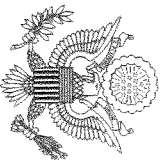


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April 27, 2006

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The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to urge you to restore funding to the Even Start Family Literacy Programs at the Fiscal 2005 level of \$225 million.

For the past several years, the President has recommended eliminating the Even Start Family Literacy program, using the results of its Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) questionnaire as a central justification. Earlier this month, the effectiveness of PART as a budget tool was questioned by the Majority Staff Director of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability.

As reported by GovExec, the Majority Staff Director noted that Even Start

“... was originally established by Congress to boost adult reading levels, but its PART evaluation is based largely on the number of participants who obtain general equivalency degrees. As a result, the program received an ineffective rating in 2002 and OMB recommended that its funding be zeroed out.” (*GovExec, OMB program assessments viewed as flawed budget tool, April 4, 2006*)

Meanwhile, over half of the Even Start programs in the county—including 20 of the only 28 programs serving the Native American community—will face termination by July 1, 2006 because of the budget decisions based on the PART analysis.

The Even Start Family Literacy Program is a comprehensive family literacy program, which serves both parents and young children who are most in need. The programs provide adult education, parenting education, early childhood education, and interactive parent and child literacy activities. More than 40 million adults have basic literacy skills or limited proficiency in English that interferes with their ability to participate fully in work, family and community activities. Current funding, which includes Even Start and other programs, reaches only 2.8 million of these adults each year, and thousands more are on waiting lists.

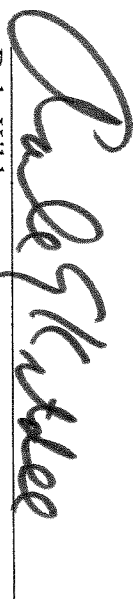
Given this new information, we believe it is imperative to revisit the Even Start funding request and to restore funding for this effective and successful program—as demonstrated by several independent analyses.

Thank you for your consideration of this emergency request.

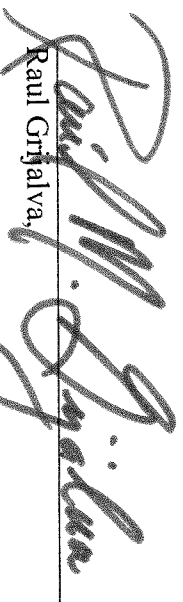
Sincerely,



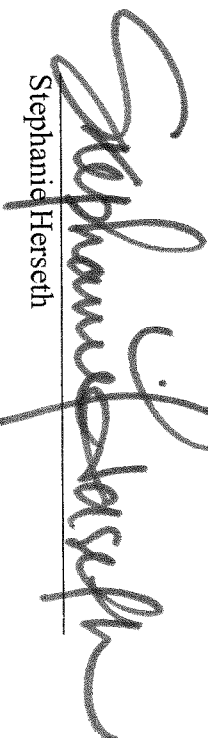
George Miller
Senior Democratic Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce



Dale Kildee
Senior Democratic Member
Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness



