

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 1, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Biden, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chair Murray,

As you negotiate government funding for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), we write to strongly urge you to reject any attempts to include anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in any final FY24 funding agreement.

Appropriations is the most fundamental process through which Congress can fund programs and services that benefit the American people and support working families, including by providing access to capital for small businesses, strengthening critical veterans benefits, investing in lifesaving medical research, and improving the infrastructure that Americans rely on every day.

However, rather than working to address the problems facing Americans and supporting working families, anti-equality members of Congress are attempting to hijack the appropriations process to restrict the rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTQI+ people. These members lack the votes and public support to pass their anti-LGBTQI+ agenda into law as standalone bills, so they are working to include them in must-pass funding legislation. We strongly oppose these efforts.

Currently, there are more than 40 anti-equality provisions in the House FY24 appropriations bills. These include several riders that appear in the majority of the bills, such as:

- **Gender-Affirming Care Ban Riders:** These riders would restrict access to evidence-based, medically necessary care for transgender people or eliminate funding to organizations that provide such care.
- **License to Discriminate Riders:** These riders would create a license for people and organizations—including those receiving taxpayer funds—to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty, and they prevent the federal government from adequately responding. For example, they prohibit the federal government from reducing or terminating a federal contract or grant with an organization that discriminates against LGBTQI+ people if the organization justifies their discrimination based on the belief that marriage should only be between a man and a woman.
- **Pride Flag Riders:** These riders would prohibit funds from being used to fly pride flags at covered facilities.
- **DEI EO Riders:** These riders would prohibit funds from being used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out three LGBTQI-inclusive Executive Orders (EO Nos. 13985, 14035, and 14091) meant to ensure the federal workforce is an inclusive and affirming workplace for employees with marginalized identities.

In addition to the riders listed above, several FY24 funding bills have additional anti-LGBTQI+ riders, including but not limited to:

- A rider to defund the offices of certain Special Envoys, including the U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons.
- A rider to prohibit federal funds for any international organization that “promotes transgenderism”—which could cut off aid to any organization that affirms the existence of transgender people.
- A rider to prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from using funds to implement or finalize its rule clarifying that Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics (among other provisions).
- A rider to prohibit the Department of Education from using funds to implement or finalize its rule clarifying that Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics (among other provisions).
- A rider to prohibit the Department of Education from using funds to implement or finalize its rule relating to Title IX and transgender students’ ability to participate in team sports.
- A rider that would force Institutions of Higher Education to allow student religious groups to discriminate against LGBTQI+ students and other minorities—or risk losing their federal funds.
- Two riders that would prohibit or restrict one specific artform—drag—in certain contexts.
- A rider to prohibit funds from being used to investigate, litigate, or advocate against any person or recipient of federal funds for discriminating against LGBTQI+ people under Title IX.
- A rider to prohibit funds from being used to sue State or local governments over laws relating to transgender issues, or to intervene or file an amicus brief in such cases.
- A rider to prohibit funds from being for LGBTQI-related courses, books, or study guides.

- Riders to prohibit funds from being used to implement one or more Executive Orders focused on combatting anti-LGBTQI+ equality discrimination.

If any of these provisions became law, they would negatively impact the rights and freedoms of LGBTQI+ people. LGBTQI+ people deserve to live their lives free from discrimination, and taxpayers should never be required to fund their own discrimination. The majority of Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—support nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQI+ people and we should not enshrine discrimination into law via the appropriations process or restrict the ability of the federal government to enforce existing nondiscrimination laws.

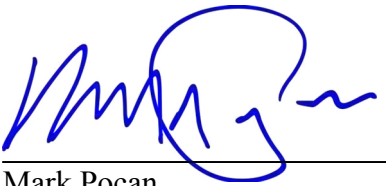
In addition, transgender people deserve access to medically necessary, evidence-based health care. Gender-affirming care is safe and effective and is supported by every major medical association in the U.S., representing more than 1.3 million U.S. doctors. Politicians should not stand between patients and their doctors and dictate what care patients can receive.

The federal government should work to ensure LGBTQI+ people can thrive. This includes by ensuring their workplaces are inclusive and affirming and that symbols and art forms related to the LGBTQI+ community are not singled out for censorship. These riders do the exact opposite.

The anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in the House appropriations bills are part of a larger coordinated effort to restrict the rights of LGBTQI+ people. As members of Congress, we stand with our LGBTQI+ constituents and the larger LGBTQI+ community. They deserve to have their rights protected—not restricted or eliminated.

Appropriations bills should provide support to all Americans and make our constituents better off—not target certain constituents for discrimination and exclusion. **We urge you to stand with the LGBTQI+ community and reject any attempts to include anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in any final FY24 government funding deal.**

Sincerely,



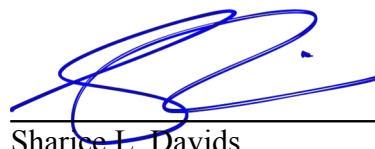
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



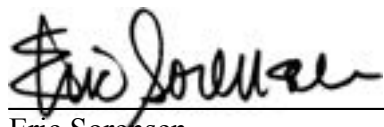
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



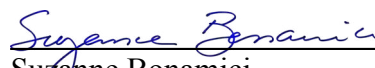
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



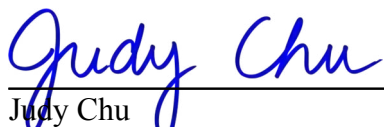
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



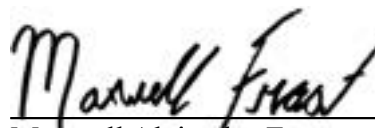
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



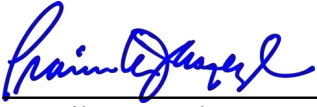
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



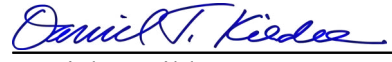
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress




Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



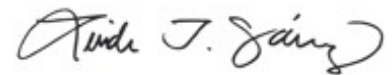
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



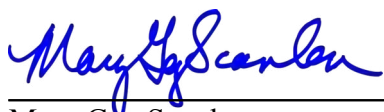
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



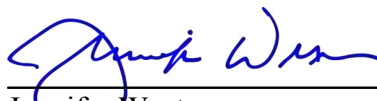
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



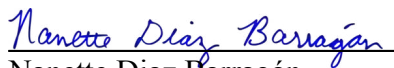
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



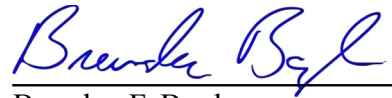
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



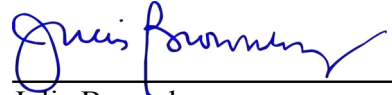
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



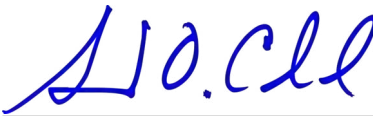
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



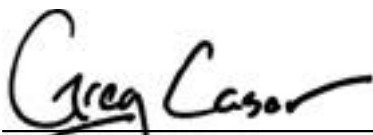
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



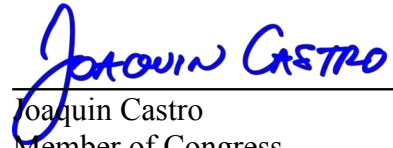
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



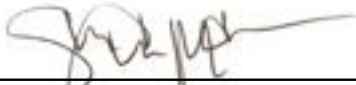
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



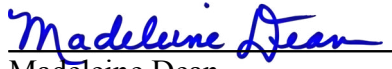
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



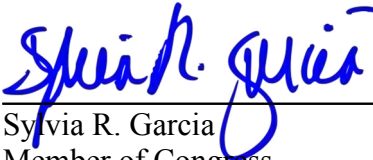
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



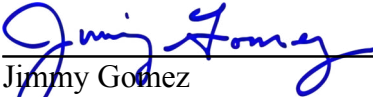
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



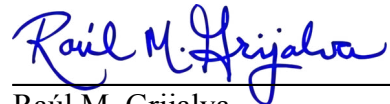
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



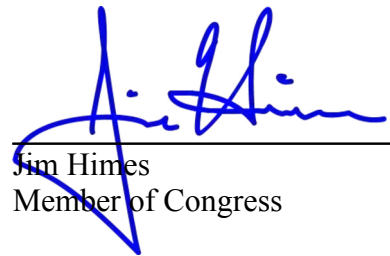
Al Green
Member of Congress



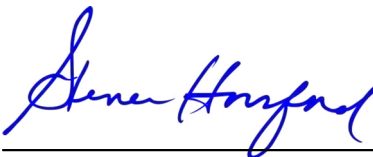
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



