

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to restore funding for the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education program to the FY 2002 level of \$11.25 million.


This increase in funding is necessary for the Javits program to be able to foster the development of gifted and talented education programs at the local level across the country. In 2007, less than 3 cents out of every \$100 of the federal K-12 education budget was devoted to meeting the needs of the nation's gifted and talented students. This level is unacceptable.

The Javits Gifted and Talented program is the only federally funded program aimed at helping our nation's gifted students. The Javits program provides a forum for educators, policymakers and experts to conduct research on appropriate methods for teaching these students. Additionally, the Javits program will potentially award grants on a competitive basis to state and local educational agencies to develop or expand gifted and talented educational programs. However last year's funding level of \$7.5 million did not allow for federal money to be available for these state competitive grants.

Recently, Congress has demonstrated a lack of commitment to gifted and talented education, forcing the Javits program to endure funding cuts since 2002. Congress must work toward the goal of seeing gifted and talented programs take root in schools districts across the country so our nation's best and brightest students are able to realize their full potential. We request that funding for this program be restored to \$11.25 million in the FY 2009 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. This increase will provide the Javits program the resources to award state competitive grants, allowing our nation's schools to develop or expand their gifted and talented education programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress


JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress



PHIL ENGLISH
Member of Congress



TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress




MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress



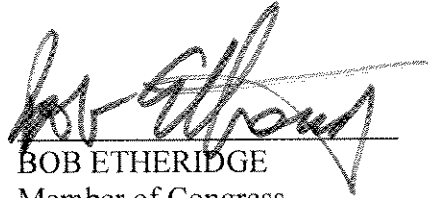
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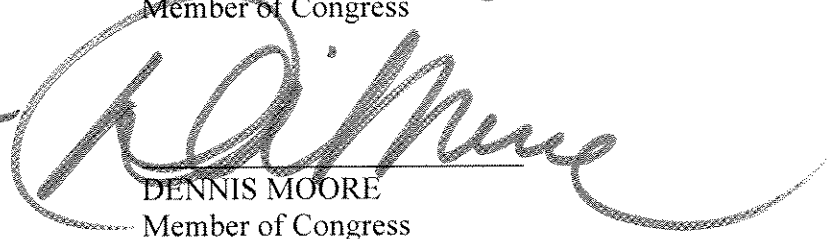
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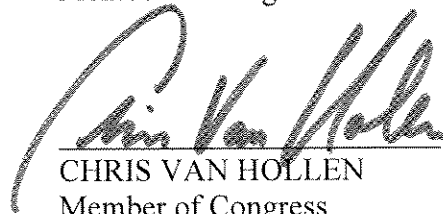
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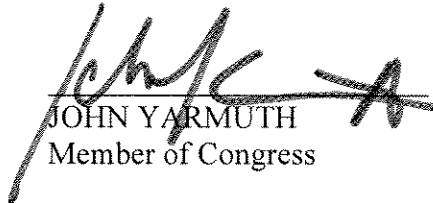
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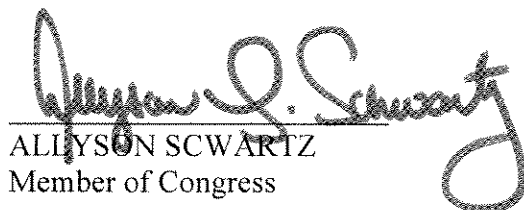
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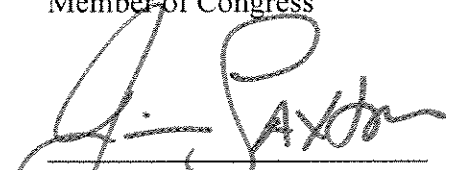


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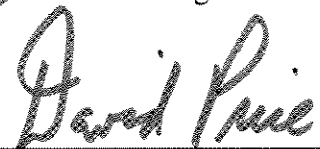

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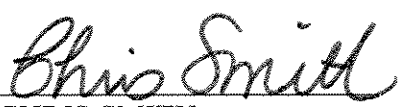

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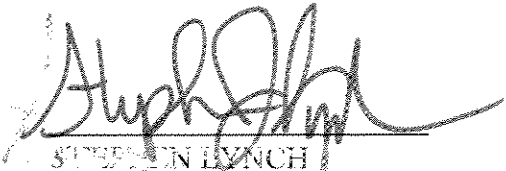

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ROBERT ANDREWS
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DAVID PRICE
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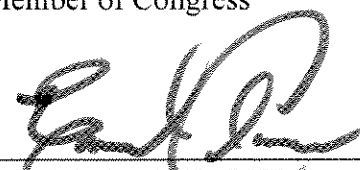

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