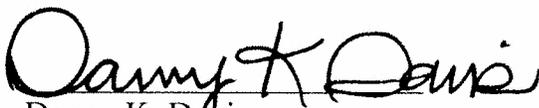


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

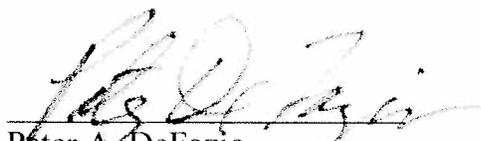

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

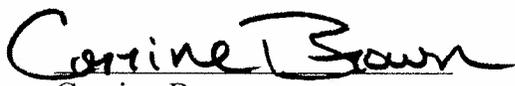

Gary Peters
Member of Congress

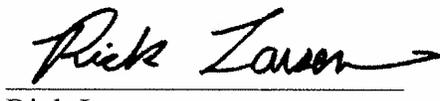

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

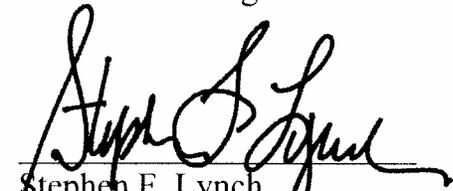

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

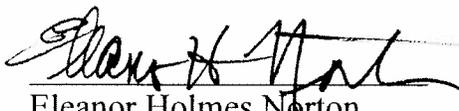

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

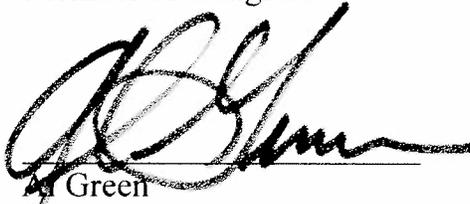

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

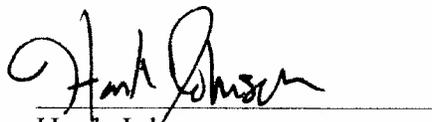

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

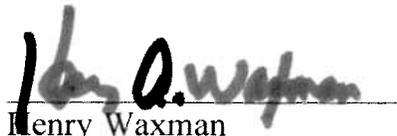

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

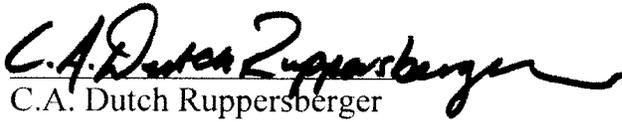

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress