

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 7, 2018

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

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey,

We write to express concerns about the 302(b) subcommittee spending allocations for fiscal year 2019 that prioritize the President's border wall over programs that support hard-working, middle-class families.

A generous portion of the increase in discretionary spending is directed toward homeland security programs – presumably the President's wall and deportation agenda – while other critical investments in our workforce, education, and health are largely ignored.

It would be a mistake to shortchange critical programs that help working families. We hear it from our constituents every day. Their earnings are not keeping up with their expenses. They are struggling to put food on the table or pay medical bills, let alone save for a dignified retirement. In the face of stagnant wages, rising health care premiums, and prohibitive child care costs, we must invest in programs that level the playing field. Without a strong middle class – the backbone of our society – our economy cannot be prosperous and our nation cannot be secure.

Our spending reflects our values. Instead of tearing apart families with cruel immigration policies, we should prioritize our children by boosting spending on child care and early education programs. We should focus on our health, and invest in preventative care and life-saving treatments. We should promote workplaces free from harassment and discrimination by fully funding our enforcement agencies. We should value low-wage workers, such as child care workers and home health aides, who are essential to our economy by ensuring they can make ends meet. Finally, we should promote job growth by investing in workforce training and infrastructure reform.

We urge you to reconsider the spending allocations and work across the aisle on appropriations legislation that meets the needs of the middle-class. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

  
Lois Frankel

Chair  
Democratic Women's Working Group

  
Brenda L. Lawrence

Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Working Group

  
Jackie Speier

Policy and Communications Chair  
Democratic Women's Working Group



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



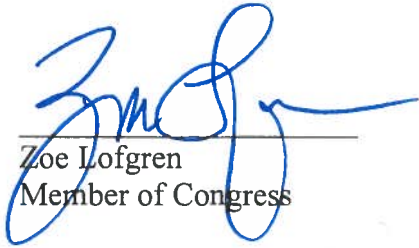
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



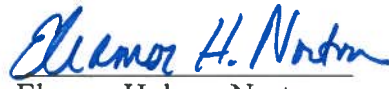
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



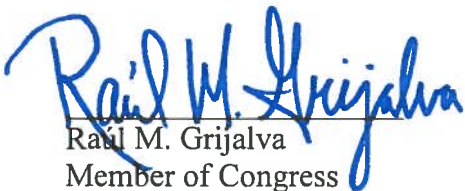
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



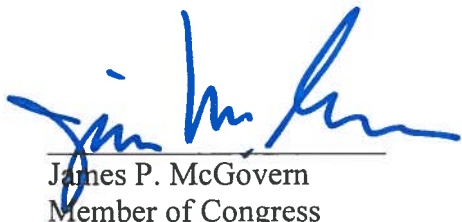
André Carson  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



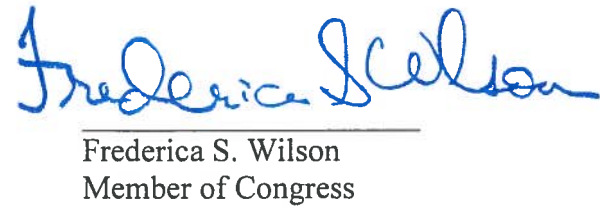
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



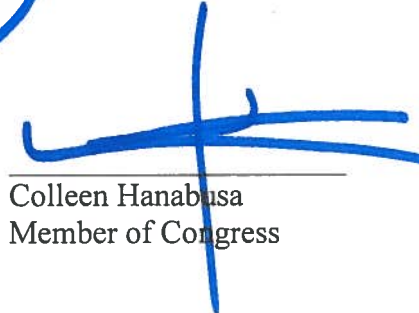
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



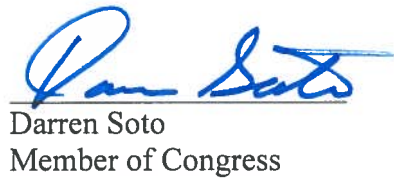
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress