

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human,  
Services and Education  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the fiscal year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you fund the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) grant program at its authorized level of \$10 million.

Over 40 years of research shows that family engagement is critical for student success. Supporting family engagement provides significant value to all parents, and particularly those who struggled in school or failed to graduate from high school themselves. Family engagement is an essential component of breaking that cycle for the next generation. Students whose families are involved in their children's academic success attend school more regularly, earn better grades, enroll in more challenging academic programs, and have higher graduation rates. The SFEC program will harness what we know to help schools and districts implement systematic family engagement programs that build ties between the community, families, and schools.

During the crafting of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), both the House and Senate recognized the vital role of parent and family engagement in education by maintaining the SFEC program (formerly known as the Parental Information and Resource Centers) as a standalone program in their respective bills. The improved SFEC program focuses on much needed technical assistance and partnership development for states and school districts to better support schools and educators to engage with families. Research is clear that this engagement will further the academic and developmental progress of our nation's children and drive increases in student achievement and other positive outcomes.

Investing in family engagement efforts is important to ensuring not only that families are meaningfully supported and engaged in the education of their children, but that our nation's students are fully prepared for higher education, workforce, and career opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to support this important program.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



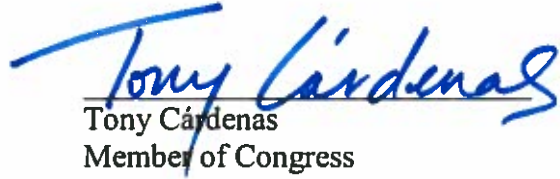
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



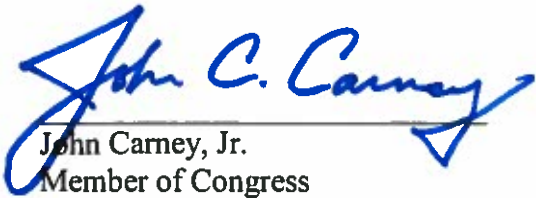
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



John Carney, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress




Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



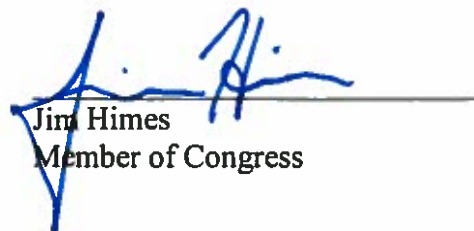
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Joe Heck, D.O.  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



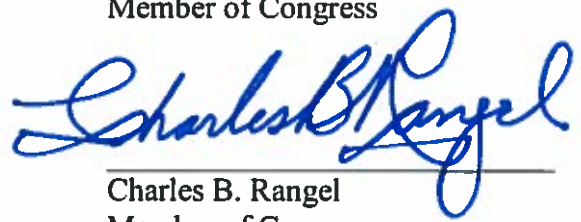
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



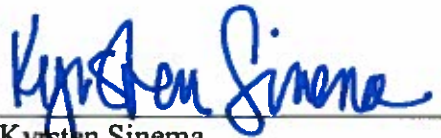
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Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



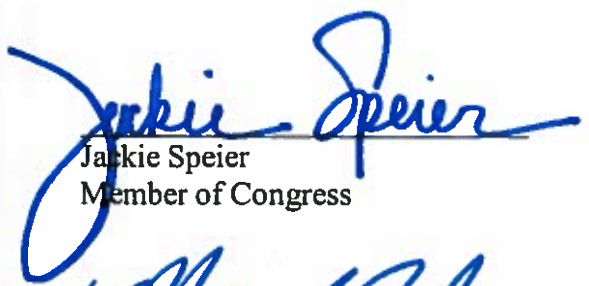
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Kyristen Sinema  
Member of Congress



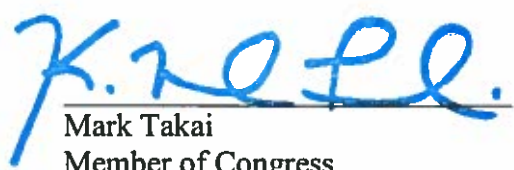
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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takai  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

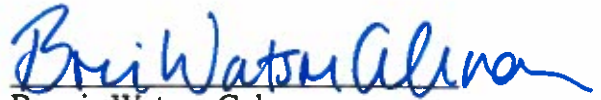


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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
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