

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

Thank you for your continued bipartisan commitment to fighting poverty and improving education for children in need around the world by including \$970 million for International Basic Education in the fiscal year 2024 House State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies (SFOPS) bill. In recognition of the growing challenges facing the world's learners, we are writing to urge you to provide increased support for International Basic Education in the fiscal year 2025 SFOPS bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

The need for U.S. leadership in global education has never been more important. While we've made progress in increasing access to education, barriers to learning like poverty, conflict, ongoing impacts of pandemic-related school closures, and exclusion based on gender, disability, and ethnicity threaten the futures of learners around the world.

The world is dealing with numerous crises, and we cannot afford to leave behind an entire generation of learners. According to the World Bank, in 2023 over 70 percent of children in lower- and middle-income countries were not equipped with the skills needed to read and understand a basic text or demonstrate basic mathematical proficiency by age 10. This learning poverty, if left unaddressed, has the potential for severe long-term ramifications, including diminished economic opportunity and health outcomes.

Investments in U.S. international basic education programs are essential to addressing these challenges: they increase access to quality education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional learning skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. In fiscal year 2022 alone, U.S. basic education programs reached nearly 33 million learners in pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational and workforce development programs in 97 countries around the world.¹ Education is an essential lifeline in times of crisis. By investing in the improvement of

¹ "Fiscal Year 2022 U.S. Government Strategy Report to Congress," USAID, <https://www.edu-links.org/resources/fiscal-year-2022-us-government-strategy-report-congress>.

resilient education systems, the U.S. can help mitigate the harmful effects of conflict, crisis, or other disruptive events that typically impact access to safe, quality learning.

Moving forward, U.S. foreign assistance must build upon and enhance ongoing efforts to support the world's learners, assess and address learning loss, support educators, provide psychosocial and protection services, and increase emergency preparedness and response capacity in partner countries.

U.S. support for multilateral partnerships, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), complements our bilateral programs and leverages additional resources for this important work. GPE supports 88 lower-income partner countries to develop their own pathways to transform their education systems. GPE has reached 160 million students through its grant activities and trained more than 1 million teachers. ECW, the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, has reached 8.8 million children and adolescents and supported the training of 140,539 teachers across 43 crisis effected countries/contexts. It provides refugees, internally displaced persons, and other affected populations with comprehensive and context-specific assistance to access learning opportunities through first emergency rapid response and multi-year funding platforms.

To sustain and enhance international efforts to support foundational learning and improve learning outcomes, it will be imperative for the Subcommittee to robustly fund USAID's bilateral Basic Education programs, GPE, and ECW in the fiscal year 2025 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

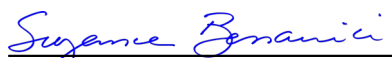
Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



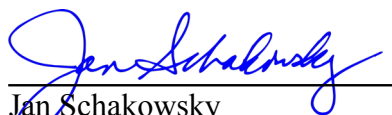
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Danny K. Davis
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Jan Schakowsky
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Shontel M. Brown
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Colin Z. Allred
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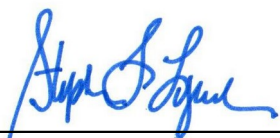
Chris Pappas
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Jason Crow
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Dina Titus
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Nikema Williams
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Lucy McBath
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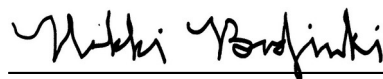
Gwen S. Moore
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James P. McGovern
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Lizzie Fletcher
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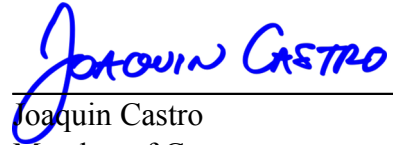
Nikki Budzinski
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Ilhan Omar
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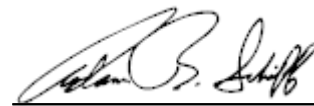
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



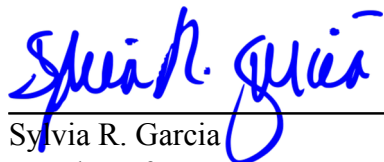
Joaquin Castro
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Steven Horsford
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Adam B. Schiff
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
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Ro Khanna
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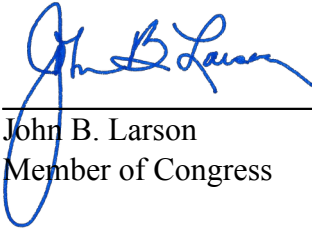
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



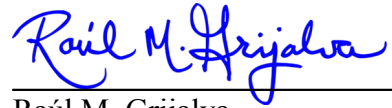
Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
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John B. Larson
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



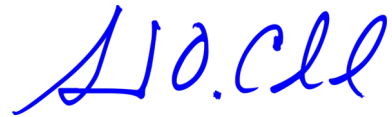
Ritchie Torres
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Val Hoyle
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



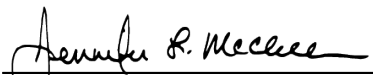
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



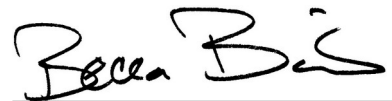
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Marilyn Strickland
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Becca Balint
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Chellie Pingree
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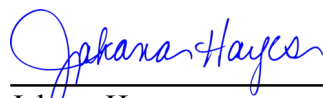
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



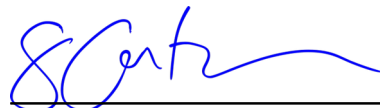
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



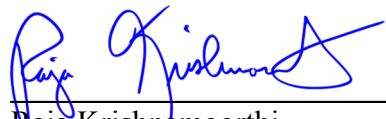
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



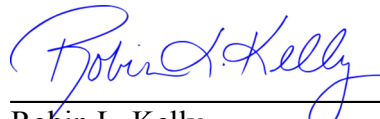
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



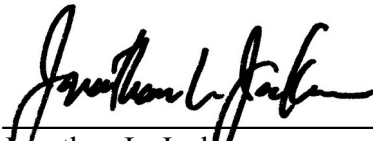
Mike Levin
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Robin L. Kelly
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



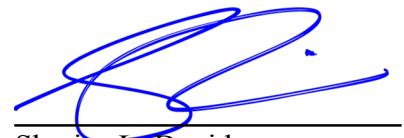
James A. Himes
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



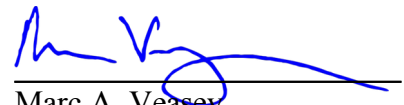
Jim Tokuda
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Sharice L. Davids
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Ruben Gallego
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Marc A. Veasey
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Adam Smith
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Maxine Waters
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Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



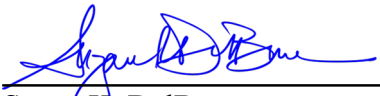
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



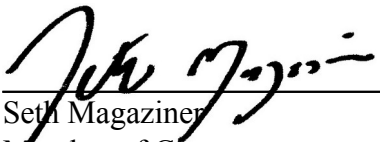
Mike Thompson
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Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



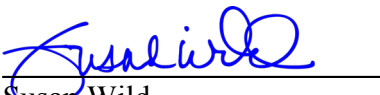
Dwight Evans
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Seth Magaziner
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



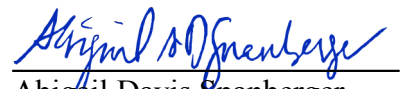
Susan Wild
Member of Congress



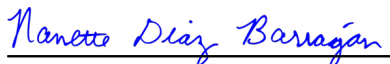
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



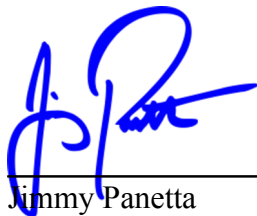
Abigail Davis Spanberger
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



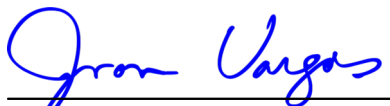
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



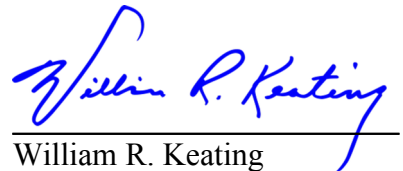
Jimmy Panetta
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André Carson
Member of Congress



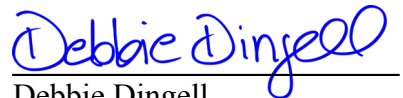
Juan Vargas
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William R. Keating
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Debbie Dingell
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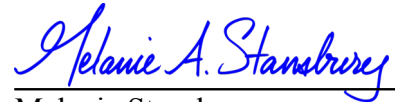
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Gabe Amo
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Summer Lee
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Melanie Stansbury
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Earl Blumenauer
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Katie Porter
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



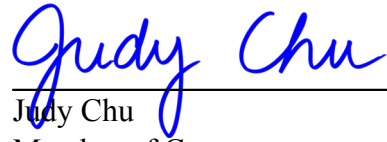
Troy Carter
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Jake Auchincloss
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Jared Moskowitz
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



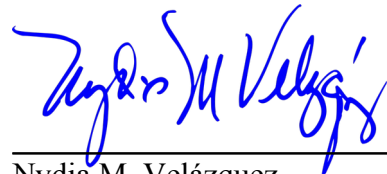
Tony Cárdenas
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Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



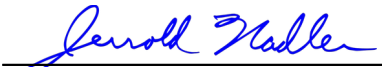
Diana DeGette
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Mikie Sherrill
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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



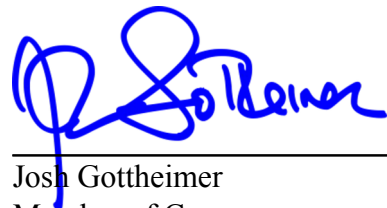
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



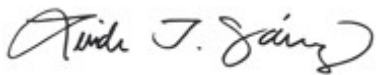
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



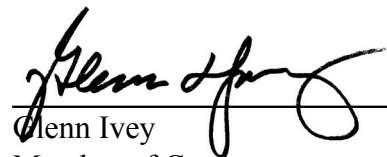
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Josh Gottheimer
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Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



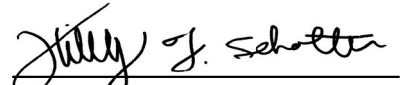
Elissa Slotkin
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Ted W. Lieu
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress