

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

February 11, 2009

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader John Boehner  
Office of the Minority Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman David Obey  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-218 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jerry Lewis  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you work to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (HR 1), we urge you to maintain the House-passed funding levels for important education programs.

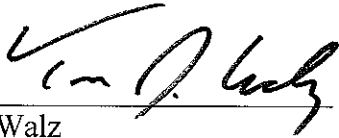
We believe that a recovery package is not only necessary, but critical to stopping the freefall of the American economy and we are committed to passing a recovery package as quickly as possible. However, we are very troubled by the deep cuts in education funding in the Senate's bill.

Funding for Title I, state fiscal stabilization, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), school renovation and construction, and Head Start is a sound approach to stabilize our economy. In many local school districts, the House-passed recovery package's additional funding through Title I, state stabilization dollars, and IDEA will make up roughly half of their projected budget shortfall. To neighborhoods and communities all across the country, that means they can keep teachers, aides and other school employees on the job. This funding will therefore both save jobs that are at risk due to budget cuts and create new jobs through the construction and renovation of school buildings.

Just as important, these critical programs mean that our poorest, most disadvantaged children will have a chance at success and the foundations to be innovative and entrepreneurial in the years to come. Education funding in the recovery package not only helps us do right by these students, but also helps us keep our communities strong and stable. These funds will give all children a better learning environment through school repair and construction, help low-income children get a leg up through Title I funding, offer children with disabilities the assistance they deserve through IDEA and provide Head Start grants to help prepare kids for school. This is the right thing to do for our local economies and the right thing to do for future generations.

We respectfully request that you work in conference to maintain the House-passed funding levels for Title I, IDEA, state stabilization, and school construction funding. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of our nation and this Congress.

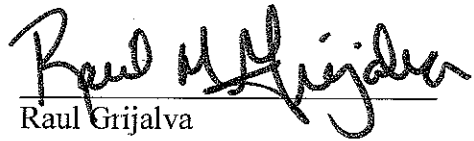
Sincerely,



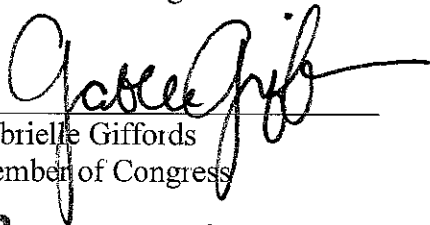
Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



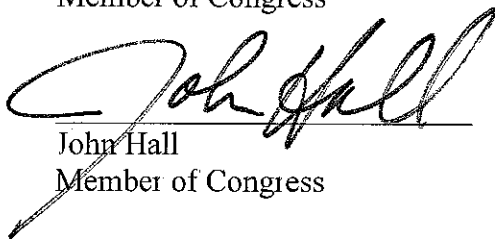
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



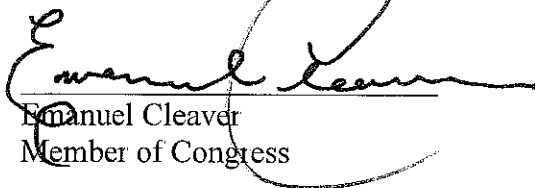
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



John Hall  
Member of Congress



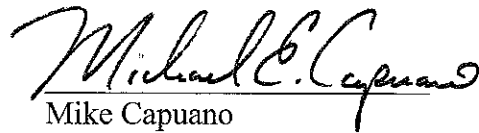
Mary Jo Kilroy  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



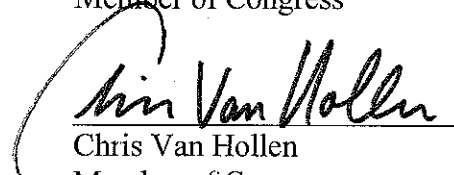
Mike Capuano  
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress



Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



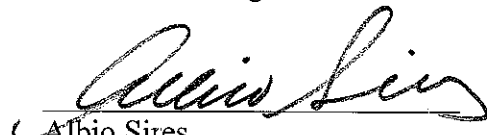
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress




Steve Kagen  
Member of Congress





Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress




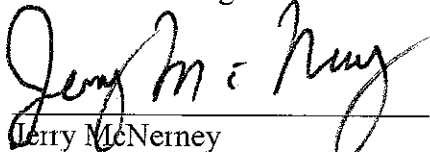
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress


