

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Chairman Aderholt,

We write following up on the 150-member letter urging Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought and Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon to release the more than \$5.5 billion in funding being illegally withheld from K-12 schools and adult education in states and local school districts across the country.¹ In our letter, we demanded the immediate release of these funds and requested a response from the Administration by July 15th. As of today, July 24th, the funding remains withheld.

We urge you both as leaders on the House Appropriations Committee to pressure the Administration to release the funds Congress appropriated as soon as possible.

The withheld grants amount to more than \$5.5B, including \$5B for K-12 educational entities.² Without access to this critical funding, our schools face at least two untenable options, both of which would have severe consequences for students, educators, and the broader community, including in Republican-controlled school districts³:

1. Understaff classroom support positions and absorb budget shortfalls for already-hired staff. Such measures will directly hurt the quality of education and the ability of students to thrive academically.⁴
2. Incur millions in monthly debt, diverting resources from vital education priorities. These funds, once redirected, cannot be recovered for student use, further exacerbating the challenges faced by our schools.⁵

In total, more than 95,000 schools, nearly 55 million K-12 students, and 1.2 million adult learners are affected nationwide.⁶ But to be clear, even if funds are released immediately, damage has already been done.

It is our understanding that Title IV-B 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds are expected to be released to school districts, but that does not replace the urgent need to release all approved education funds.⁷

We implore you to join us, just as ten of your Republican Senate colleagues have, in demanding that OMB and the Department of Education immediately release these Congressionally-approved education funds.⁸ This

¹ [k12_adult+education+funding+impoundment+letter+to+omb+and+ed-compressed.pdf](#)

² <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-administration-unfreezes-1b-after-school-funding-source/story?id=123870231>

³ [A District-by-District Accounting of the \\$6.2 billion U.S. Department of Education Has Held Back from Schools](#)

⁴ <https://www.wfae.org/charlotte-area/2025-07-11/charlotte-mecklenburg-schools-said-federal-government-is-holding-funds>

⁵ <https://www.naesp.org/news/does-withholding-of-6-9-billion-in-fy2025-k-12-funding-threatens-student-success-and-paralyzes-school-systems-nationwide/>

⁶ <https://nafme.org/blog/nafme-calls-on-the-u-s-office-of-management-and-budget-to-release-education-funds/>

⁷ [AASA Statement on the Release of Title IV-B - "21st Century" Funds | AASA](#)

⁸ https://www.capito.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_director_vought.pdf

request comes not only from us as Members of Congress, but on behalf of millions of students, families, and educators.

Sincerely,



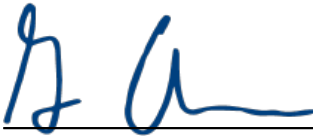
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Suzanne Bonamici
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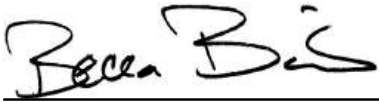
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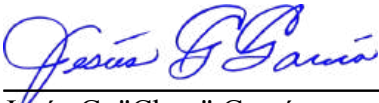
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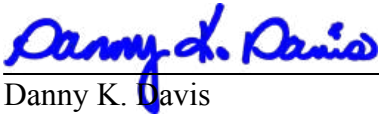
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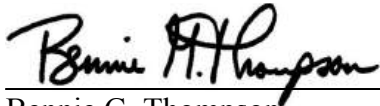
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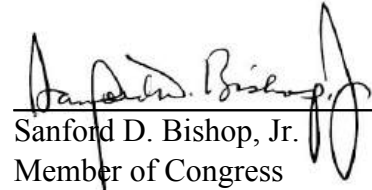
Bennie G. Thompson
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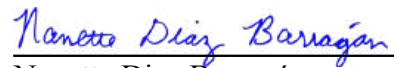
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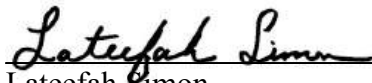
Judy Chu
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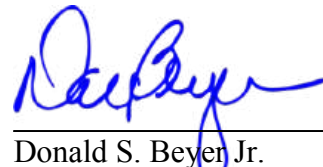
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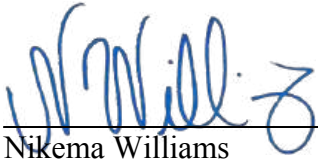
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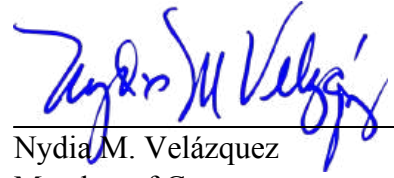
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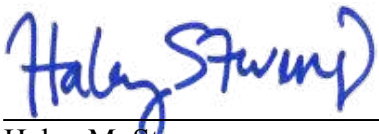
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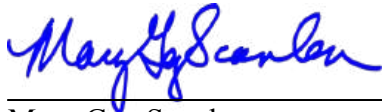
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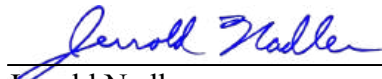
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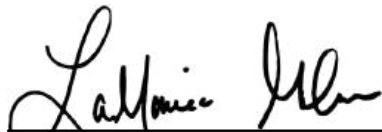
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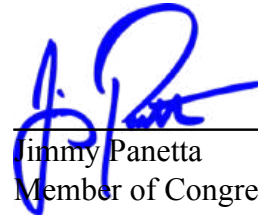
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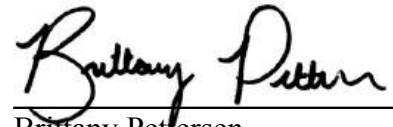
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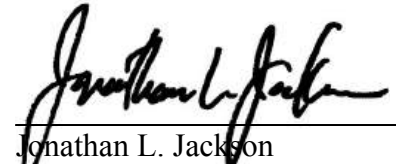
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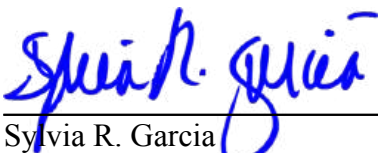
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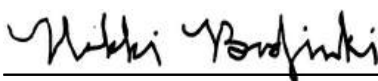
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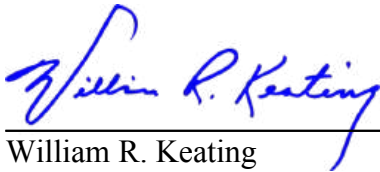
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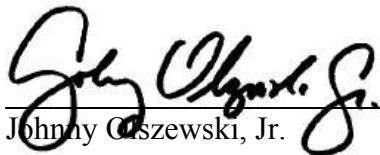
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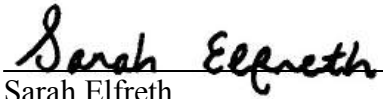
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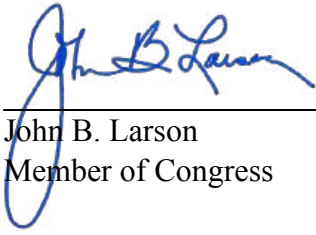
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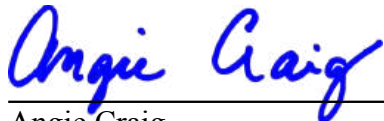
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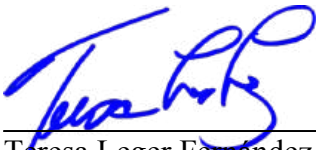
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