Raul Grijalva,



Stephanie Herseth



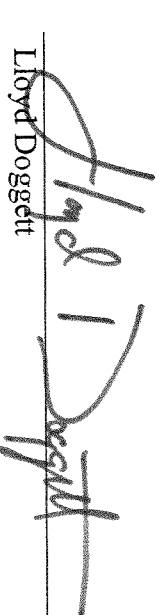
Carolyn McCarthy



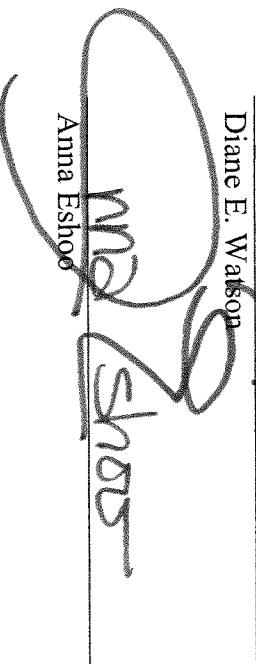
Ed Case



Diane E. Watson



Lloyd Doggett



Anna Eshoo

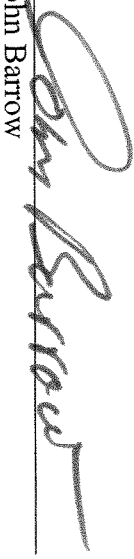


Robert Wexler

Tim Ryan



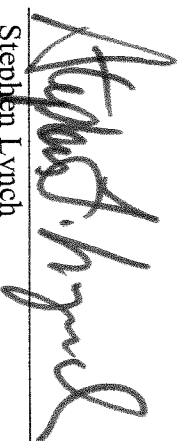
John Barrow



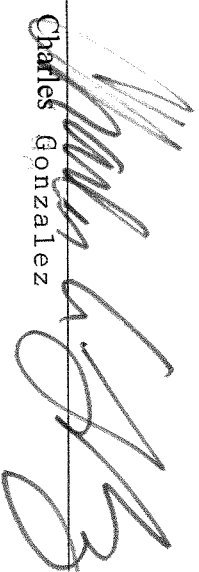
Mike Ross



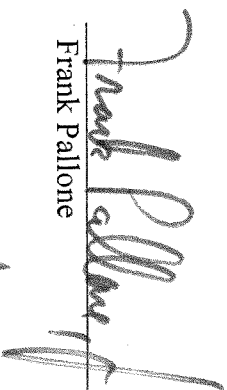
Stephen Lynch



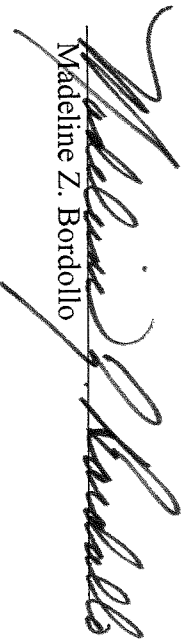
Charles Gonzalez



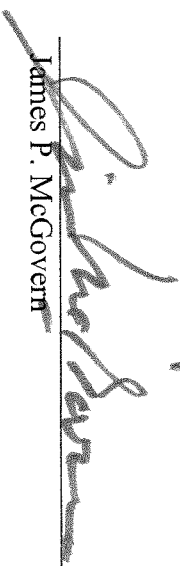
Frank Pallone



Madeline Z. Bordollo



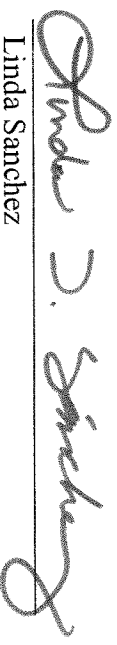
James P. McGovern



John Larson



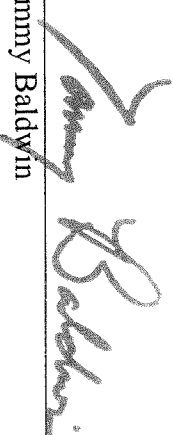
Linda Sanchez



Rush Holt



Tammy Baldwin



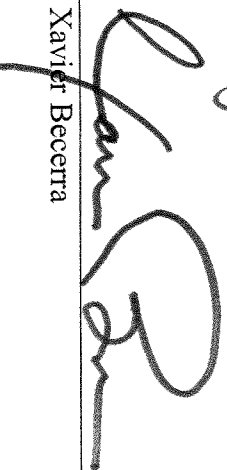
Betty McCollum



Jim McDermott



Xavier Becerra



Tom Allen



Robert Scott

Susan Davis

Henry Cuellar

Gwen Moore

Chris VanHollen

Neil Abercrombie

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Danny Davis

Michael Capuano

Bob Etheridge

Grace Napolitano

Emanuel Cleaver

Lois Capps

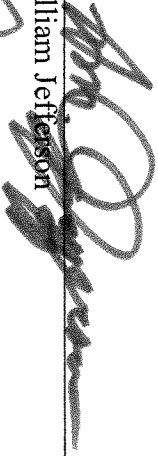
Michael Honda

Barbara Lee

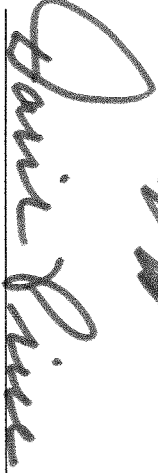
Hilda Solis

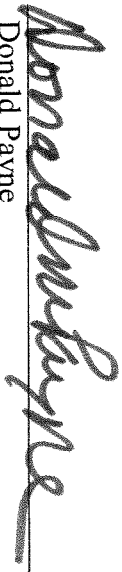
Dennis Moore


Dennis Kucinich


William Jefferson



Eleanor Holmes Norton

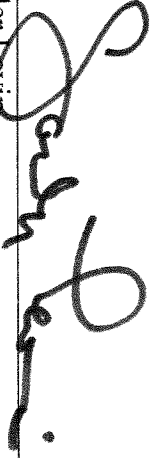

David Price

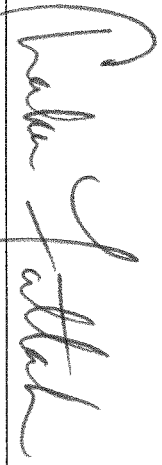

Donald Payne

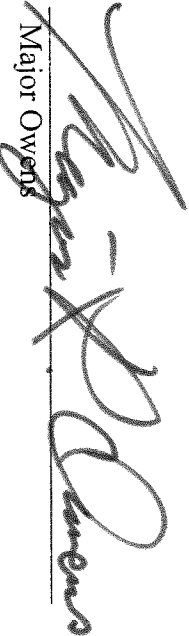

Elijah E. Cummings


Lynn Woolsey



Richard Neal

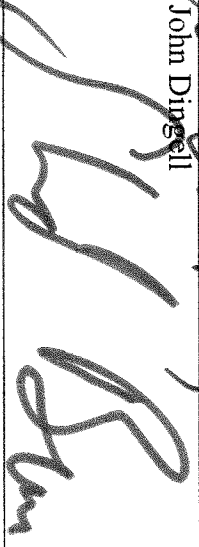

Sander Levin

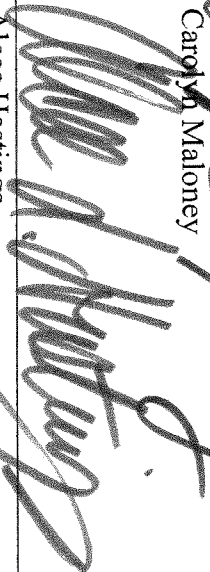

Chaka Fattah

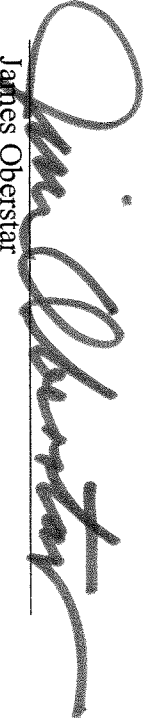

Major Owens

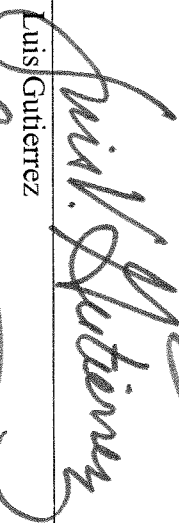

John Dingell

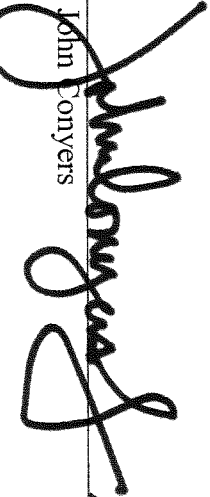

Carolyn Maloney

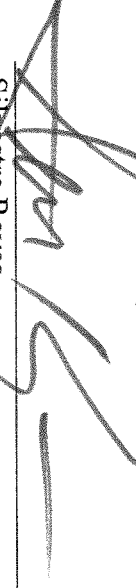

Sherrod Brown


Alcee Hastings


James Oberstar


Luis Guterrez


John Conyers


Silvestre Reyes

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre

Bill Delahunt

William Delahunt

Ruben Hinojosa

Ruben Hinojosa

Solomon P. Ortiz

Solomon Ortiz