  
Larry Kissell  
Member of Congress

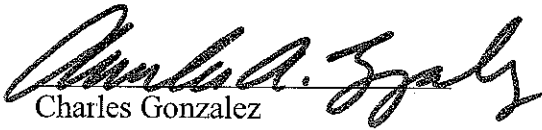
  
James Langevin  
Member of Congress


  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

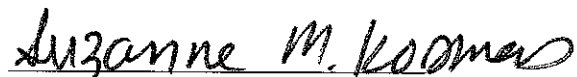
  
Phil Hare  
Member of Congress


  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

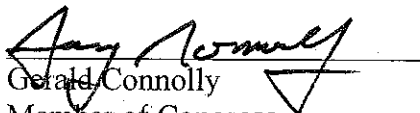
  
Charlie Wilson  
Member of Congress

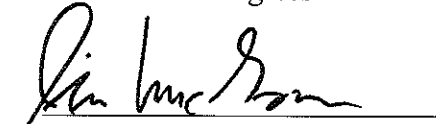
  
Charles Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress


  
Suzanne Kosmas  
Member of Congress

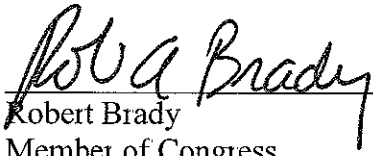
  
Artur Davis  
Member of Congress


  
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress

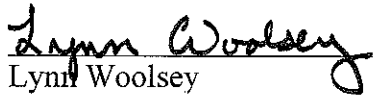
  
James McGovern  
Member of Congress

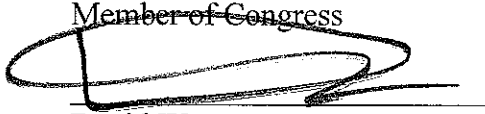
  
Timothy Bishop  
Member of Congress

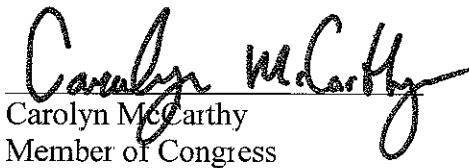
  
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress

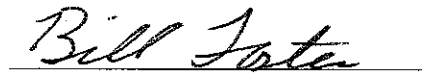
  
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress

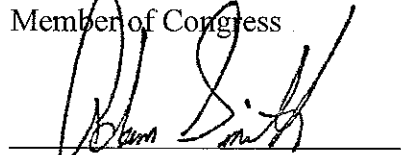
  
David Wu  
Member of Congress

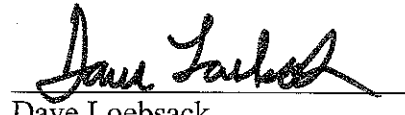
  
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

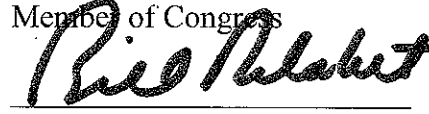
  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

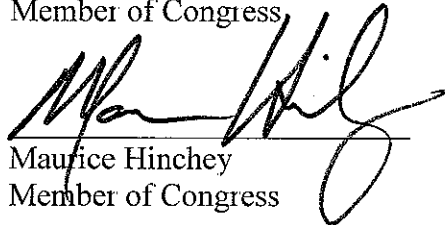
  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

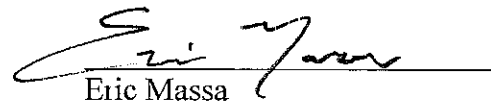
  
Brad Miller  
Member of Congress

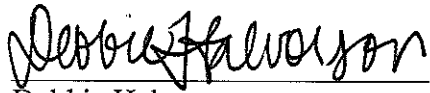
  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

  
William Delahunt  
Member of Congress

  
Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress

  
Eric Massa  
Member of Congress



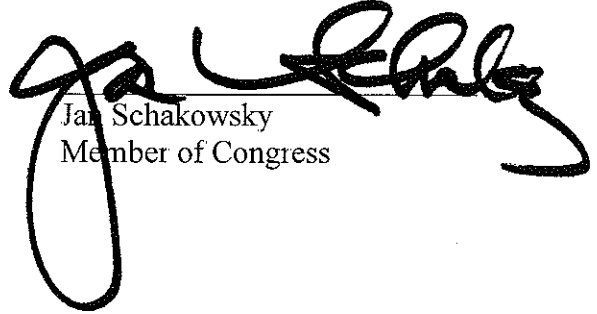
Debbie Halvorson  
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress