

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable David Joyce
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Joyce and Ranking Member Hoyer:

We write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program at the highest possible funding level in Fiscal Year 2025. At a minimum, we are requesting that the program be maintained at \$109 million, as in the final Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bills. We also ask that you include \$2.5 million from within the total amount appropriated in FY 2025 for the DFC program (level with the presumed final FY 2024 appropriated level) to fund the training and technical assistance component of the program, as specifically authorized in section 8204 of P.L. 115-271. Funding the DFC program at the highest possible level would allow communities across the country to continue their prevention efforts to address the nation's worsening drug crises.

As our states continue to combat the opioid, stimulant and youth vaping epidemics, the Drug-Free Communities program has been an effective tool in reducing youth substance use. According to independent research in communities where DFC coalitions exist, rates of past 30-day use among middle school students for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 26.0%, 36.4%, 21.2%, and 16.7% respectively among FY 2021 DFC coalitions. Among high school students, rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 27.6%, 44.2%, 23.0% and 34.0% respectively among FY 2021 DFC coalitions.¹ Currently, 751 communities across the nation have Drug-Free Communities Coalitions that provide support to 2.7 million middle school and 3.8 million high school students.²

The Drug-Free Communities Program is structured to ensure effectiveness, outcomes, and sustainability. It requires a community to demonstrate local commitment before becoming eligible to receive federal funds. This includes participation from at least 12 sectors in the community. All grantees are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal funds, up to the maximum amount of \$125,000 per year. The required emphasis on local data collection, community buy-in and participation among multiple sectors is central to DFC coalitions' success. This emphasis also allows DFC coalitions to respond effectively at the local level to all drug trends, such as meth, cocaine, opioids, fentanyl, other synthetic drugs and the youth vaping epidemic.

We urge you to fund the Drug-Free Communities program in FY 2025 at the highest possible funding level. This will ensure the maximum number of communities are equipped to effectively reduce all types of youth substance use and have the evaluation results to prove it.

Sincerely,


¹ ICF (2023). Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program National Cross-Site Evaluation: End-of-Year 2022 Report. Washington, DC: Office of National Drug Control Policy.

² *Ibid.*


Sincerely,


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

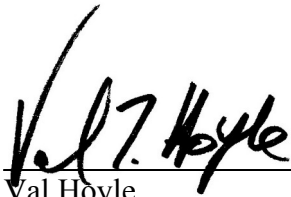

Doris Matsui
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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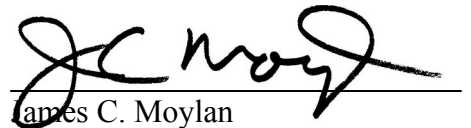

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Nikki Budzinski
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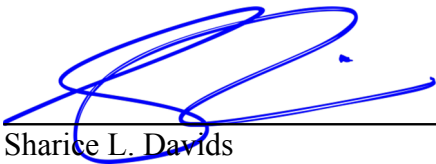

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



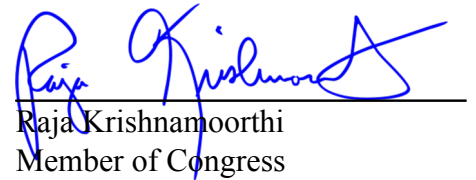
Sharice L. Davids
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Chris Pappas
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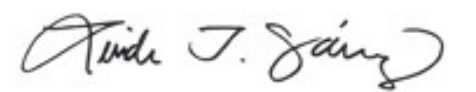
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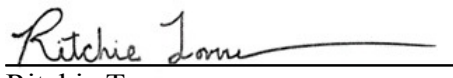
Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress



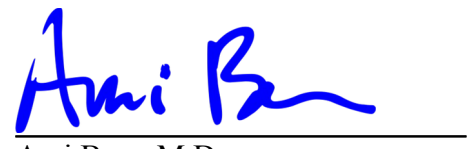
Julia Brownley
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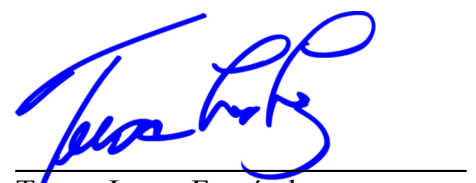
Bill Foster
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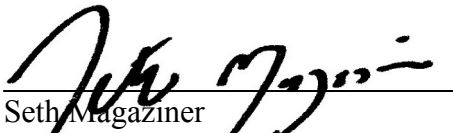
Lori Trahan
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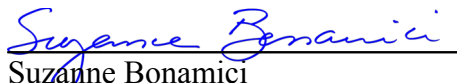
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Mary Sattler Peltola
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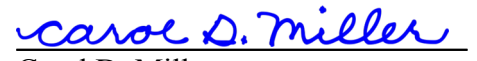
Nick LaLota
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Ayanna Pressley
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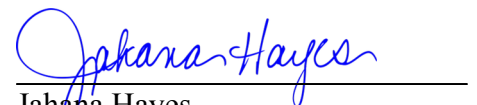
Patrick K. Ryan
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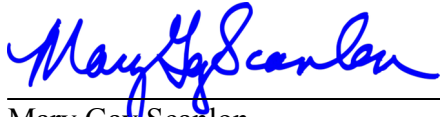
Carol D. Miller
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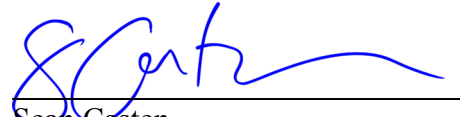
Kim Schrier, M.D.
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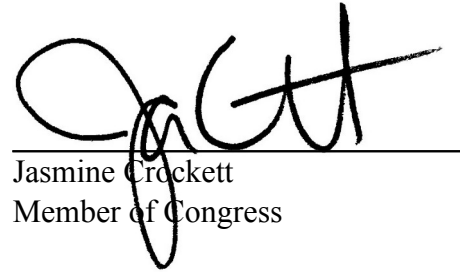
Mary Gay Scanlon
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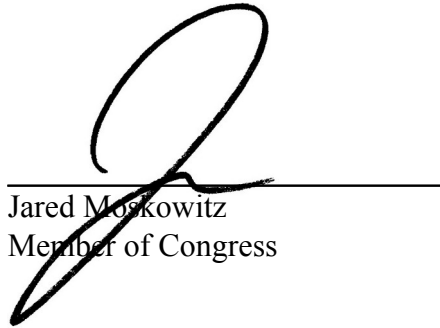
Sean Casten
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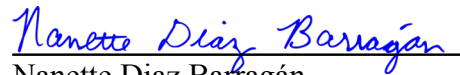
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Jasmine Crockett
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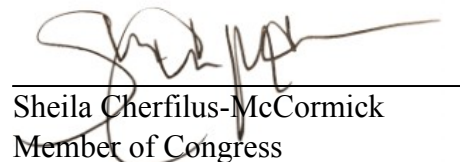
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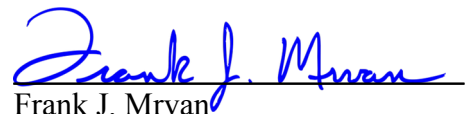
Juan Vargas
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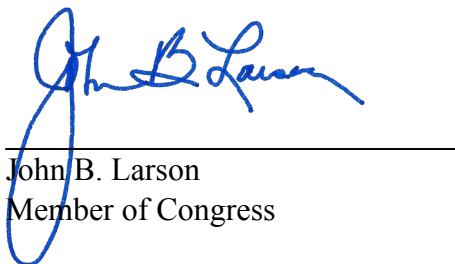
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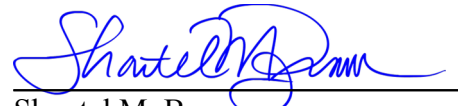
André Carson
Member of Congress



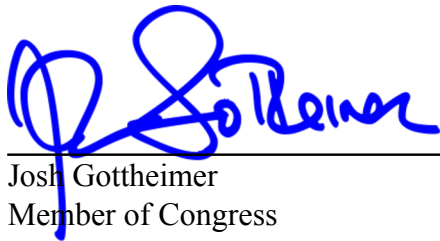
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Madeleine Dean
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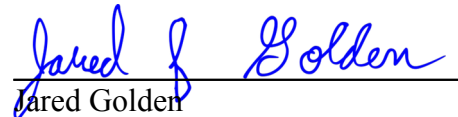
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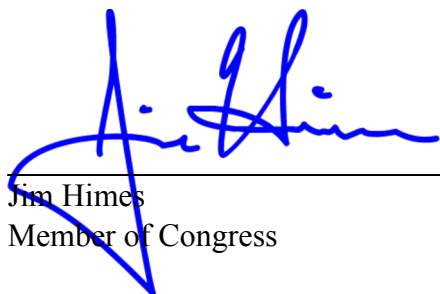
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Jenniffer González-Colón
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Jared Golden
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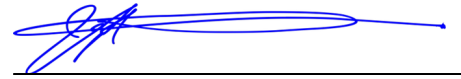
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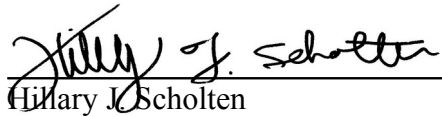
Rick Larsen
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



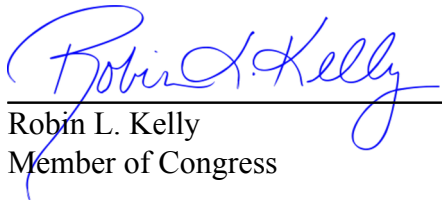
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