

**ROB PORTMAN**  
SECOND DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

CHAIRMAN,  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3502**

March 30, 2005

The Honorable Joseph Knollenberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Treasury, and General Government  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Treasury, and General Government  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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<http://portman.house.gov/contact>

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

We are writing to let you know of our strong support for the President's FY 2006 request of \$80 million for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant program. The DFC program has proven effective in reducing teen drug and alcohol use in communities around the country to levels much lower than the national average. In addition, this program received one of the highest OMB PART scores of any program in the Executive Office of the President. Finally, the funding for the DFC program has historically been insufficient to meet the overwhelming demands.

It is crucial that communities around the country are organized to respond to their local drug problems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The DFC program recognizes that federal anti-drug resources must be invested at the community level with those who have the most power to reduce the demand for drugs -- parents, teachers, business leaders, the media, religious leaders, law enforcement officials, youths and others.

Last years' appropriation included \$2 million for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. This level of funding is necessary for FY 2006 as it will allow the Institute to provide the necessary training, technical assistance and performance evaluation components needed to make existing coalitions more effective in reducing drug abuse and to increase the number of community coalitions nationwide. In addition, as DFC grantees receive their last year of funding it is critical to fully fund the Institute to ensure the sustainability and growth of our DFC graduates.

The DFC program has achieved impressive outcomes:

- In Troy, Michigan, the Troy Community Coalition contributed to a 33% decrease in 30 day inhalant use among 12th graders, from 6% in 2000 to 4% in 2004.
- In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition contributed to a 14% decrease in 30 day marijuana use among 12th graders, from 36% in 2001 to 31% in 2003.

Communities throughout the country have achieved similar results.

Supporting the President's request of \$80 million for the DFC program in FY 2006 will allow additional communities nationwide to build and sustain effective community coalitions that are the backbone of successful local anti-drug efforts. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman



Mark Souder



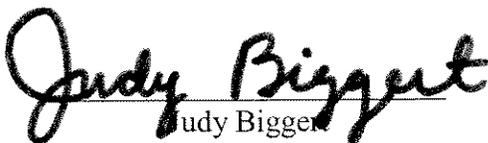
Tom Davis



Neil Abercrombie



Melissa Bean



Judy Biggers



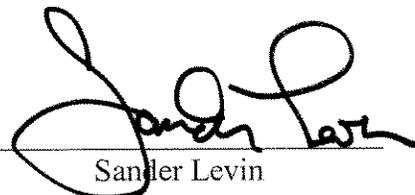
John Boehner



Corrine Brown



Michael Burgess



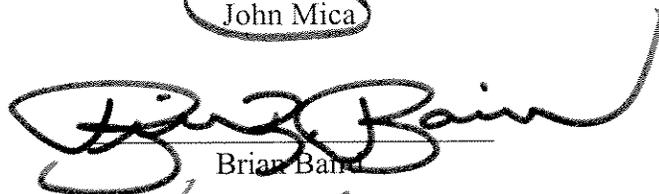
Sander Levin



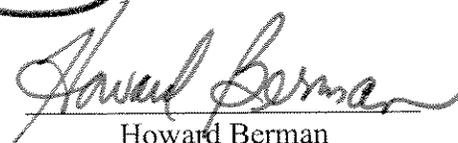
Elijah Cummings



John Mica



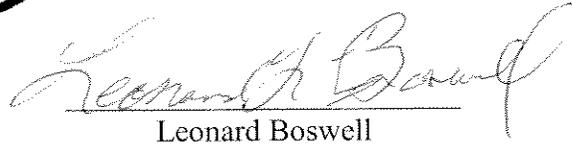
Brian Baird



Howard Berman



John Boehner



Leonard Boswell



Sherrod Brown



Dan Burton

  
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Ken Calvert

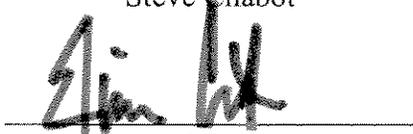
  
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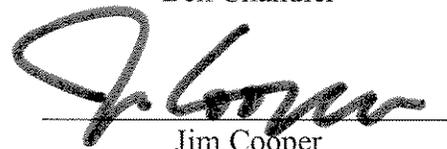
  
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Benjamin Cardin

  
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Ed Case

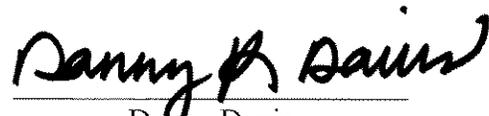
  
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Steve Chabot

  
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Ben Chandler

  
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Jim Costa

  
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Jim Cooper

  
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John Conyers

  
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Danny Davis

  
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Geoff Davis

  
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Lincoln Davis

  
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Peter DeFazio

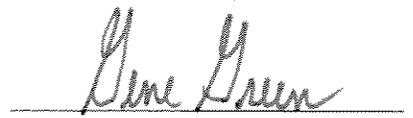
  
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Rosa DeLauro

  
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John Dingell

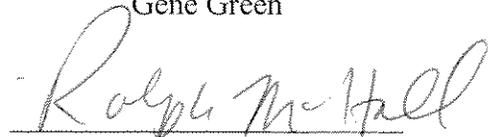
  
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Phil English

  
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Mike Ferguson

  
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Michael Fitzpatrick

  
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Gene Green

  
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Raul Grijalva

  
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Ralph Hall

  
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Melissa Hart

March 9, 2005

Brian Higgins  
Brian Higgins

Mark Kennedy  
Mark Kennedy

Dale E. Kildee  
Dale Kildee

Tom Lantos  
Tom Lantos

Rick Larsen  
Rick Larsen

Steven LaTourette  
Steven LaTourette

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Sheila Jackson Lee

Frank LoBiondo  
Frank LoBiondo

Jim Matheson  
Jim Matheson

Doris Matsui  
Doris Matsui

Michael McCaul  
Michael McCaul

Jim McDermott  
Jim McDermott

James McGovern  
James McGovern

Michael McNulty  
Michael McNulty

Michael Michaud  
Michael Michaud

George Miller  
George Miller

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

James Oberstar  
James Oberstar

Tom Osborne  
Tom Osborne

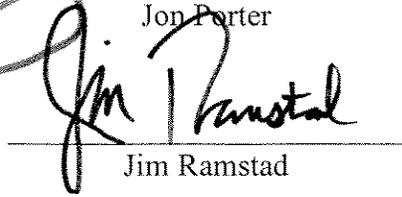
Michael Oxley  
Michael Oxley

Frank Pallone Jr.  
Frank Pallone

Donald Payne  
Donald Payne



Jon Porter



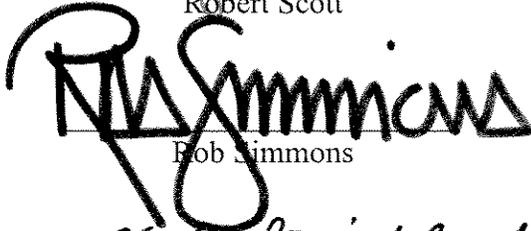
Jim Ramstad



Mike Ross



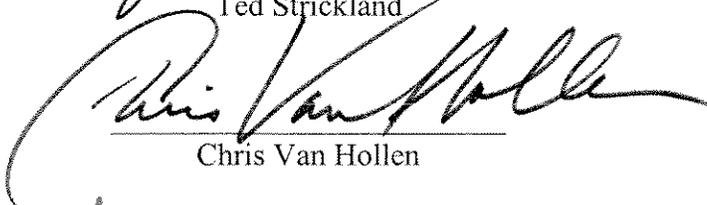
Robert Scott



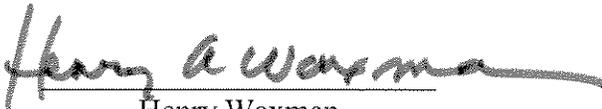
Rob Simmons



Ted Strickland



Chris Van Hollen



Henry Waxman



Albert Wynn



Tom Price



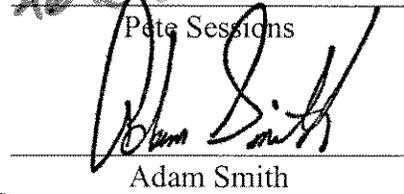
Dave Reichert



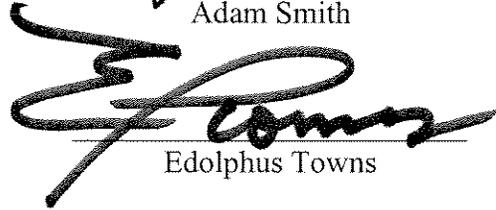
Tim Ryan



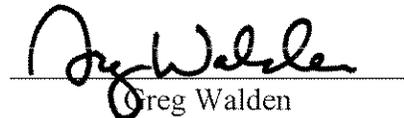
Pete Sessions



Adam Smith



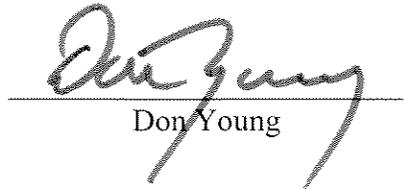
Edolphus Towns



Greg Walden



Edward Whitfield



Don Young



Julie Carson