

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

March 24, 2016

Chairman Tom Cole  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS and Education  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS and Education  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we write to request that the bill include, at a minimum, the President's requested level of \$275 million for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Each year, thousands of individuals, employers and unions are negatively impacted by unfair labor practices to the detriment of wages, the economy, small businesses, and the community. Our primary goal must be to promote good jobs for the middle-class, and the NLRB plays an important role leveling the playing field for workers and employers by safeguarding employees' right to free association and collective bargaining. This is done by:

- 1) Investigating, prosecuting, and deciding unfair labor practices as defined in the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA);
- 2) Providing the legal framework for employees to organize in their workplaces, including holding representation elections, in order to bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions.

Under the NLRA the NLRB is tasked with protecting the rights of private-sector workers to act collectively without fear of coercion, threats, or firing. It is necessary to fully fund the President's budget request in order to fully accomplish this task and enforce the NLRA as required by Congress. As our economy and technology continues to evolve and workers exercise their voice in the workplace, often using new technological methods and while working for multiple employers, the Board is confronted with new challenges in its commitment to protecting workers' rights. The NLRB requires the resources to effectively adjudicate and protect workers in these increasingly complex situations, which include:

- Nationwide efforts to improve the wages and working conditions of workers in various industries, including retail and fast food;
- Issues concerning single, joint, and successor employer relationships;
- Investigation of the tens of thousands of unfair labor practice charges filed annually, and prompt adjudication of the meritorious cases.

An effective NLRB is important for American workers to exercise their right of free association. By banding together and bargaining collectively, workers receive better wages, better benefits,

and safer workplaces. Any funding level below \$275 million would have a negative impact on individuals and families across the country in every single Congressional District. We urge you to provide no less than the President's requested funding level in the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.

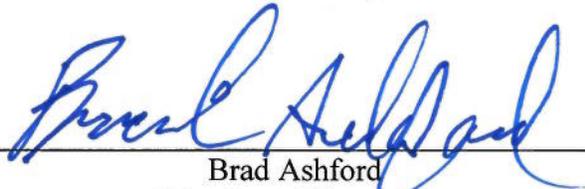
Sincerely,



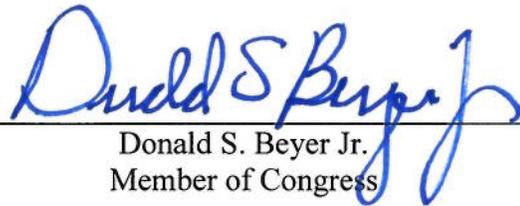
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



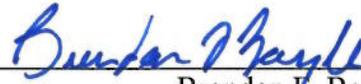
Brad Ashford  
Member of Congress



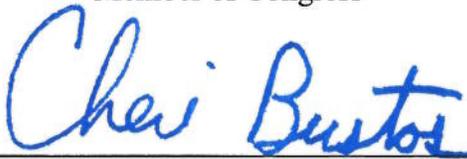
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



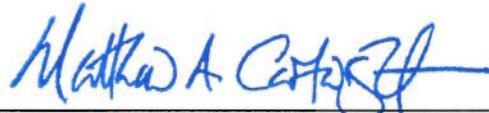
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



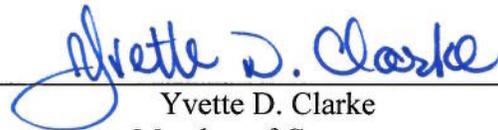
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Katherine Clark  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
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John Conyers, Jr.  
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Joe Courtney  
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Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



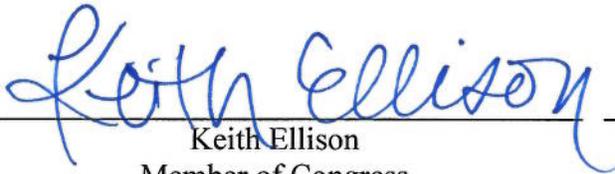
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Suzan DelBene  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Keith Ellison  
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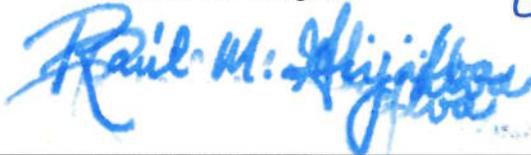
Marcia L. Fudge  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



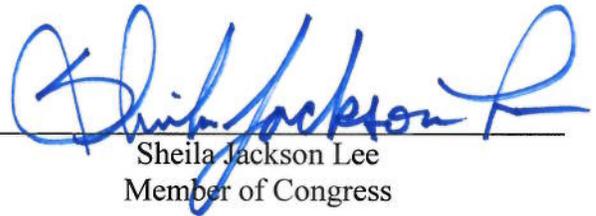
Raúl Grijalva  
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Brian Higgins  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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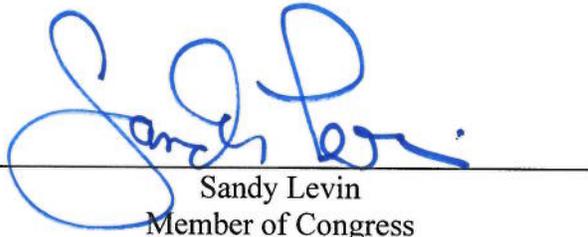
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



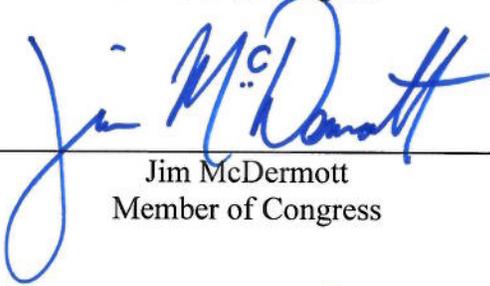
Rick Larsen  
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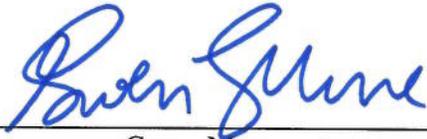
Brenda Lawrence  
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Sandy Levin  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



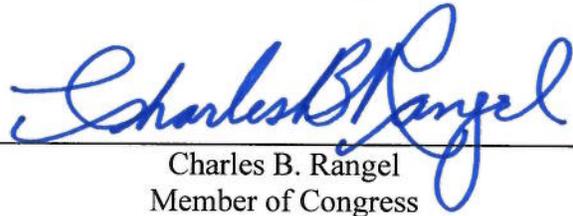
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



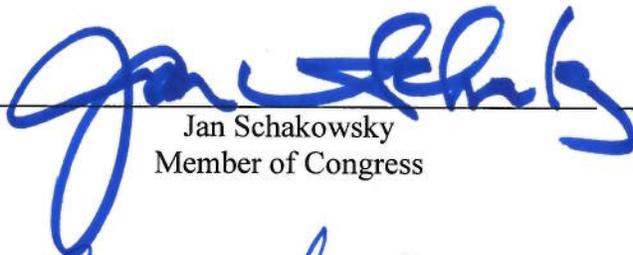
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



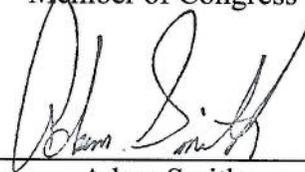
Jan Schakowsky  
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Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



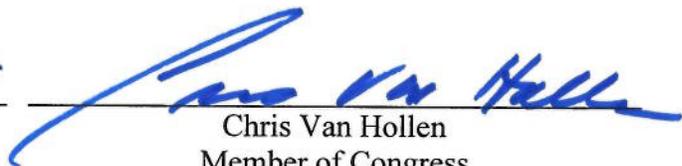
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
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Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
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