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HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT



Joe Courtney

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2nd District, Connecticut

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March 24, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin to draft the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we would like to express our support for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP). This program was reauthorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and provides grants to local school districts to create specialized theme-based magnet programs. It is the only federal education grant designed specifically to promote innovation, educational equity, and diversity in the classroom.

There are over 4,300 magnet schools in the United States serving nearly 3.5 million students, making them the largest form of public school choice. These enrollment numbers will continue to rise as more school districts embrace the magnet model as an effective way to turn around low-performing schools and attract and retain families in the face of declining enrollments in public schools. In fact, a large majority of magnet schools have waitlists full of parents eager to get their students into these high-performing schools.


Magnet schools are open to all students regardless of zip code, allowing families to choose programs that appeal most to their children's academic talents and interests. Magnet schools use a variety of academic themes, including: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM, or by integrating the arts, STEAM); Language Immersion; Career and Technical Education (CTE); and Visual and Performing Arts. Others use specialized pedagogical approaches like those found in Montessori schools or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

Magnet schools are designed to cater to different learning styles and attract a wide range of students from different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. There is not only strong evidence demonstrating that students who attend magnet schools have higher levels of academic achievement and graduation rates than those in non-magnet schools, these students are also more likely to develop critical thinking skills, an ability to understand multiple perspectives, a diminished likelihood to accept stereotypes, and are more inclined to develop cross-racial friendships. As our nation faces growing polarization and economic stratification, magnet schools are as essential to America's education landscape as ever before.

Every student deserves access to an excellent education that will help them be college and career ready, and reach their full potential. And given the significant impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had on student learning and public school enrollment, standing up high quality educational experiences for students are more important than ever. We therefore urge the

subcommittee to provide robust funding for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program under ESSA in the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



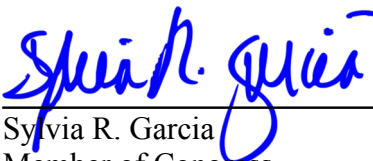
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



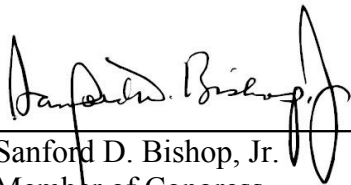
Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

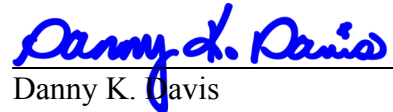


Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



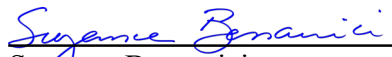
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



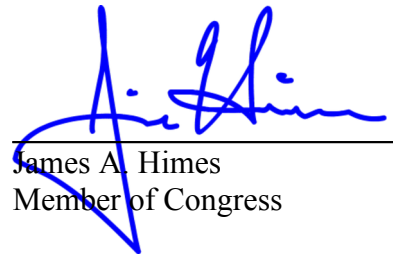
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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



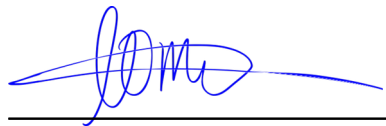
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Kathy E. Manning  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



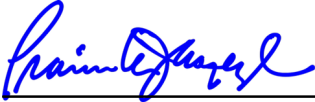
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



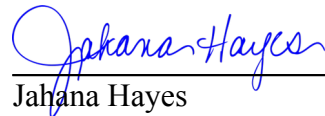
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



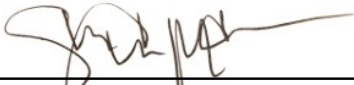
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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



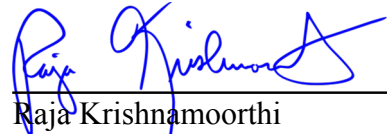
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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



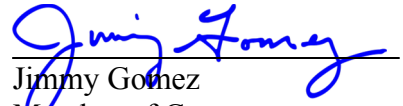
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



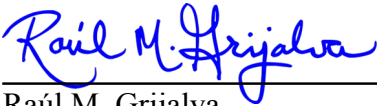
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



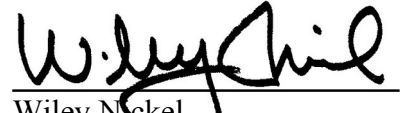
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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress




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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



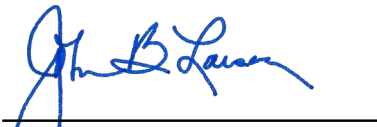
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Hillary F. Scholten  
Member of Congress



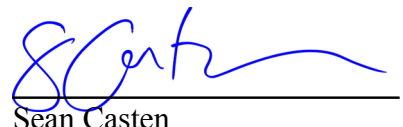
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



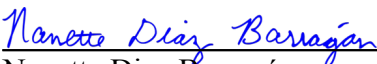
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Colin Z. Alfred  
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Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress