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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
RANKING MEMBER

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

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March 19, 2018

Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to thank you for your past support of the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) program, which builds on the success of the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy program. As you work to draft the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request that LEARN be funded at \$190 million.

The LEARN program provides competitive grants to State Educational Agencies to help local educational agencies develop comprehensive literacy plans to ensure high-quality instruction and evidence-based intervention strategies for all students from birth through grade 12. This program is the only funding stream to support these statewide efforts. In September, eleven states (Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, New Mexico, Ohio, and Oklahoma), the Bureau of Indian Education, and four territories were awarded Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grants. With these grants, local school districts will be able to support high-quality professional development for teachers, teacher leaders, principals, and specialized instructional support personnel to improve literacy instruction for struggling readers and writers, including English language learners and students with disabilities.

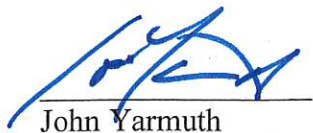
Literacy is the foundation for learning and essential to students' ability to progress, pursue higher education, and succeed in the workplace. Yet, the skills our students need today are much more complex than they were 50 years ago. Creating a globally competent workforce depends on students building on the foundation of literacy and using their reading and writing skills to develop important abilities in such areas as math, science, technology, and manufacturing.

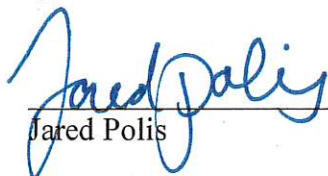
As we seek to ensure our nation's workforce remains competitive in a global market, a strong federal commitment to literacy is imperative. That is why we urge you to provide \$190 million in the FY 2019 Labor HHS bill for this innovative early childhood, elementary, and secondary

education initiative to support reading and writing achievement so that more students graduate with the skills needed for success in higher education, work, and civic life.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

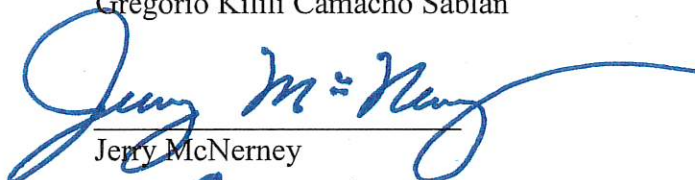

John Yarmuth


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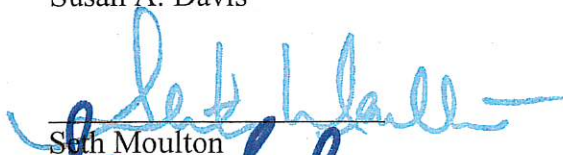

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan


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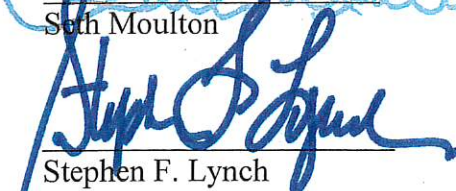

Jerry McNerney

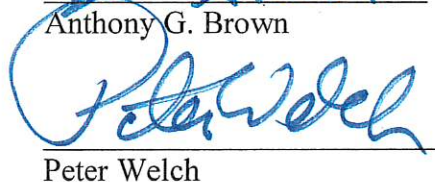

Susan A. Davis

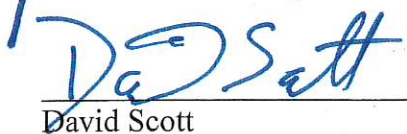

Peter DeFazio

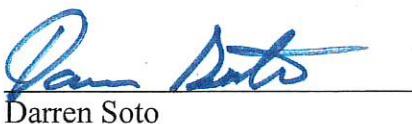

Seth Moulton


Anthony G. Brown


Stephen F. Lynch

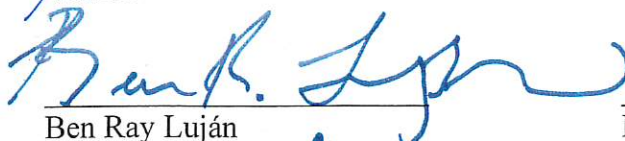

Peter Welch


David Scott

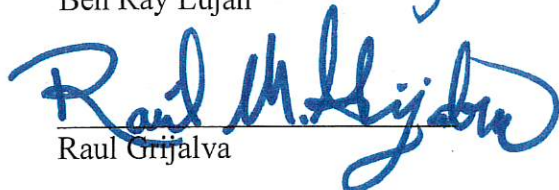

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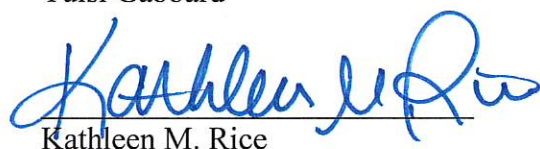
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