

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health, and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Ranking
Member Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health, and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies 1036
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We appreciate your past support for libraries by providing funding increases for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and urge you to continue this trend in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. LSTA grants enable libraries to develop services in every community throughout the nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers.

Libraries continue to play a vital role in our communities offering access for all to essential information on a wide range of topics, skills and career training, and computing services. According to a national survey ([2022](#)), nearly 100 percent of public libraries reported offering free Internet access. In rural areas, more than 83 percent of libraries reported serving as their community's only provider of no fee Internet and computing services ([The Last Mile](#), American Libraries, 2022) while 90 percent of public libraries offer technology training, and 76 percent assist navigating digital government resources.

Increasingly, libraries are about employment and business. Veterans transitioning into civilian life are turning to their local library for LSTA-supported services such as completion of education and job training skills, resume building, job application, and access to earned veteran and family benefits. LSTA grants have included projects like teaching veterans' filmmaking and storytelling in Los Angeles, and helping veterans become librarians in Texas. ([American Libraries, 2022](#)) At a time when applying to many jobs must be completed online nearly all public libraries offer services which help patrons prepare resumes and conduct job searches according to a [2019 report](#). For small businesses and entrepreneurs, many libraries offer 3-D printers and makerspaces to help designers innovate and provide access to specialized databases and collections.

The building blocks of language and literacy form in the first three years of a child's life. In their first year, a child's brain doubles in size, and by age 3, a child's brain is twice as active as an adult's. Developing these skills makes it easier for children to learn to read in school according to a [Maine State Library Report](#). While more than 80 percent of children from economically disadvantaged communities lose reading skills over the summer because they lack access to books, learning resources, and such enrichment opportunities as trips to the library, bookstore, or museum, according to a [Reading Is Fundamental](#) 2022 report. Solving the literacy crisis requires creative collaboration among various stakeholders—and libraries have a crucial role to play.

LSTA support those who have difficulty in using a library through grants that support library services for the blind and physically handicapped using assistive technology and accessible reading materials. For those who are blind or whose physical abilities limit their use of traditional print material, LSTA is a lifeline and connects them to a modern society.

Unfortunately, during this time of increased demand, many libraries continue to face increased cuts and severe budget pressures. COVID-19 has exacerbated budget constraints as libraries absorbed unbudgeted costs and increased demand for library services. LSTA is more essential now than ever; it is the only dedicated federal program which helps public libraries meet community needs by providing enhanced services through technology, reach underserved populations, and retain staff while recruiting new and diverse future librarians.

We greatly appreciate the strong support for LSTA, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, provided by this Subcommittee in recent years, including \$211.0 million in FY 2023. Increasing funding for LSTA in FY 2025 will help ensure that Americans of all ages have access to Internet, information services, academic, employment resources, and innovative services that meet community needs at public libraries (LSTA was reauthorized at \$232 million in 2018). We encourage the Subcommittee to continue to address the ongoing needs of libraries through increasing regular annual funding.

Thank you for your attention to this request and your continued support in sustaining and strengthening our nation's libraries and the innovative solutions they provide to communities across the nation.

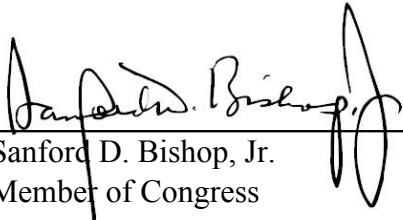
Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



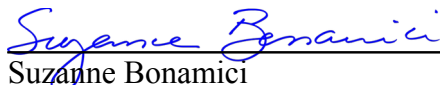
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



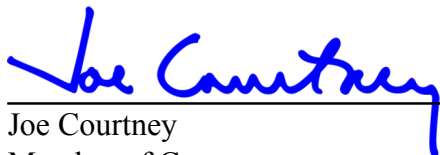
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress
Kansas Third District




Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress




Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



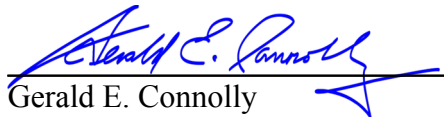
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



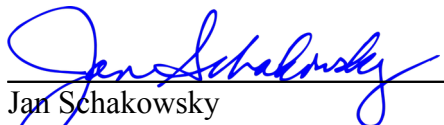
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



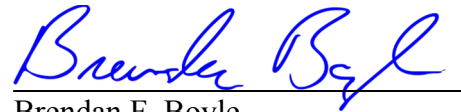
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



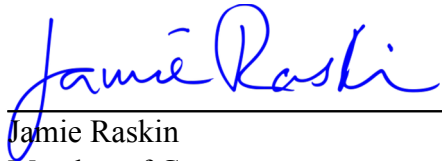
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress




Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



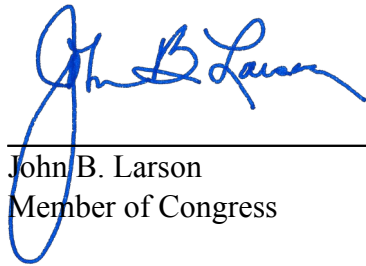
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



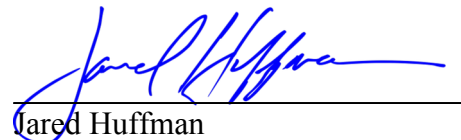
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colón
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



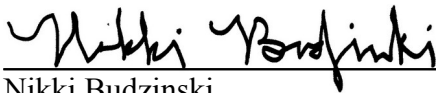
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



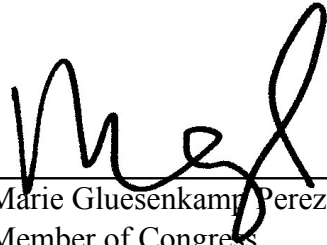
Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



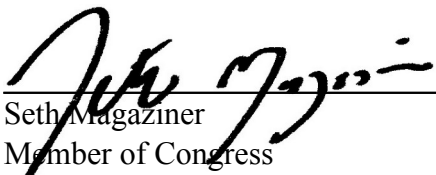
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



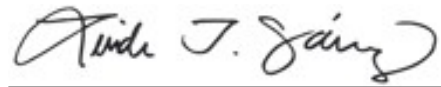
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



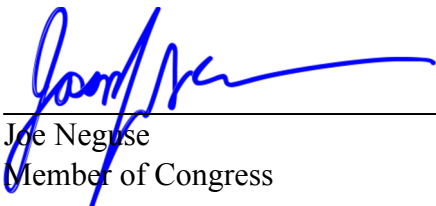
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress




Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress




Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

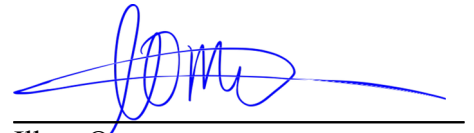


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

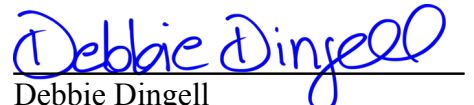

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

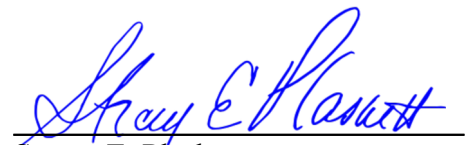

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

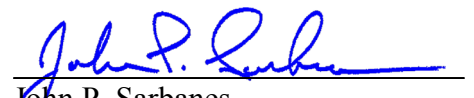

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

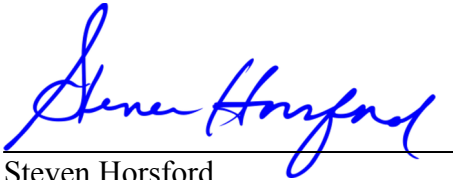

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Bill Foster
Member of Congress


Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress


Sean Casten
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



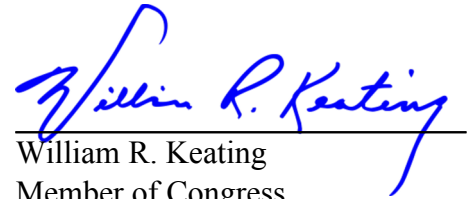
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



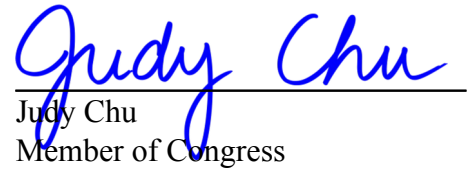
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



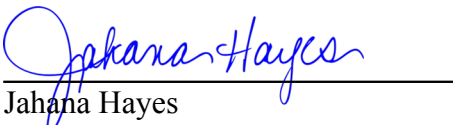
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



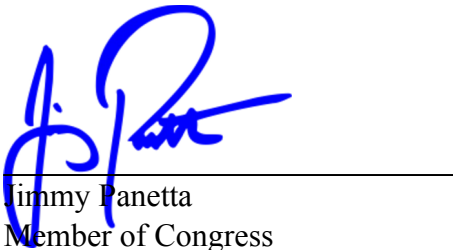
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



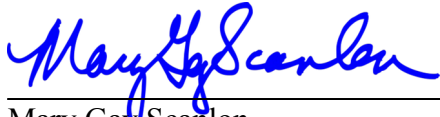
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



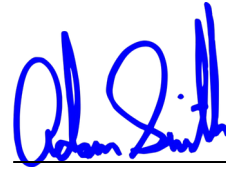
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



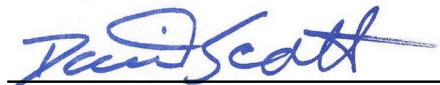
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



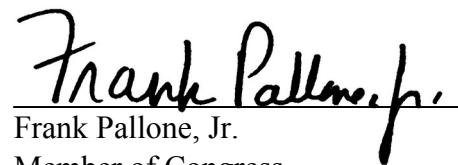
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



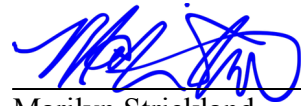
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



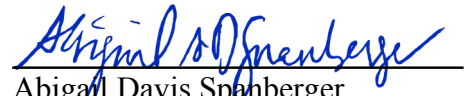
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress




Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



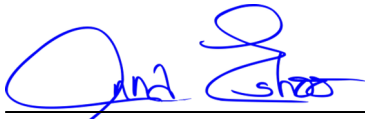
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



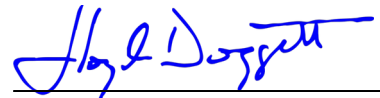
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



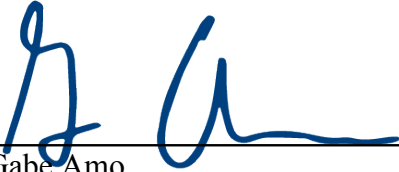
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



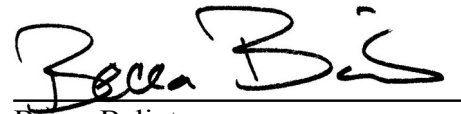
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



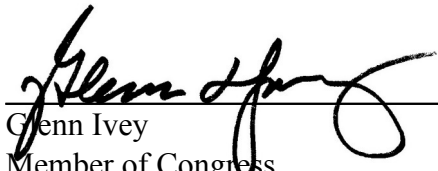
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



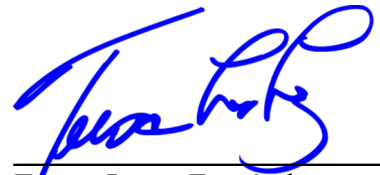
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



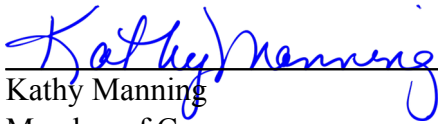
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



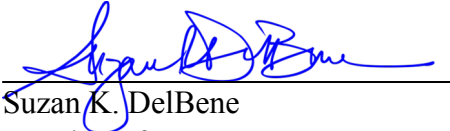
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



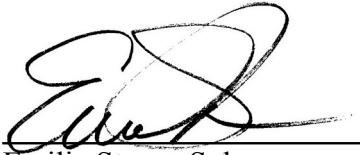
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress