

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Kay Granger
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
HT-2, The Capitol
Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
State, Foreign Operations
1016 Longworth House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to urge you to strongly support international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Through robust funding of global basic education, we can help reduce poverty through economic growth, build markets for U.S. exports, enhance stability and security, and promote effective development across sectors.

Unfortunately, education is increasingly under attack by extremists who feel threatened by the power of education. Attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria and the Taliban in Pakistan are shocking examples of this fear. We must join with young people like Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education programs, we can help ensure all children are able to fulfill their potential and have access to a better life.

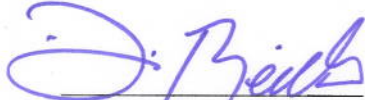
Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence, and to strengthening communities. Education equips millions with the tools needed to forge a path to self-sufficiency and better lives. Mounting evidence shows that educating girls is one of the most cost-effective ways to spur development and create a ripple effect throughout society.

In many countries, the school is the center of the community and can serve an important role in also facilitating health and food programs. Quality education has been shown to lower child and maternal mortality rates, increase life expectancy, and significantly decrease vulnerability to deadly diseases around the globe. This is especially important in places like South Sudan where a young girl is three times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than to reach the 8th grade.

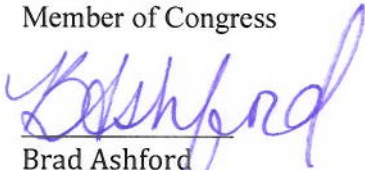
U.S. investments that focus on the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars are vital to ensure children have access to a quality education. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral programs, including literacy and access to education for children in areas of conflict and crises, the U.S. is able to build relationships with other education actors around our common goals and share our unique technical knowledge and capabilities. Similarly, U.S. support of other donors and multilateral organizations like the Global Partnership for Education complements bilateral programs, fosters coordination, and builds on the commitment of developing countries.

As representatives of the U.S. taxpayer, we value the lasting impact made by global basic education programs and urge your Subcommittee to strongly support international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



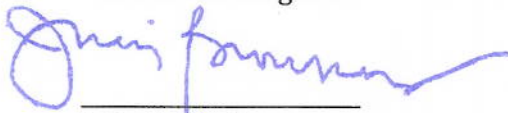
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



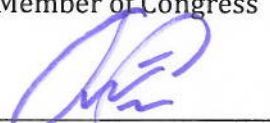
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



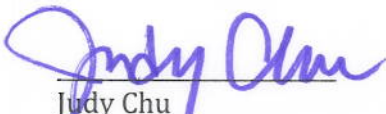
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



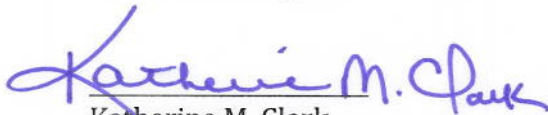
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



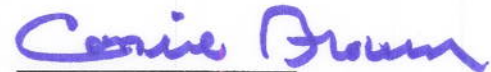
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



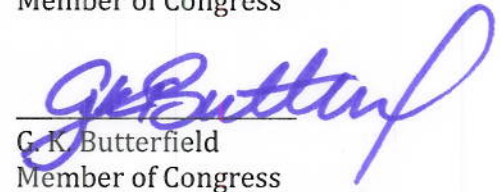
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



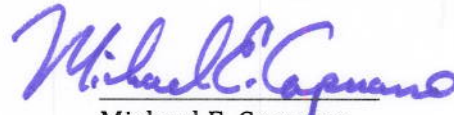
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



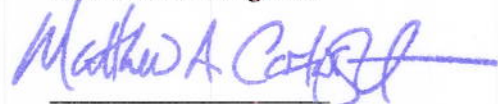
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



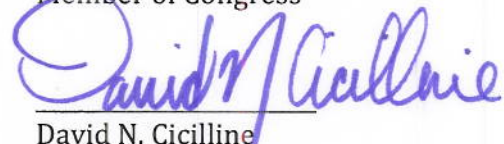
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



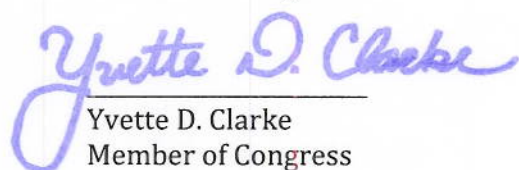
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



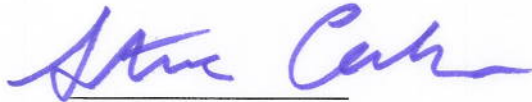
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



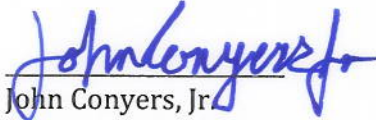
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



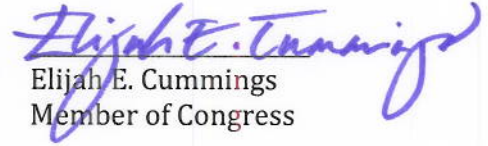
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



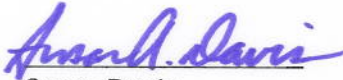
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



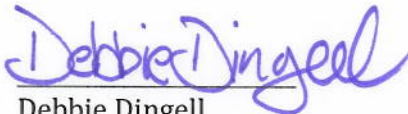
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



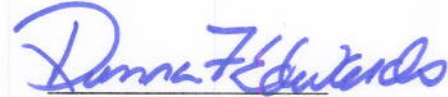
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



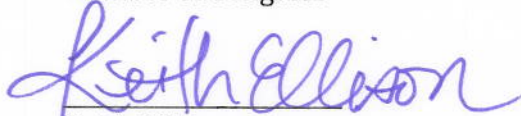
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



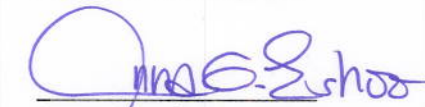
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



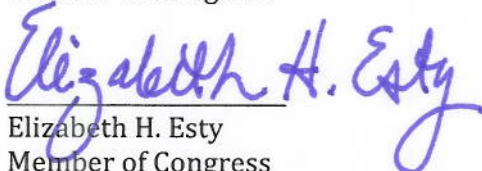
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



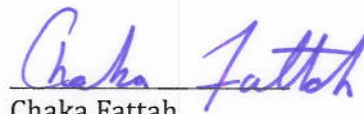
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



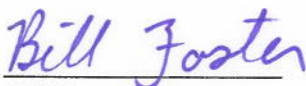
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



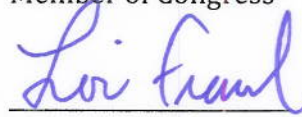
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



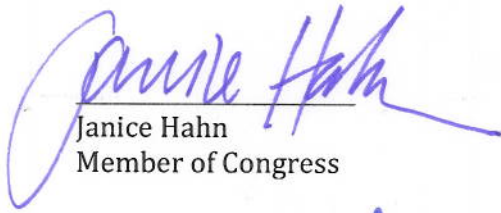
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

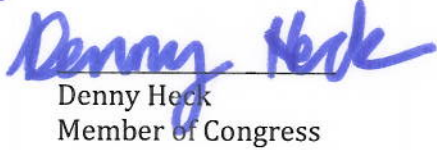


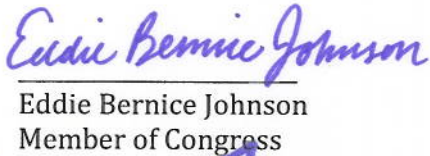
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

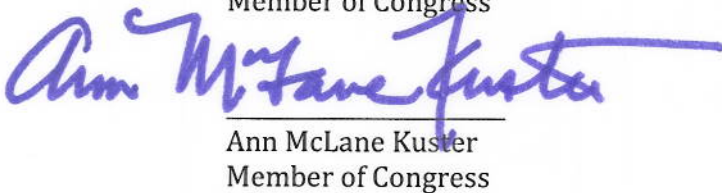


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

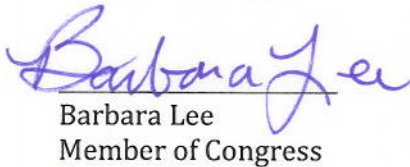

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

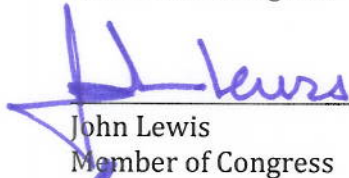

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

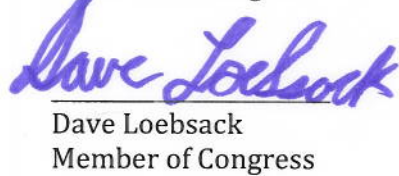

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

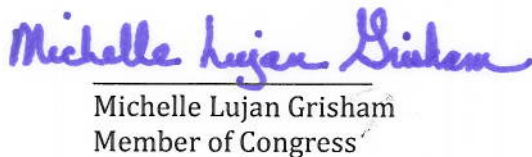

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

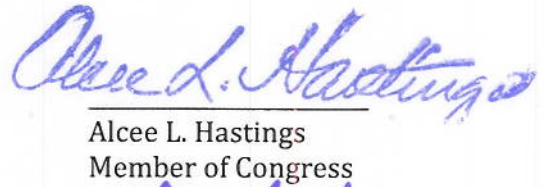

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

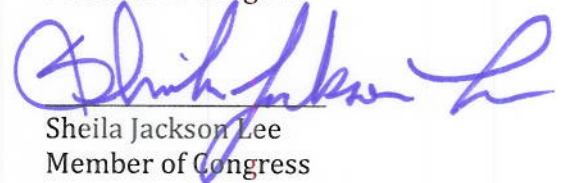

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

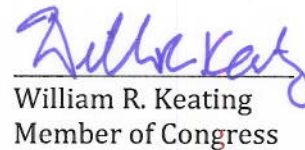

John Lewis
Member of Congress

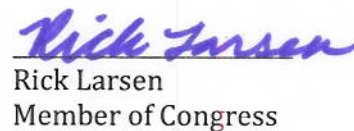

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

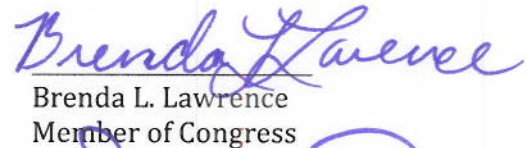

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

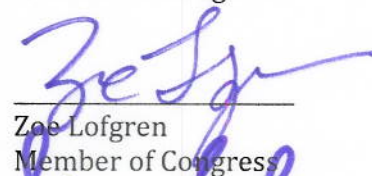

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

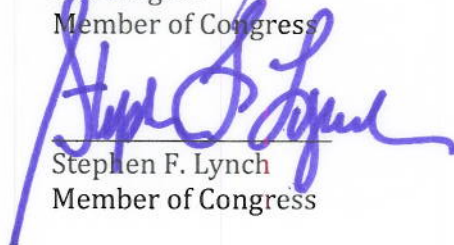

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress


Ted Lieu
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

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Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

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Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jared Polis

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

David E. Price

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz
Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Alan S. Lowenthal
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

David Scott
David Scott
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

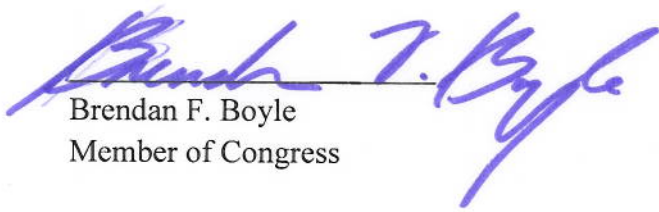
Marc A. Veasey
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
John A. Yarmuth
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Tulsi Gabbard
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress