

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you write your appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017, we ask that you robustly fund the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) at the U.S. Department of Labor.

HVRP focuses on helping veterans experiencing homelessness to find meaningful employment. Veterans receive skills training, career counseling and resume writing assistance through local organizations funded through HVRP. In addition, veterans are connected to stable housing and other supports to help them reintegrate into the labor force and their community.

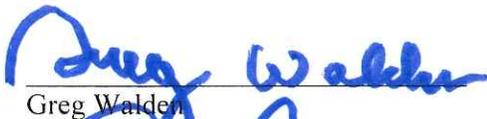
The Medford Oregon HVRP in the first year alone found meaningful employment for 58 of the 95 enrolled veterans - a very credible figure given the challenges encountered when placing this vulnerable population into employment. The program was able to provide a local veteran living in his truck with OSHA training, resume assistance and referral, and job fair opportunities, all of which led to a steady job as a Certified Skilled Ironworker.

As a result of past HVRP investments and other public-private initiatives, our country has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of homeless veterans by more than 26,000, or 36 percent, since 2010. However, local reintegration supports are still needed in order to meet the challenges faced by homeless veterans with mental illness and other barriers, as well as to tailor services to female veterans, the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Robust funding for HVRP will provide these services in more communities and increase the number of veterans served.

We fully recognize the limited resources available among the many priorities within the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. However, we urge you to carefully consider the needs of America's veterans by strongly funding the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program at the Department of Labor.

We thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden



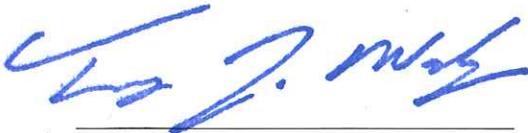
Ryan A. Costello



Kathleen M. Rice



Brad Ashford



Tim Walz



Lee Zeldin



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Lynn Jenkins, C.P.A.



Mark Takano



Kevin Cramer



Grace F. Napolitano



Bradley Byrne



Ann McLane Kuster



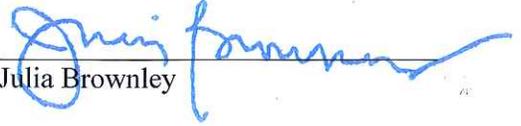
Barbara Comstock



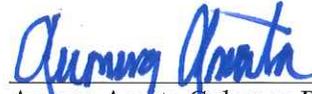
Mark DeSaulnier



Dan Benishek, M.D.



Julia Brownley



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen



Loretta Sanchez



Mike Bost



Matt Cartwright



Steve Stivers



Ann Kirkpatrick



Robert J. Dold



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



Curt Clawson

Frank Muinte

Frank C. Guinta

Terri Sewell

Terri A. Sewell

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

Tom Marino

Tom Marino

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Norma J. Torres

Norma Torres

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones

John L. Mica

John L. Mica

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta

Paul Cook

Paul Cook

Brenda L. Lawrence

Brenda L. Lawrence

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

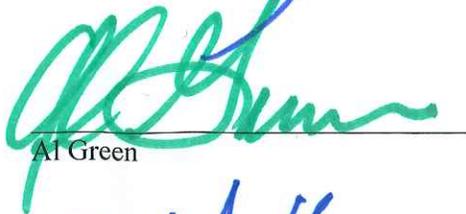
Michael M. Honda

Michael M. Honda

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson


Vern Buchanan

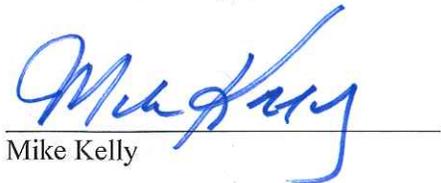

Al Green

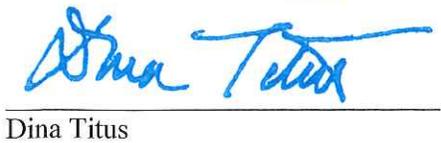

Doug LaMalfa


Richard E. Neal

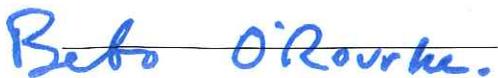

Pete Olson

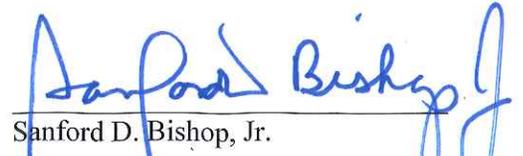

Gerald E. Connolly

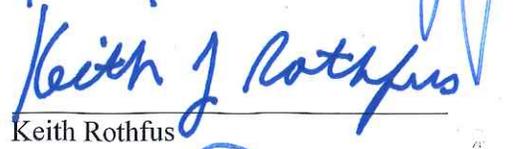

Mike Kelly

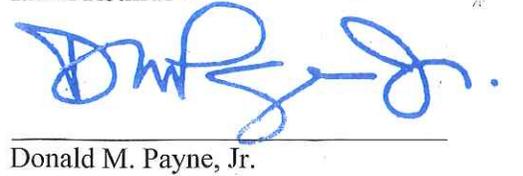

Dina Titus

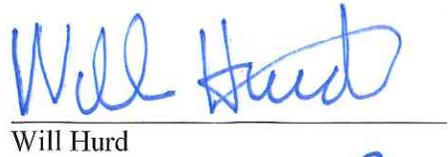

Mike Coffman

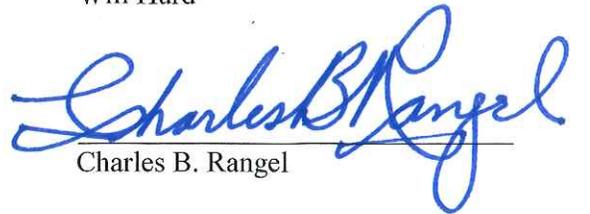

Bebo O'Rourke.


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Keith Rothfus


Donald M. Payne, Jr.

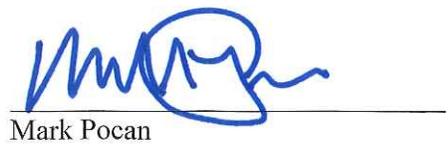

Will Hurd


Charles B. Rangel


Patrick Meehan


Chris Van Hollen


Diane Black


Mark Pocan