

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and respectfully request your support of a funding level of at least \$211 million for the NEH in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The humanities play a critical role in our nation as strong cultural institutions create healthy communities and thriving regional economies. The only federal agency dedicated to funding the humanities, the NEH delivers competitive grants to institutions that enhance the public's knowledge of fields such as literature, language, history, philosophy, governments, and social sciences. This work promotes cultural understanding, awareness, and connection across the nation in 56 jurisdictions through its Federal/State Partnership Office which directly supports state and jurisdictional humanities councils, touching every congressional district.

Nationally, scholars sponsored by state humanities councils provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods at over 1200 schools. These programs enrich the classroom experience for millions of students and create a new generation of civically engaged youth.

Thanks to your leadership, Congress secured the NEH's highest proposed budget during the FY23 budget negotiations, a significant increase over the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposal that would have undermined the agency's ability to process grants. This level of funding has allowed the NEH to reach new underserved and rural communities and facilitate over 7800 grants awarded by the state humanities councils. Also included in the package is support for "A More Perfect Union," a special initiative to assemble the NEH's comprehensive catalog of American history for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

While recent Congressional investments have stimulated renewed interest in our cultural institutions, our continued support is necessary to sustain NEH programs that fill the museums and cultural centers of our cities and preserve the character and history of small-town USA.

Robust funding in FY24 would bolster a new NEH initiative, *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*. This program will encourage projects that elevate the role of civics in schools and public programs, promote media literacy, and use thoughtful research to examine threats to our democracy. American Tapestry will enhance capacity at museums, libraries, historical sites, and centers of learning to amplify the untold stories of historically underrepresented groups and isolated communities, including those of Tribal Nations, community colleges, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and other minority-serving institutions throughout the nation.

We believe that strong federal investments in the humanities are crucial for preserving the U.S.'s place as a world leader in education and innovation. In addition, the humanities provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to meaningfully engage with our democracy and confront the civic issues of tomorrow.

As billions of dollars are rightfully invested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, we must equally prioritize robust federal investment in the humanities. We appreciate your consideration of the humanities during negotiations, and we look forward to working with you to preserve our treasured cultural institutions.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



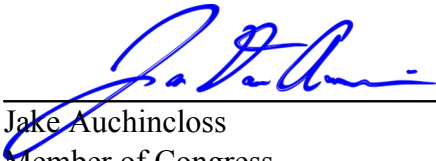
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress




Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



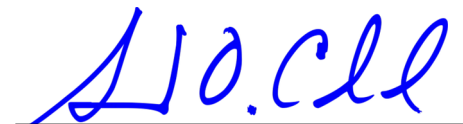
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



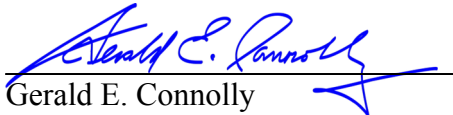
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



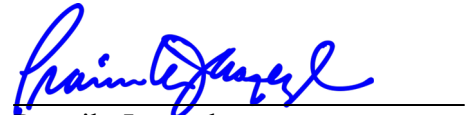
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress




Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



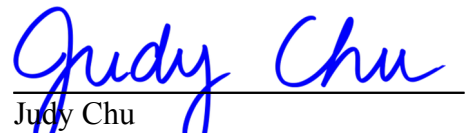
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress




Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



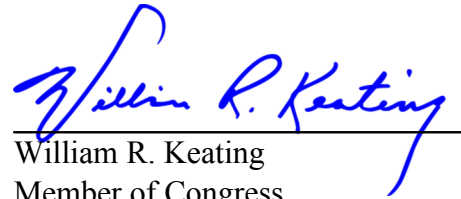
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



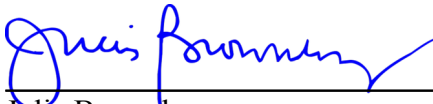
Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



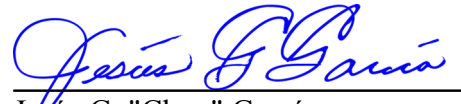
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



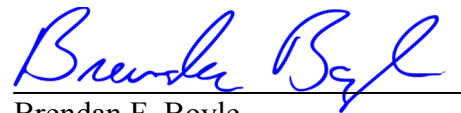
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress




Katie Porter
Member of Congress



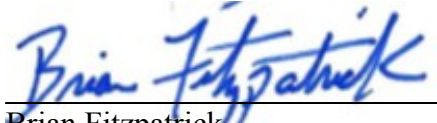
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress




Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



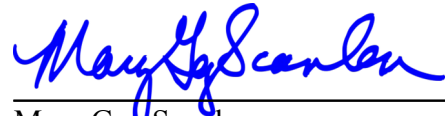
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



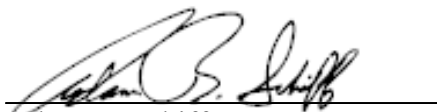
C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colón
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



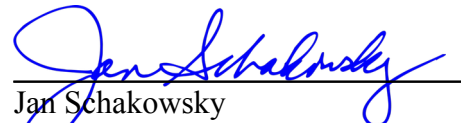
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



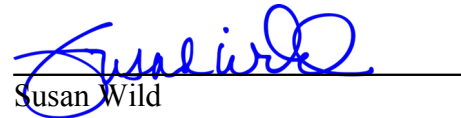
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



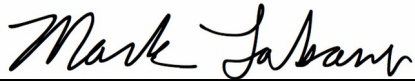
Susan Wild
Member of Congress



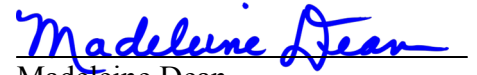
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



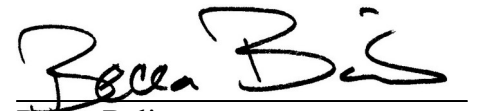
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



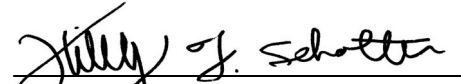
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



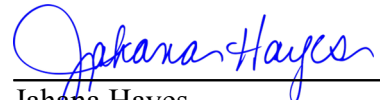
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



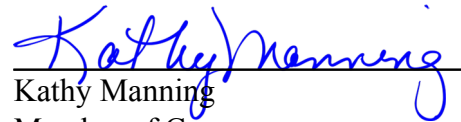
MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



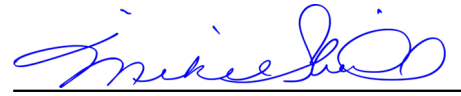
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



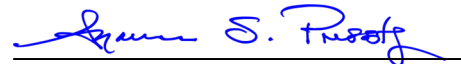
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress




Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



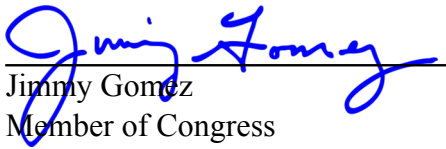
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



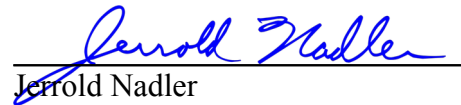
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



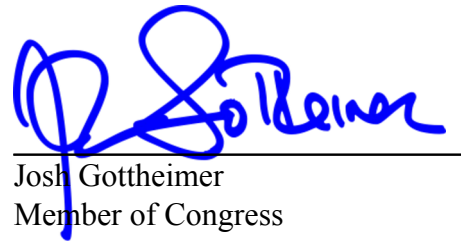
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



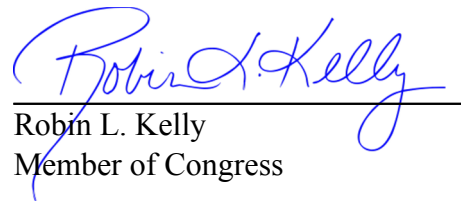
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



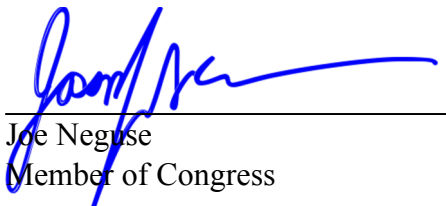
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



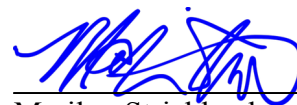
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



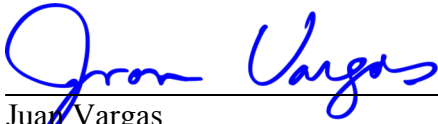
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



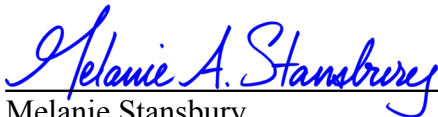
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress




Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



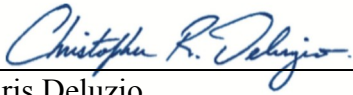
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



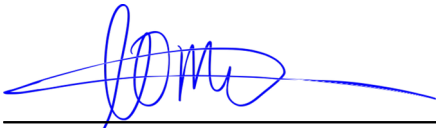
Troy Carter
Member of Congress




Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



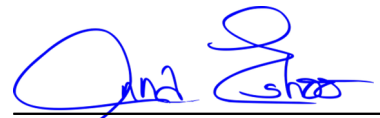
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



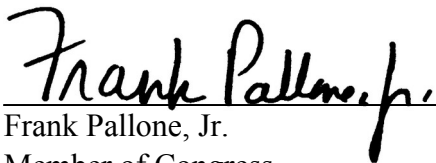
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



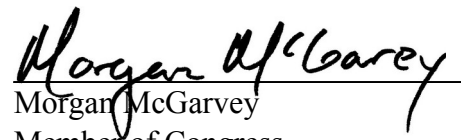
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



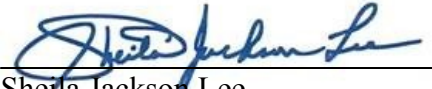
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



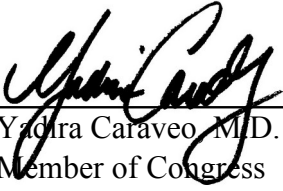
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Sheria Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress