

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you consider the difficult and important work of appropriating precious public resources for the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education Subcommittee, we urge you to include \$435,000,000 for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). At a time where 65% of jobs will require some postsecondary training, ensuring that students are prepared for and succeed in higher education is essential for our nation's economic, civic, and social wellbeing. Yet for far too many students, postsecondary education remains out of reach. This cost-effective college readiness program has helped millions of low-income students progress on the pathway to college and build a more stable future for themselves, their communities and our nation.

Data shared by the U.S. Department of Education on the most sizeable class of GEAR UP students affirms the impact that the program is having on young people. GEAR UP high school graduates are enrolling immediately into postsecondary education at rates substantially higher (77.3% in 2014) than the national average for low-income students (45.5% in 2013). The GEAR UP program is truly a locally driven, highly flexible model for closing achievement gaps and creating opportunity.

Given this success, a modest increase to GEAR UP funding to \$435,000,000 would allow the U.S. Department of Education to better meet the needs of communities nationwide and would help to ensure that states and communities can compete for new awards. GEAR UP has demonstrated tremendous success with nearly 570,000 students across a diverse range of backgrounds in large cities, rural areas, and everywhere in between, and is currently active in more than 3,474 secondary schools in 43 states across the nation. The proven model starts early in low-income middle schools and follows students through high school and into their first year of college. By incorporating scholarship funds, expanding access to rigorous academic courses, tutoring, mentoring, financial literacy, and intensive college and career planning, GEAR UP builds college-going cultures in schools where even high school graduation cannot be taken for granted.

At a time of tight budgets, we have to invest every dollar responsibly. GEAR UP's proven track record, as well as its critical role in building our economy, makes it a truly worthwhile investment.

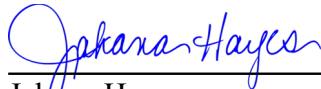
Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
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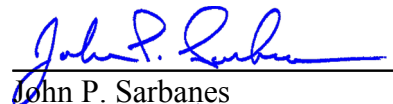
Ayanna Pressley
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Lucy McBath
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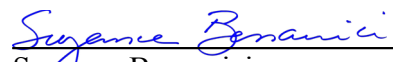
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



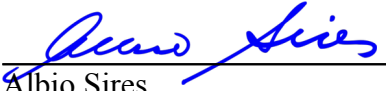
John P. Sarbanes
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Ro Khanna
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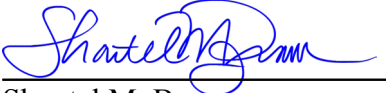
Suzanne Bonamici
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Albio Sires
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Tom Malinowski
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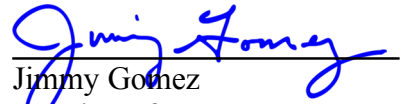
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Tom O'Halleran
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Jimmy Gomez
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Dina Titus
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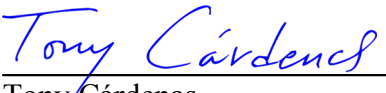
Vicente Gonzalez
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Ron Kind
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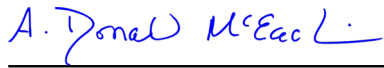
Marilyn Strickland
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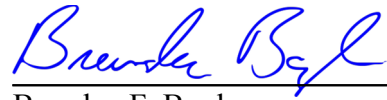
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Diana DeGette
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A. Donald McEachin
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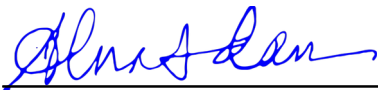
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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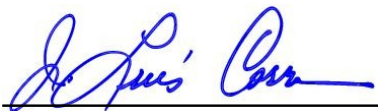
Young Kim
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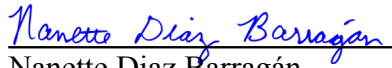
Danny K. Davis
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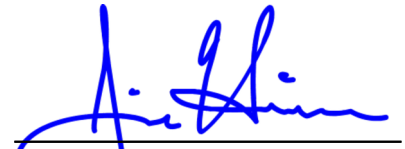



Troy Carter
Member of Congress

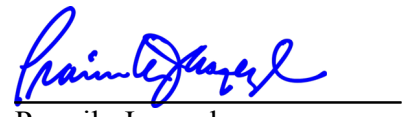

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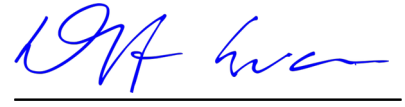

Kaiuli Kahele
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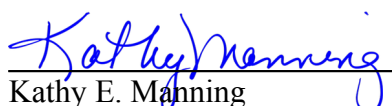

Pramila Jayapal
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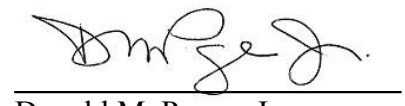

Joseph D. Morelle
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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James R. Langevin
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Dwight Evans
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Kathy E. Manning
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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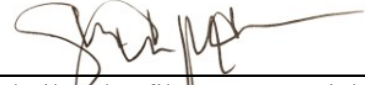
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



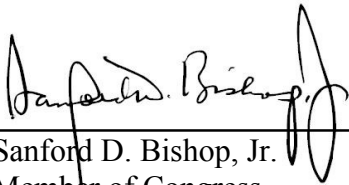
Earl Blumenauer
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André Carson
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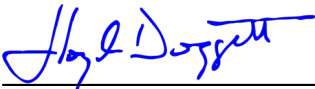
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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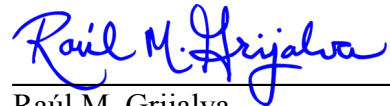
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



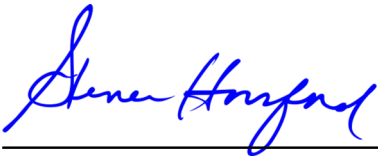
Jim Costa
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Lloyd Doggett
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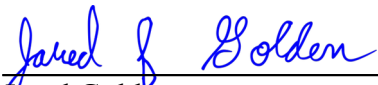
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Steven Horsford
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Jared Golden
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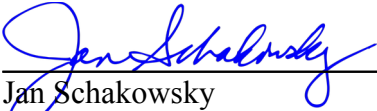
Barbara Lee
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Ilhan Omar
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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