

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

Chairman Jack Kingston
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Tom Latham
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Ed Pastor
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Kingston and Latham & Ranking Members DeLauro and Pastor:

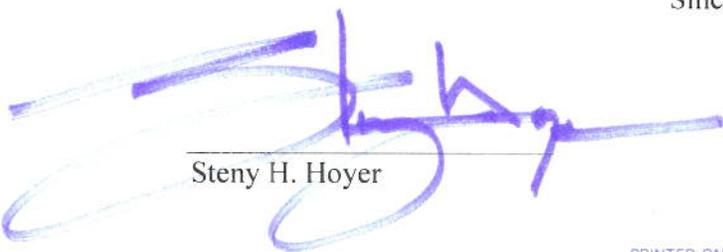
We ask that the subcommittees prioritize funding for programs that help the most vulnerable in our society and that create opportunities to enter the middle class.

In the greatest democracy in the world it should be unthinkable that any American be without shelter, adequate food, or any of life's most basic necessities. It is especially troubling that far too many Americans do not have a clear pathway to achieving economic stability and security for themselves or their families. But such is the reality for many of our citizens in cities, suburbs, and rural communities. As your subcommittees prepare to mark up appropriations bills for FY2014, we urge you to include language in your reports in support of programs that alleviate poverty in America. The work of our anti-poverty programs is both an exercise in the responsibility all Americans have to one another as fellow citizens as well as an investment in a stronger economic future for our entire nation.

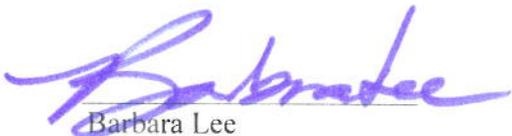
We request that the your subcommittee reports include language supporting the goal of developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty, with the initial goal of reducing poverty by half within the next decade and ensuring that every American has equitable access to economic opportunity. We also ask for the reports to express the Committee's belief that improving the effective coordination and oversight across agencies as well as implementing a collaborative, government-wide approach to shared goals and client-based outcomes will streamline access, improve service delivery, and extend the reach of every federal dollar spent to combat poverty.

Congress has the power to provide not only assistance in the form of support for anti-poverty programs but the hope that comes from knowing that those who are charged with steering policy have not forgotten our fellow Americans who are struggling.

Sincerely,



Steny H. Hoyer



Barbara Lee

Karen Bass

Suzanne Bonamici

Corrine Brown

Julia Brownley

Tony Cardenas

Joaquin Castro

David Cicilline

Jim Costa

Joseph Crowley

Keith Ellison

Eni Faleomavaega

Marcia Fudge

Tulsi Gabbard

John Garamendi

Joe Garcia

Al Green

Raul M. Grijalva

Luis Gutierrez

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal

Jim McGovern

James McGovern

Donald Payne Jr.

Donald Payne

Charles Rangel

Charles Rangel

Cedric Richmond

Cedric Richmond

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Robert Scott

Robert Scott

Terri Sewell

Terri Sewell

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema

Mark Takano

Mark Takano

Bennie Thompson

Bennie Thompson

Paul Tonko

Paul Tonko

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters

Eric Swalwell

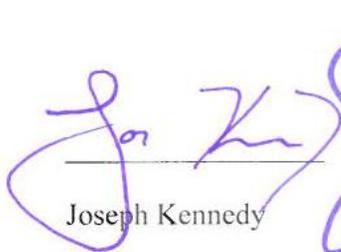
Eric Swalwell

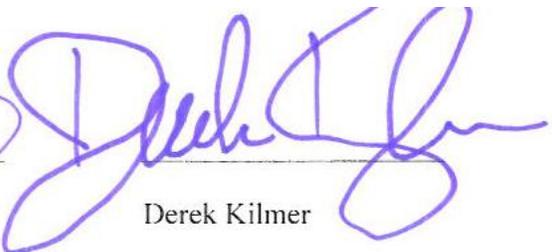
Chris Van Hollen

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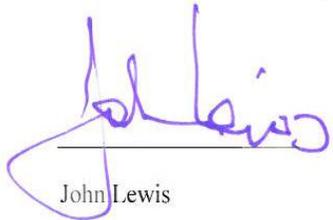
Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela

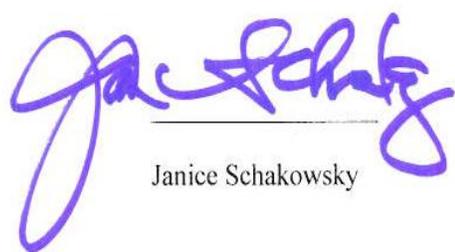

Joseph Kennedy

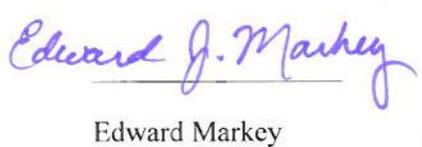

Derek Kilmer


James Langevin

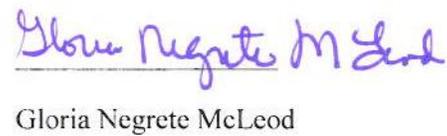

John Lewis


Ben Lujan


Janice Schakowsky

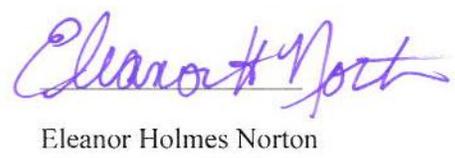

Edward Markey

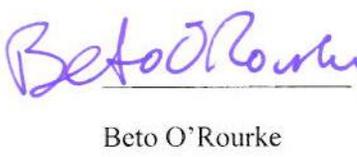

Jim McDermott


Gloria Negrete McLeod

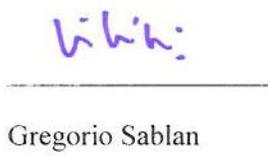

Gwen Moore

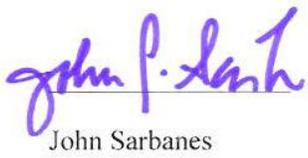

Grace Napolitano

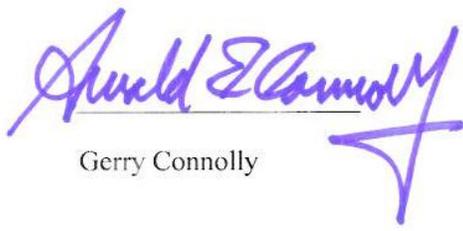

Eleanor Holmes Norton

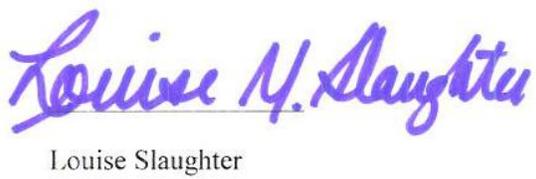

Beto O'Rourke


Lucille Royal-Allard


Gregorio Sablan


John Sarbanes


Gerry Connolly


Louise Slaughter



Joyce Beatty



Robert Brady



G.K. Butterfield



Andre Carson



Kathy Castor



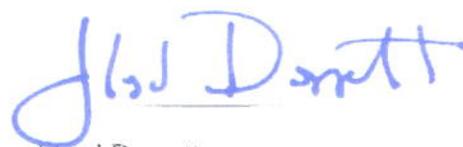
Steve Cohen



Melvin Watt



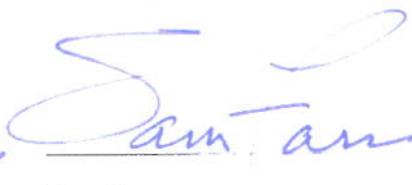
Danny Davis



Lloyd Doggett



Elizabeth Esty



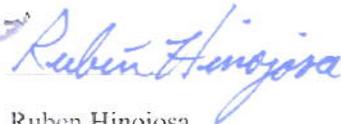
Sam Farr



Janice Hahn



Alcee Hastings



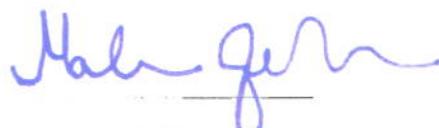
Ruben Hinojosa



Michael Honda



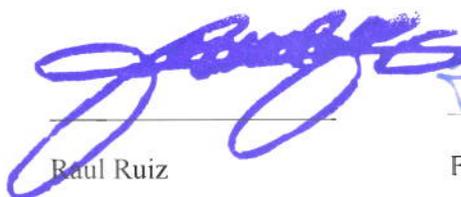
Sheila Jackson Lee



Hakeem Jeffries



Dan Kildee



Raul Ruiz



Frederica Wilson

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette Clarke

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

John Delaney

John Delaney

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel

Lared Huffman

Lared Huffman

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson

Michele Lujan Grisham

Michele Lujan Grisham

Rick Nolan

Rick Nolan