

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray (Co-Chair)
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Pat Toomey
The Honorable Rob Portman

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling (Co-Chair)
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Xavier Becerra
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable Fred Upton

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

As you continue your work on deficit reduction, please consider the accompanying letter signed by 82 of our colleagues, which we sent to the Appropriations Committee for FY2012 in support of the Community Services Block Grant program.

Community Services Block Grants provide a critical lifeline to our country's most vulnerable citizens. Community action programs are the federal government's only comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable citizens and helping struggling Americans get the services they need to achieve economic security. Covering 1,065 agencies in 99 percent of U.S. counties, community action programs last year provided employment, education and housing to 20.7 million Americans who face an array of enormous challenges.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to have your staffs contact William Spring in Congressman Markey's office at 5-2836 or William.Spring@mail.house.gov, or Michael Cox in Congressman Meeks' office at 5-3461 or Michael.Cox@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


Gregory W. Meeks

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS
& Education
2358 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS
& Education
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

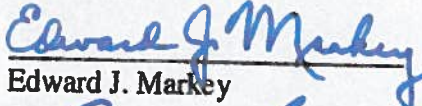
Dear Chairmen Rogers and Rehberg and Ranking Members Dicks and DeLauro:

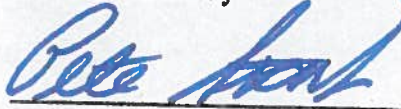
As you know, the administration's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request contains a \$350 million funding cut for Community Services Block Grants (CSBG). We recognize the challenging fiscal environment in which our country is currently operating; however, we believe that severe cuts to CSBGs - the source of funding for community action programs - would hinder, rather than help, our nation's economic recovery while devastating critical support services for the poor, disabled, children and the elderly. Accordingly, as the Subcommittee and the Full Committee conduct their work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2012, we respectfully request funding for CSBGs at a minimum of \$680 million- the FY2011 level as enacted.

CSBGs provide a lifeline for our country's most vulnerable citizens. Community action programs are the federal government's only comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable citizens and helping struggling Americans get the services they need to achieve economic security. Covering 1,065 agencies in 99 percent of U.S. counties, community action programs last year provided employment, education and housing to 20.7 million Americans facing an array of enormous challenges ranging from extreme poverty and disability to lack of employment and shelter. Community action programs created and retained 18,432 jobs over the past two years, ranking 8th out of approximately 200 federal Recovery Act programs.

We believe that CSBG-funded projects will help ensure low-income Americans achieve economic security and become productive, contributing members of society. We appreciate your consideration of our request for no less than \$680 million in the FY12 Appropriations bill and stand ready to work with you as we confront the challenges facing our nation in the future.

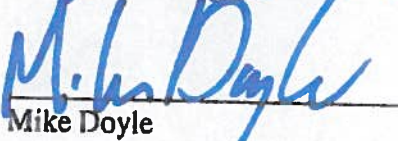
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

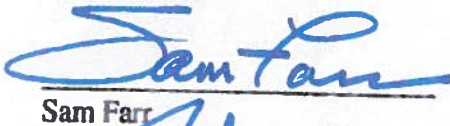

Fortney Pete Stark

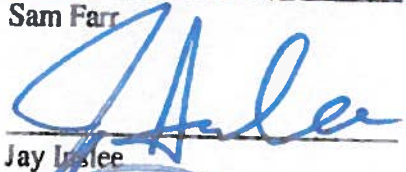

Jason Altmire


Elijah E. Cummings


Mike Doyle

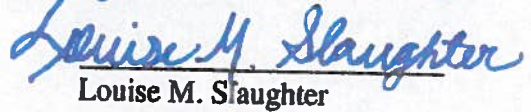

Diana DeGette

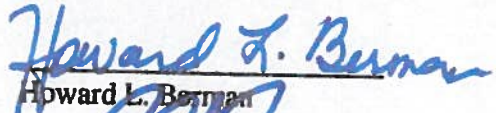

Sam Farr


Jay Inslee


Ron Kind


John Conyers, Jr.

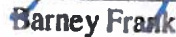

Louise M. Slaughter


Howard L. Berman


Peter DeFazio


Bob Filner


Anna C. Eshoo


Barney Frank


Steve Israel

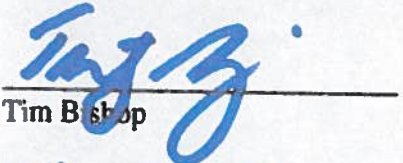

Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Jerrold Nadler



Tammy Baldwin



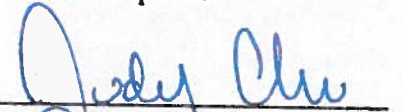
Tim Bishop



Madeleine Bordallo



Michael Capuano



Judy Chu



Hansen Clark



Steve Cohen



Joe Courtney



Keith Ellison



Al Green



Collin Peterson



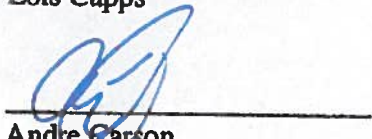
Karen Bass



Dan Boren



Lois Capps



Andre Carson



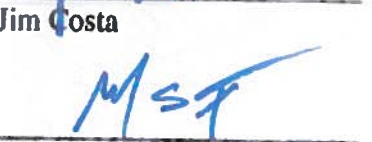
David Cicilline



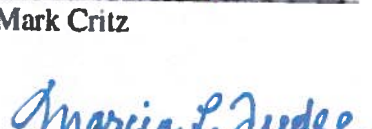
Yvette Clark



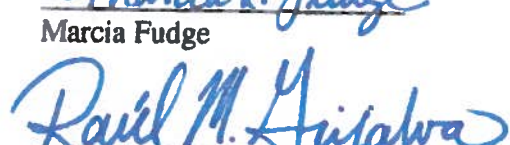
Jim Costa



Mark Critz

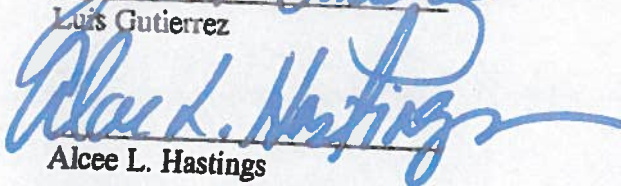


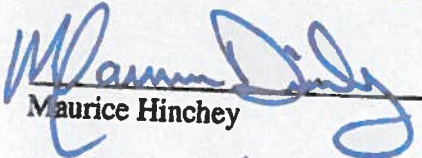
Marcia Fudge

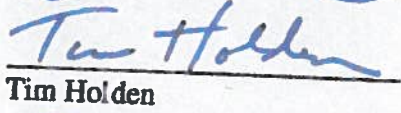


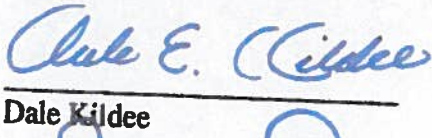
Raul Grijalva

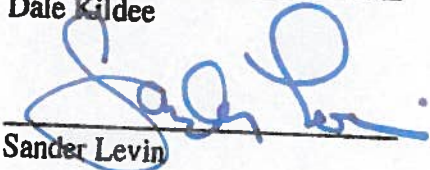

Luis Gutierrez

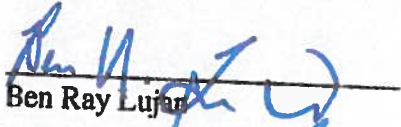

Alcee L. Hastings

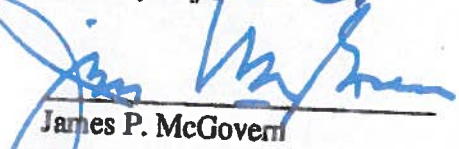

Maurice Hinchey


Tim Holden


Dale Kildee


Sander Levin


Ben Ray Lujan

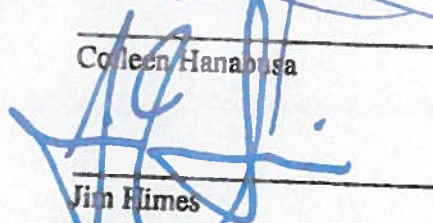

James P. McGovern


Michael Michaud


Richard E. Neal


Carolyn B. Maloney

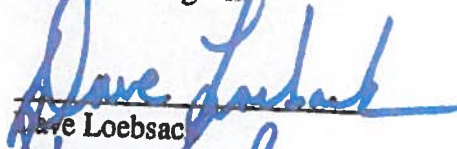

Colleen Hanabusa

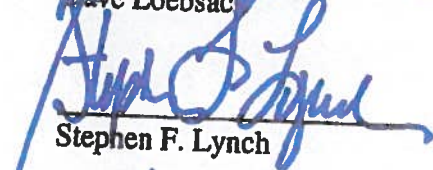

Jim Himes


Mazie K. Hirono

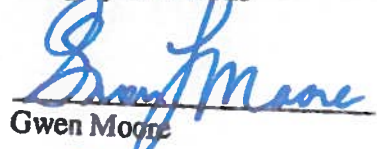

William R. Keating


James R. Langevin


Dave Loebsac

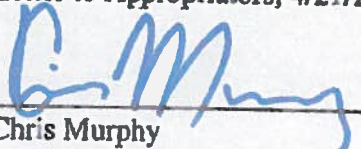

Stephen F. Lynch



Gregory W. Meeks


Gwen Moore

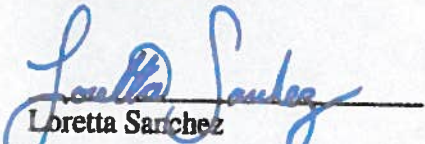

Eliot L. Engel


Dennis J. Kucinich


Chris Murphy



Pedro Pierluisi


Laura Richardson



Loretta Sanchez

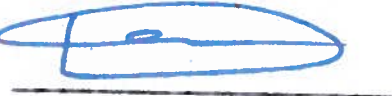

Terri Sewell

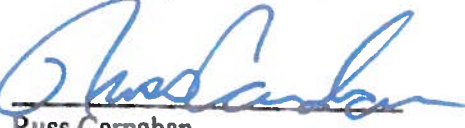

Betty Sutton


Paul Tonko

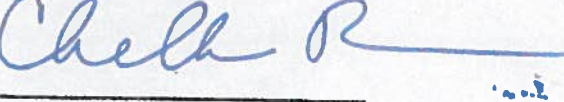

Niki Tsongas

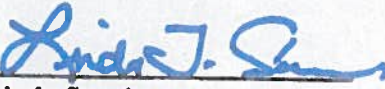

Frederica Wilson


David Wu

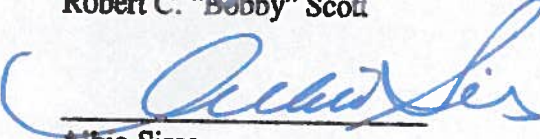

Russ Carnahan

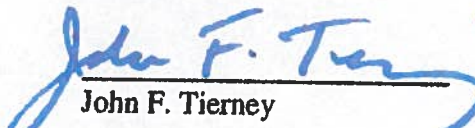

Eleanor Holmes Norton



Chellie Pingree


Linda Sanchez

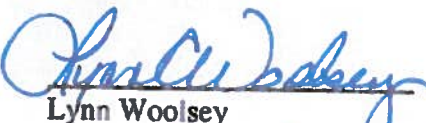

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Albio Sires

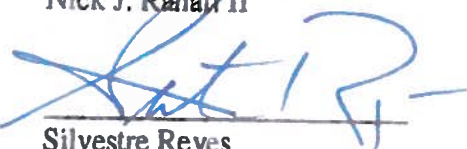

John F. Tierney


Edolphus Towns


Peter Welch


Lynn Woolsey


Nick J. Rahall II


Silvestre Reyes