

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
The Capitol, H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Members Granger and Leahy:

On a single given night in January 2018, there were 37,878 homeless veterans in the United States, including 14,566 unsheltered or living on the streets.¹ This is unacceptable. To reduce veterans' homelessness, we urge you to maintain the House of Representatives Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) funding level of \$42,000,000 for the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers (HUD-VASH) and \$5,000,000 for Tribal-VASH program in the eventual conference Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development bill.

According to the American Public Health Association, homelessness leads to higher incidents of mental and physical health conditions, and substance abuse. Without proper housing, homeless veterans are unable to address these serious health concerns. We owe it to our veterans to make sure that after they have served our country they are cared for.

HUD-VASH is an innovative, collaborative program between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). HUD offers homeless veterans rental assistance to get them off the streets and into safe shelter. VA case managers then provide participating veterans with wrap around support services to address health care or other pressing needs that helps them integrate into their community. By combining shelter with support services, HUD-VASH addresses the underlying causes that lead veterans to experiencing homelessness in the first place. The Tribal-VASH program applies the same principals of HUD-VASH to focus on addressing homelessness in the Native American veterans' community.

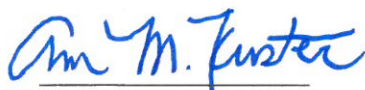
Both HUD-VASH and Tribal-VASH have proven to be incredibly successful. At the end of FY18, 78,234 veterans secured had housing thanks to HUD-VASH vouchers. According to a

¹ <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

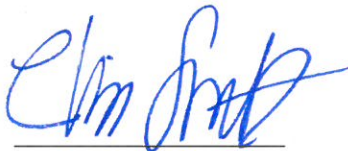
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recently published report, every HUD-VASH voucher issued resulted in one fewer veteran experiencing homelessness.^[1] We have witnessed how these vouchers help veterans in our communities. By funding HUD-VASH at \$42,000,000 and Tribal-VASH at \$5,000,000 in FY20, Congress can build upon this success and continue to reduce veteran homelessness.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Christopher Smith
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



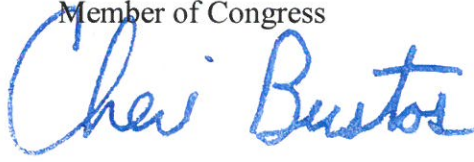
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



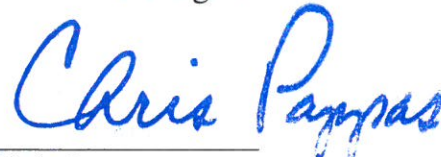
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



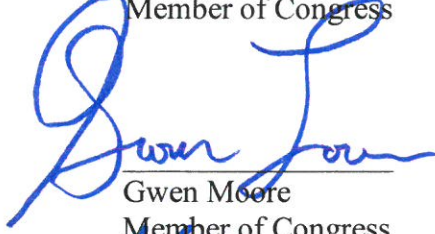
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



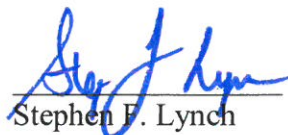
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



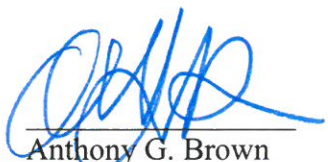
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



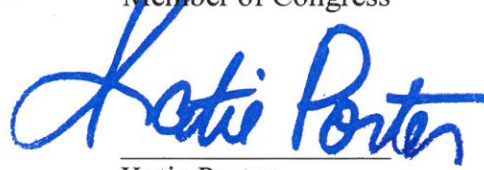
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



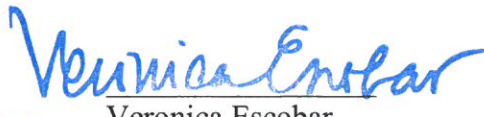
Max Rose
Member of Congress

^[1] Bill Evans, Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing Vouchers and Veterans Homelessness, 2007 – 2017. 2019

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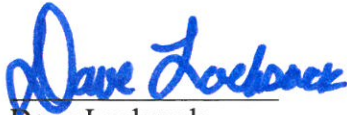
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



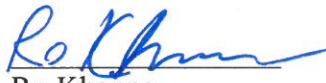
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



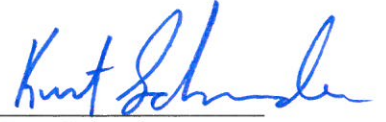
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress




Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



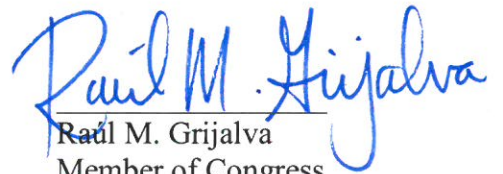
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



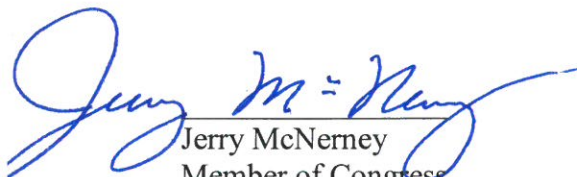
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



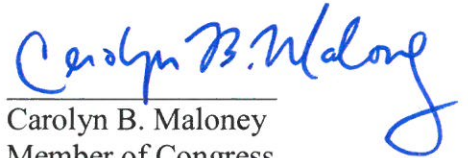
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



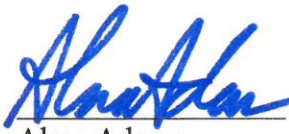
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Alma Adams
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



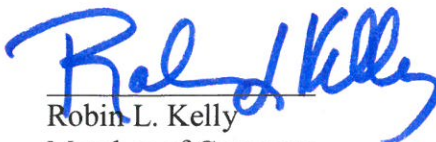
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



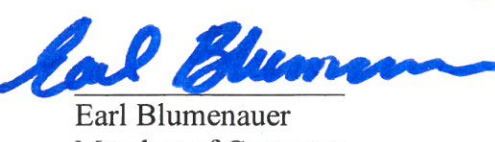
Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

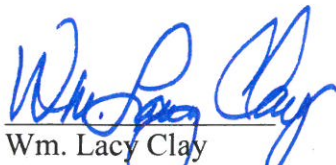


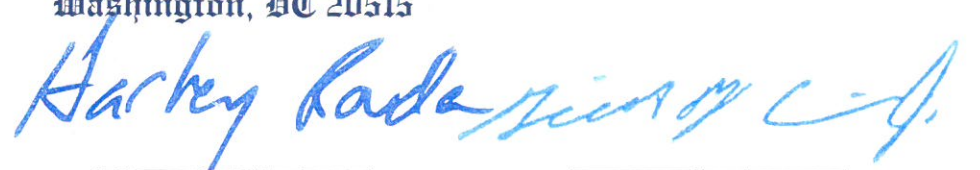
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress




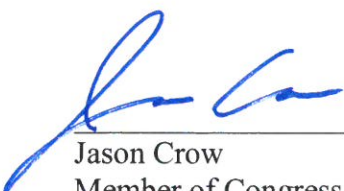
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

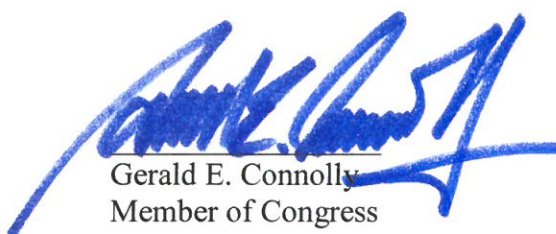
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Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

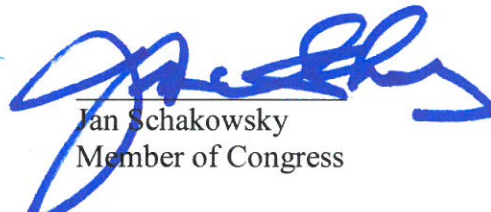

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.
Member of Congress

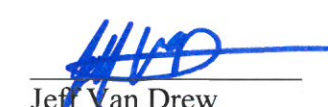

Jason Crow
Member of Congress


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

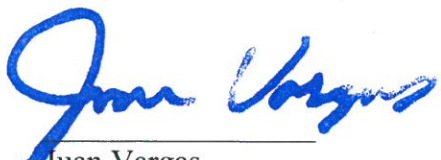

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

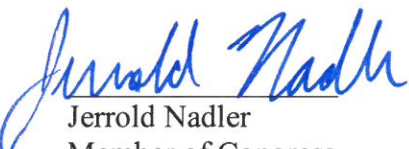

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

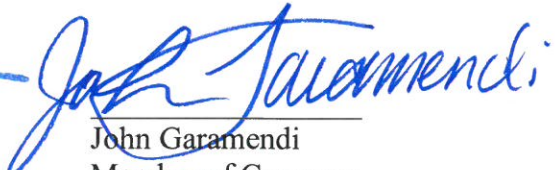

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

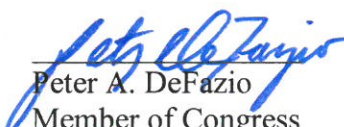

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

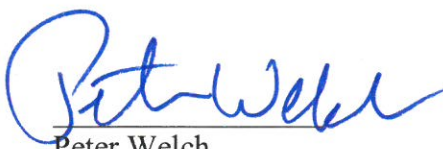

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

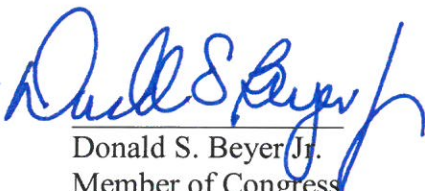

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

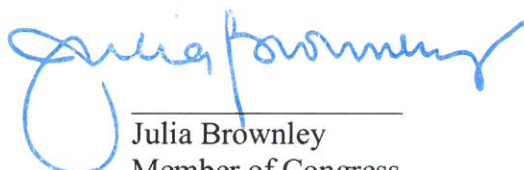

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

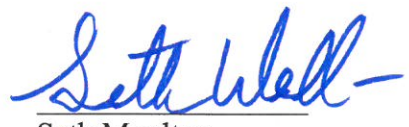

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Al Lawson
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

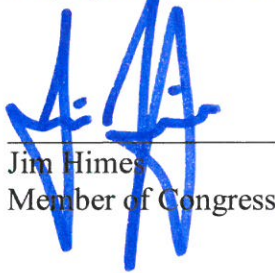

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

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Mark Takano
Member of Congress



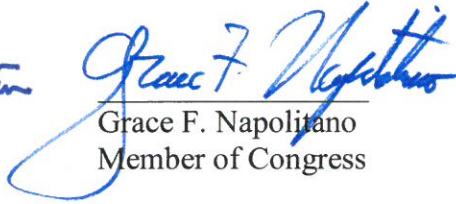
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



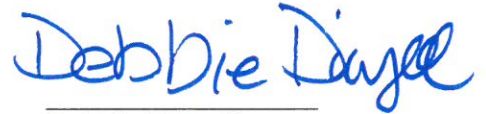
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



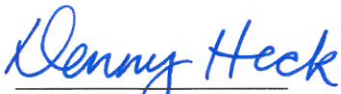
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



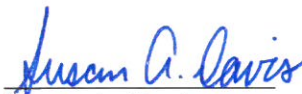
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



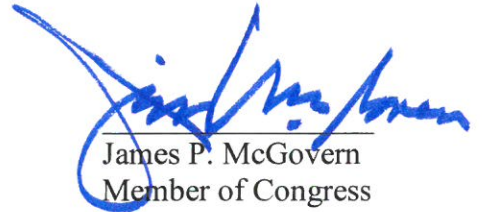
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



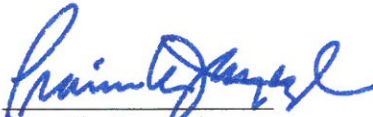
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



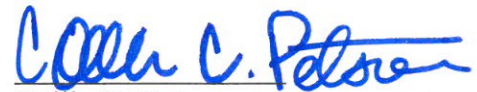
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



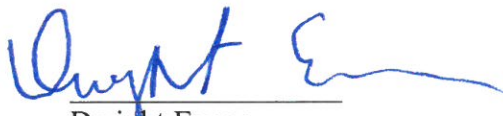
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



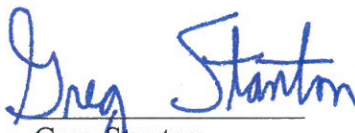
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



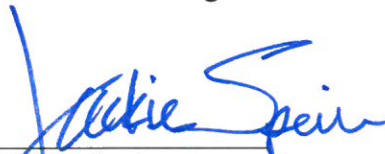
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress




Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

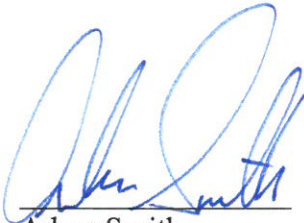


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

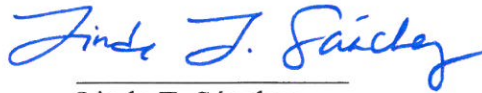


Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

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Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
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