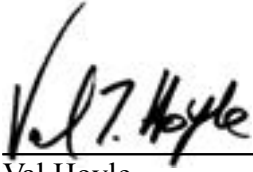
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



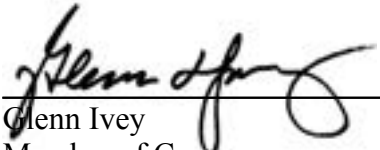
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



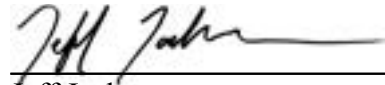
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



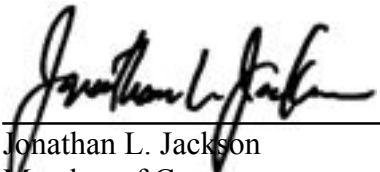
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



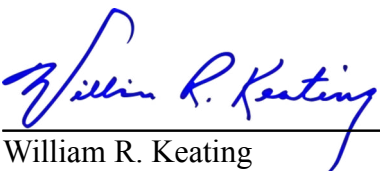
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



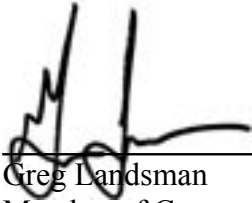
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



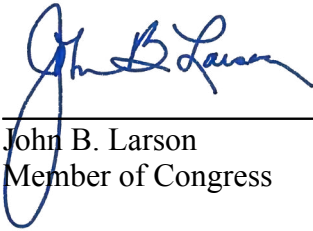
Andy Kim
Member of Congress



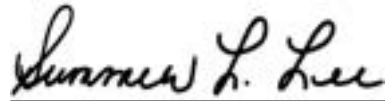
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Summer Lee
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



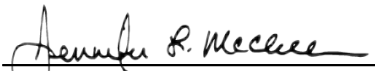
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



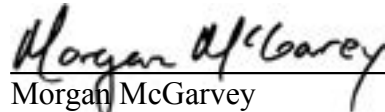
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



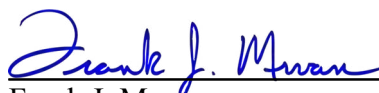
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



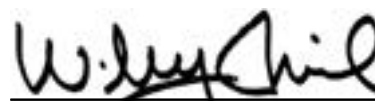
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



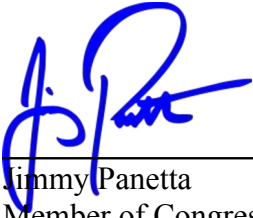
Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



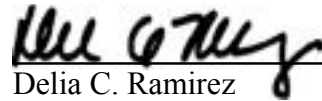
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



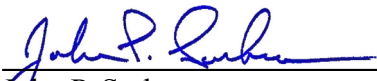
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



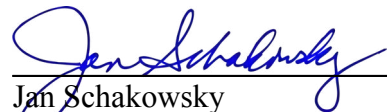
Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



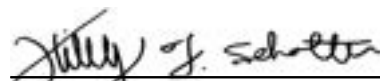
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



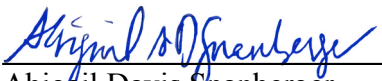
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



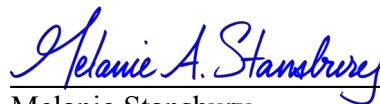
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress




Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



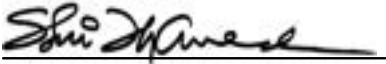
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



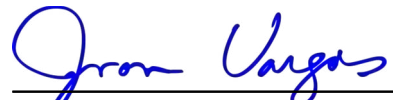
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



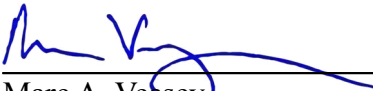
David J. Trone
Member of Congress



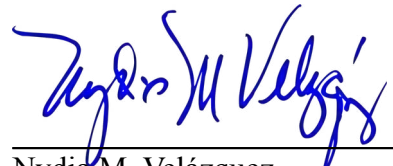
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



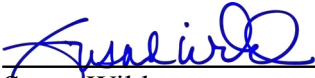
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



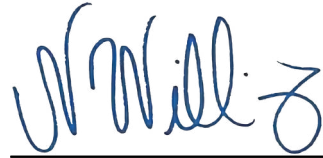
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress