

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

March 14, 2008

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health & Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health & Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As your Subcommittee prepares to mark up the FY 2009 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill, we ask that the House include the highest funding level possible of \$41 million for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and \$26.2 million for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LENDs) program.

UCEDDs, a network of 67 centers, provide interdisciplinary training, community services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination to the people with developmental disabilities and their families. UCEDDs exist to provide a unique, expert, state and community resource to facilitate independence and full participation in the community for people of all ages living with developmental and other disabilities.

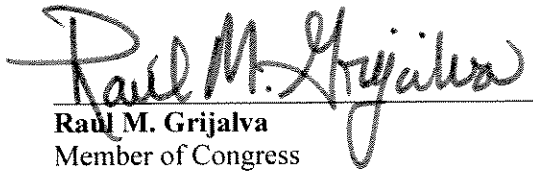
LENDs, a network of 34 programs, were developed to improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents with or at risk for neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families. This is accomplished through the interdisciplinary training of professionals for leadership roles in the health and related care disciplines, continuing education, technical assistance, research and consultation. The program focuses on the special health care needs of children with a wide range of neurodevelopmental, metabolic and genetic disorders. In short supply are appropriately trained professionals prepared to meet the growing needs of children with autism, Down Syndrome and genetic disorders

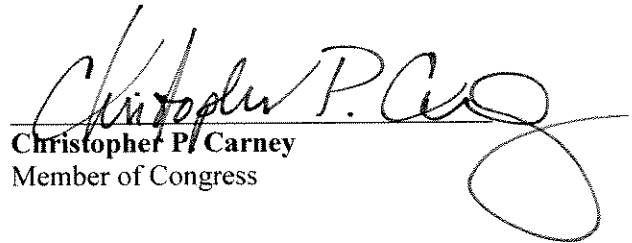
We thank you for your previous support of these critical programs. We look forward to working with you on ways to support the approximately 4,000,000 individuals who live with developmental disabilities in the United States.

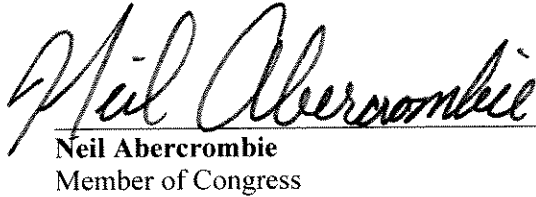
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Langevin, M.C.  
Co-Chair, Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus

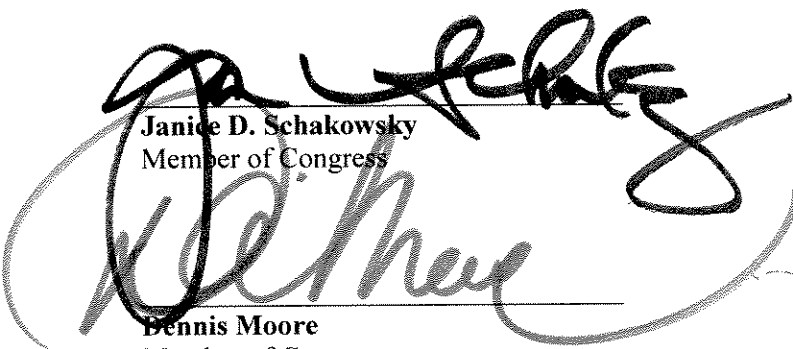
  
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Jim Ramstad, M.C.  
Co-Chair, Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus

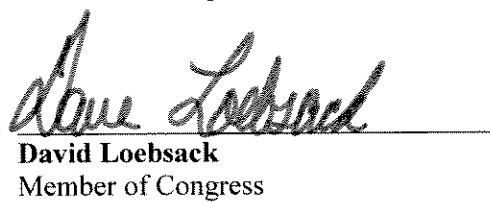
  
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Christopher P. Carney  
Member of Congress

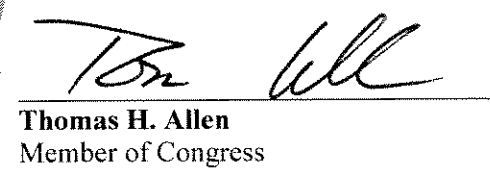
  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

  
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress

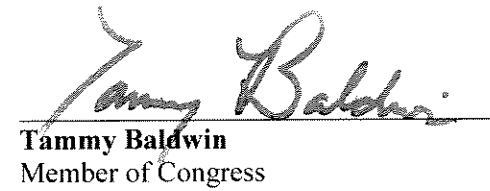
  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

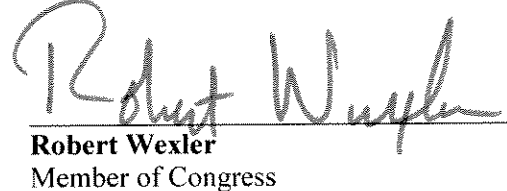
  
David Loeb sack  
Member of Congress

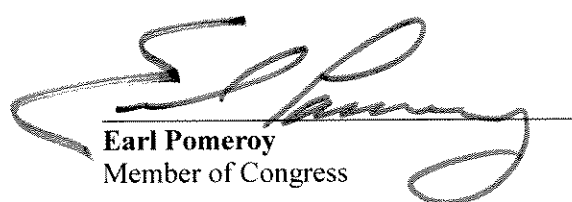
  
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress

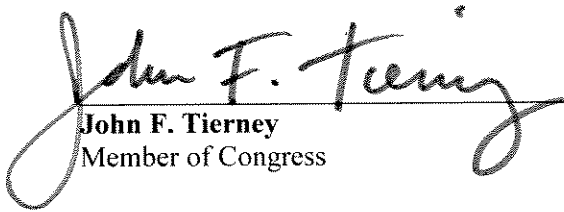
  
Thomas H. Allen  
Member of Congress

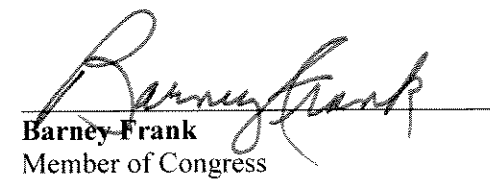
  
Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress

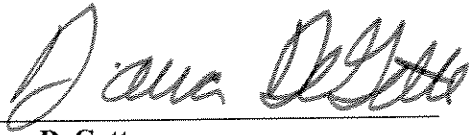
  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress

  
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress

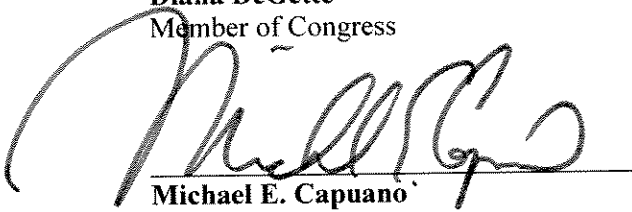
  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



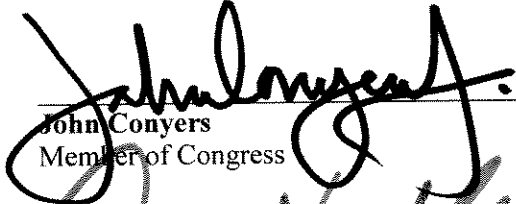
**Diana DeGette**  
Member of Congress



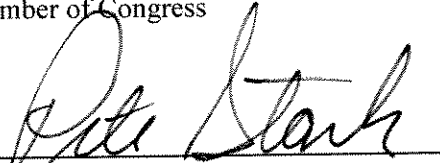
**James P. Moran**  
Member of Congress



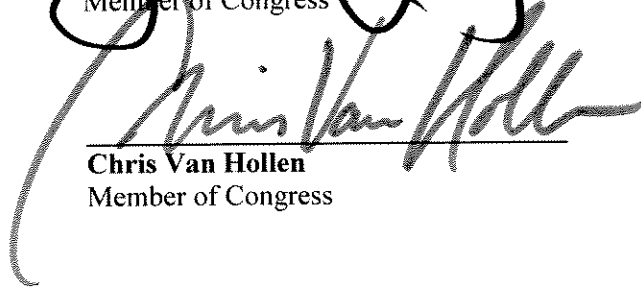
**Michael E. Capuano**  
Member of Congress



**John Conyers**  
Member of Congress



**Fortney Pete Stark**  
Member of Congress



**Chris Van Hollen**  
Member of Congress



**David G. Reichert**  
Member of Congress