

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to request that you include \$14.5 million in funding for the School Leadership Recruitment and Support Program (SLRSP) – the only federally authorized program dedicated specifically to strengthening school leadership – as part of the fiscal year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

SLRSP is the next generation of the School Leadership Program, which has a demonstrated track record of effectiveness. Through this program, aspiring principals gain access to high-quality preparation programs, sitting principals receive critical professional development supports, and thousands of teachers – along with hundreds of thousands of students – work and learn in schools in which the leadership has the tools to help them maximize their potential.

Recognizing the importance of school leaders, Congress included this important program in the bipartisan reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Funding this program at \$14.5 million will allow for the awarding of new, competitive grants to support the recruitment, preparation, placement, support, and retention of effective principals in high-need schools.

Support for this program is essential because strong school leaders have an outsized effect on student achievement, dramatically improving the quality of teaching, creating positive school environments, and raising student achievement in a school. SLRSP can develop a pipeline of skilled new principals and target experienced principals who are in their first year tackling the challenges of school turnaround and for whom strong support and high-quality professional learning are particularly critical. By leveraging new pathways to prepare and support promising educators to lead our schools, SLRSP can amplify other investments in educator quality and lead to improved outcomes for educators, students, and families.

While the need is great, a relatively small federal investment can have a huge influence on locally-driven efforts to get well-prepared, well-supported principals in our highest-need schools. We urge you to include \$14.5 million in funding for SLRSP to help ensure that school leaders have access to the preparation and support that enable them to drive positive change for students and teachers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



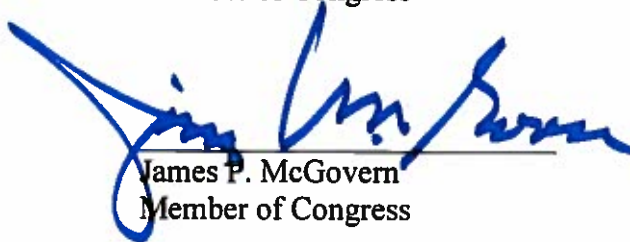
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Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



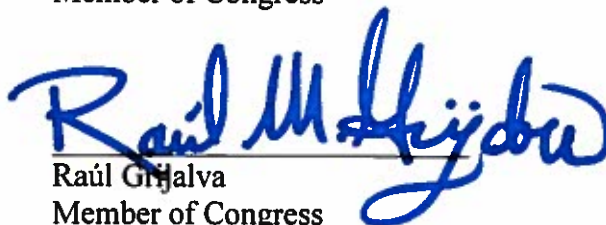
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



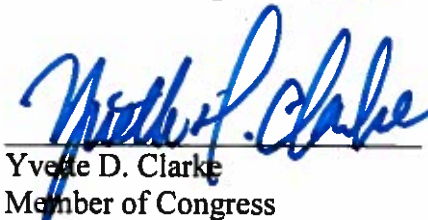
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