

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

We are writing to address an anomaly of grant eligibility and prevent an extended gap in operations for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs. Without action, the recipients of a unique cycle of Transitional Living Program (TLP) and Maternity Group Home (MGH) grants ending in April 2018 face a gap in funding eligibility which will result in programs downgrading, discontinuing, or even closing permanently.

TLP and MGH grants are critical to helping runaway and homeless youth find employment, learn life skills, provide parental care and guidance, acquire and maintain affordable housing, and ultimately return to their communities. Without these grants, communities nationwide will lose an important resource for responding to and preventing homelessness.

These programs last 21 months, and participants must meet progress milestones along the way. Participants develop critical skills that will help them reenter and thrive in their community, breaking the devastating cycle that leads youth to chronic adult homelessness. The programs operate on 5-year grant cycles, and have been consistently funded for decades because of their strong performance and positive, measurable results.

Unfortunately, programs with TLP and MGH grants ending in 2018 are facing an extended gap in eligibility before they can re-apply for a subsequent grant. Due to off-cycle appropriations in 2013, grants were issued in April of 2013 and will expire in April 2018. Recently, the programs on this schedule received notification from the Family Youth Service Bureau that they are ineligible for a new grant until the end of fiscal year 2018 at the earliest, resulting in a five or more month gap in funding.

A gap of this length is fiscally unsustainable, causing reductions in services. Some programs may even be discontinued or closed permanently, leading to an increase in inappropriate emergency shelter use and the overall youth homeless population. Inaction on this issue would be a harmful set-back for nationwide efforts to help prevent and respond to youth and young adult homelessness.

For these reasons, the House of Representatives unanimously approved an amendment to H.R. 3354, the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill, to address the issue of bridge funding for TLP and MGH grants. We are writing to ensure that your distinguished committees address this issue in the final fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill. The appropriations committees can fix this issue and allow current runaway and homeless youth services to continue while the grant cycle is re-aligned with the fiscal year. We respectfully request your assistance in addressing this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Denham

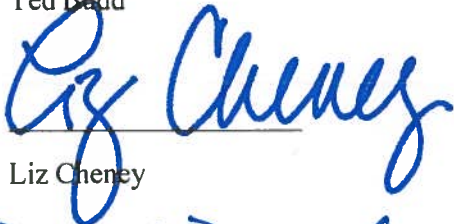


John Yarmuth

Runaway and Homeless Youth Letter



Ted Budd



Liz Cheney



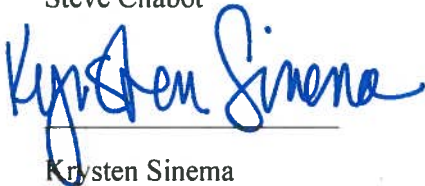
Debbie Dingell



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Steve Chabot



Krysten Sinema



Rodney Davis



French Hill



Keith Ellison



Dave Loebsack



John Conyers, Jr.



John Katko



Bill Posey



Danny K. Davis



Michelle Lujan Grisham



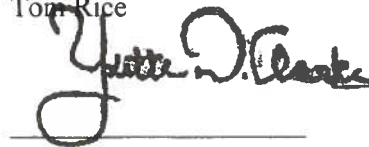
Charlie Crist



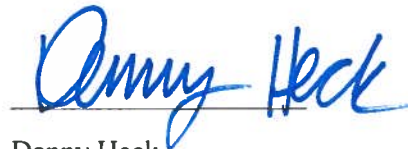
Glenn Thompson



Tom Rice

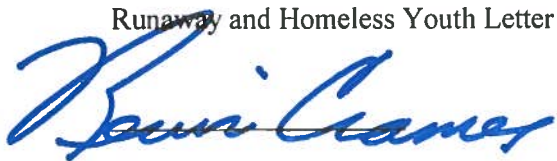


Yvette Clarke



Denny Heck

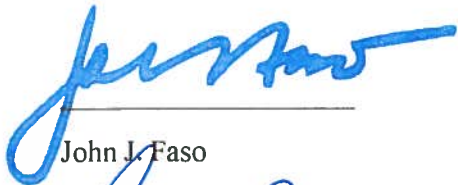
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Kevin Cramer



Paul Tonko



John L. Faso



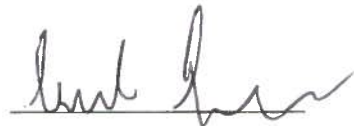
Gwen Moore



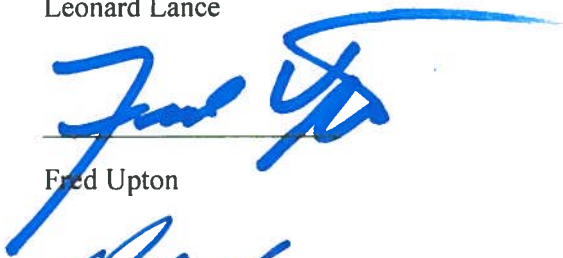
Peter Koskam



Earl Blumenauer



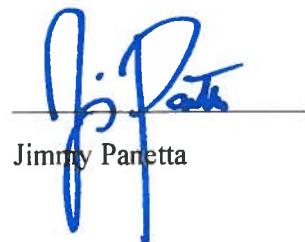
Leonard Lance



Fred Upton



Rick Larsen



Jimmy Panetta



Ben Ray Luján



André Carson



Mark Takano



Peter Welch



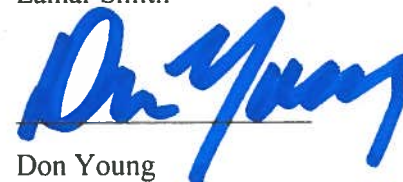
Doris Matsui



Tony Cárdenas



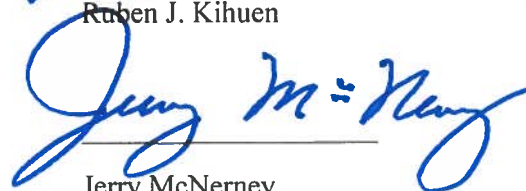
Lamar Smith



Don Young



Ruben J. Kihuen



Jerry McNerney

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Jackie Walorski



Al Lawson



Michael R. Turner



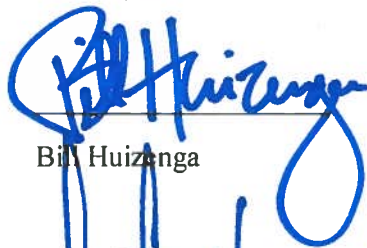
Brian Higgins



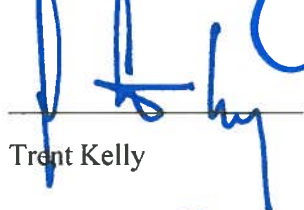
Blaine Luetkemeyer



Anthony Brown



Bill Huizenga



Trent Kelly



Tom Marino



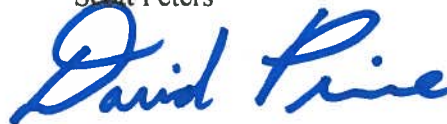
David Scott



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Scott Peters



David E. Price



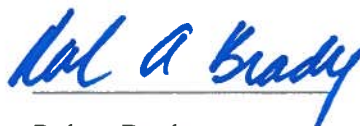
Richard M. Nolan



Colleen Hanabusa



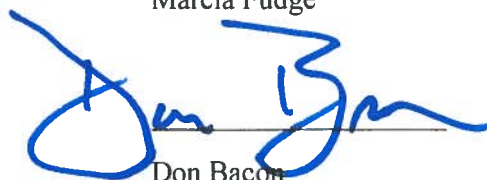
Mark Pocan



Robert Brady



Marcia Fudge



Don Bacon



Michael Capuano

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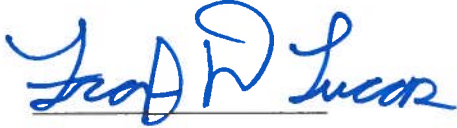
Bruce Poliquin



Donald Norcross



Sean Patrick Maloney



Frank Lucas



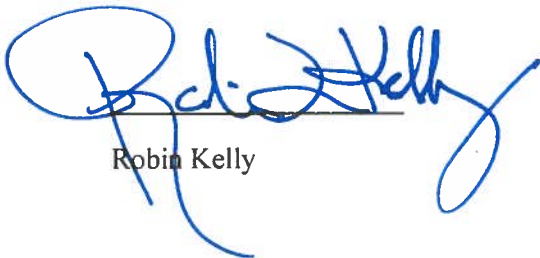
Vicky Hartzler



Suzan DelBene



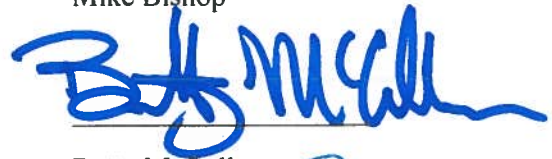
Alan Lowenthal



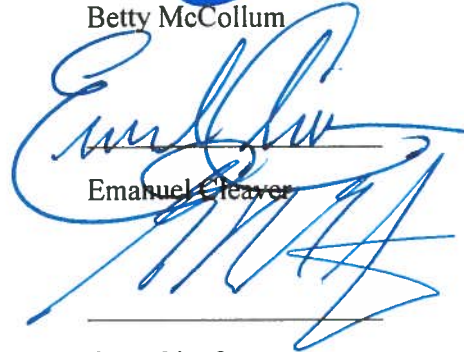
Robin Kelly



Mike Bishop

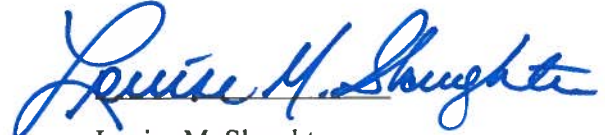


Betty McCollum



Emanuel Cleaver

Greg Gianforte



Louise M. Slaughter



Carol Shea-Porter



David Reichert



Adam Kinzinger