

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 12, 2024

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 2025 (FY25), we write to strongly urge you to reject any attempts to include anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in any final FY25 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 50 anti-equality provisions in the House FY25 appropriations bills. These include several riders that appear in the majority of the bills, such as:

- **Riders banning medically necessary care for transgender people:** 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 or over 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 FY25 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 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 1) implement its rule clarifying that Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics (among other provisions); 2) implement or finalize its rule relating to Title IX and transgender students’ ability to participate in team sports; 3) enforce its notice of interpretation that Title IX’s prohibition on sex discrimination encompasses discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 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.
- A rider that would prohibit funds from being used to implement or enforce a rule on safe and appropriate placements for LGBTQI+ foster youth.
- A rider that would prohibit federal funds from going to educational institutions that allow trans girls to participate on girls and women’s sports teams
- Three 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 implement an Executive Order focused on combatting anti-LGBTQI+ discrimination.
- A rider to prohibit funds from being used to sue State or local governments over laws relating to limiting transgender medical procedures, single-sex sports, and single-sex facilities—or to intervene or file an amicus brief in such cases.
- A rider to prohibit the Bureau of Prisons from assigning transgender inmates to facilities that match their gender identity.
- A rider to prohibit implementation of EEOC Workplace Harassment Guidance, which includes provisions relating to unlawful harassment of LGBTQ+ workers.
- Additional riders adopted on the House floor where the riders' proponents made remarks motivated by animus against the LGBTQI+ community, including riders banning funding for the TSA Inclusion Action Committee and the DOE Office of Science Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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.

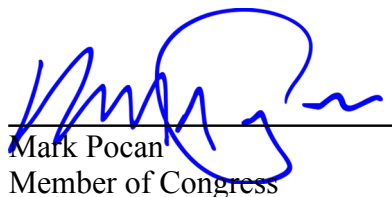
In addition, transgender people deserve access to medically necessary, evidence-based health care. The care these riders seek to ban is safe and effective and is supported by every major medical association in the U.S., representing more than 1.3 million U.S. doctors. Politicians should not stand between 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.

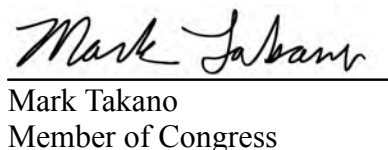
The anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in the House appropriations bills are part of a larger coordinated effort to restrict the rights of LGBTQI+ people. As members of Congress, we stand with our LGBTQI+ constituents and the larger LGBTQI+ community. They deserve to have their rights protected—not restricted or 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 any anti-LGBTQI+ provisions in any final FY25 government funding deal.**

Sincerely,



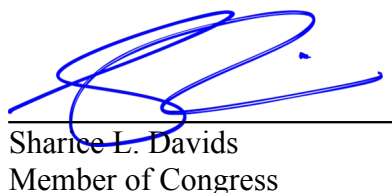
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



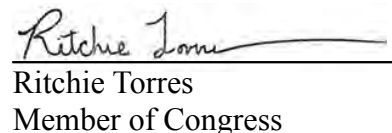
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



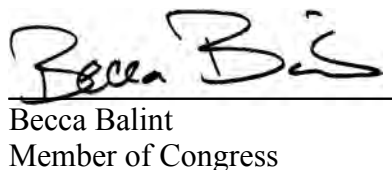
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



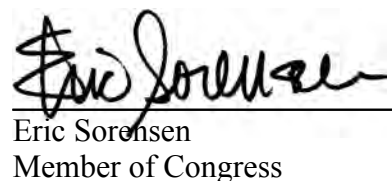
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



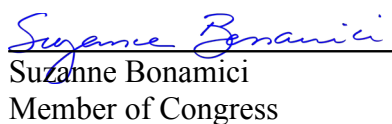
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



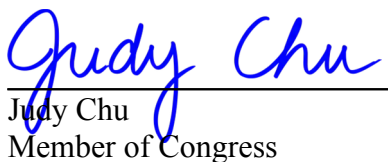
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



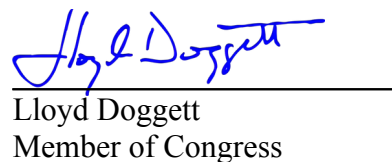
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



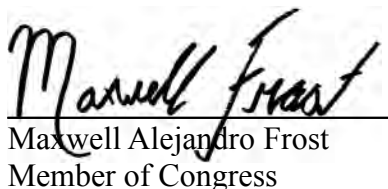
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



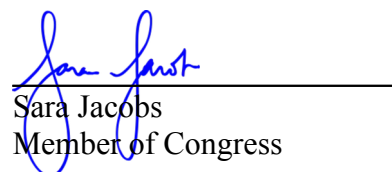
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



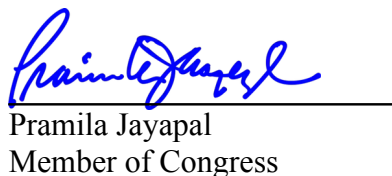
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



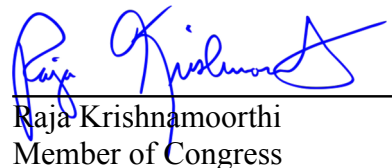
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



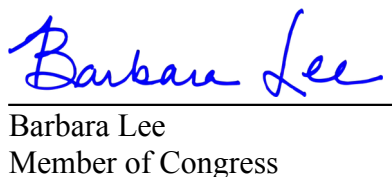
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



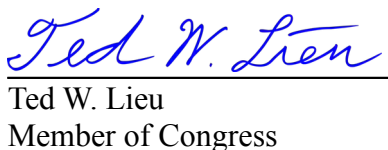
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



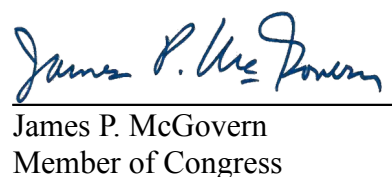
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
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Barbara Lee  
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Ted W. Lieu  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



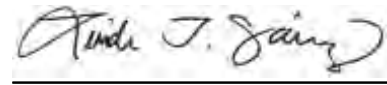
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



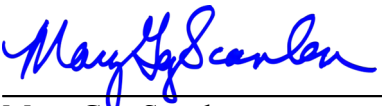
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



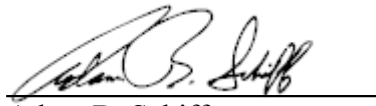
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



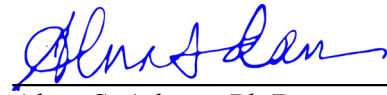
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



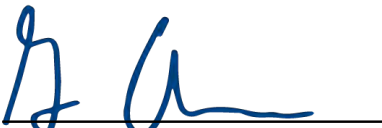
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



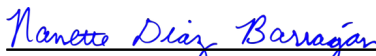
Adam B. Schiff  
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
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Gabe Amo  
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



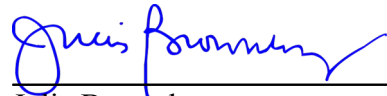
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



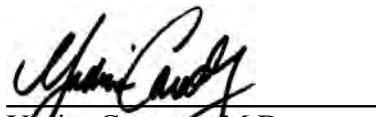
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Cori Bush  
Member of Congress




Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



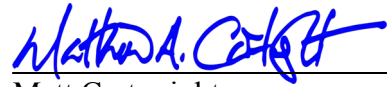
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



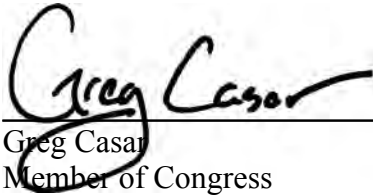
André Carson  
Member of Congress



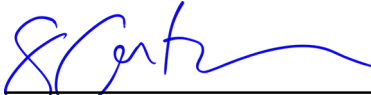
Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



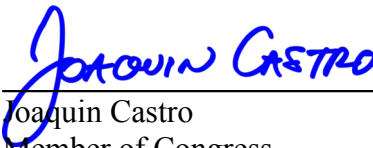
Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



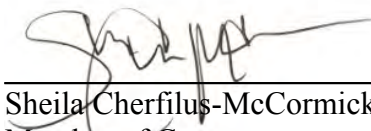
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



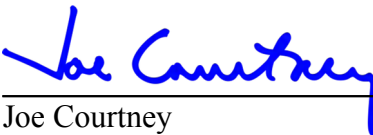
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress




Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



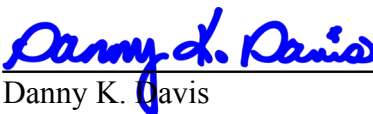
Joe Courtney  
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Jasmine Crockett  
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Jason Crow  
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Danny K. Davis  
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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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



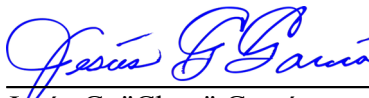
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



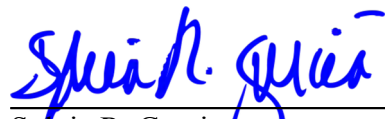
Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



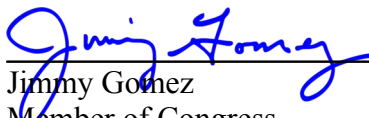
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



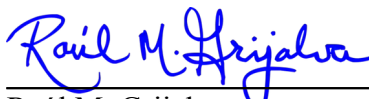
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



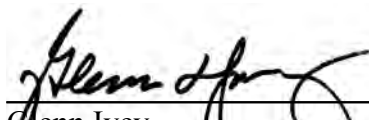
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress

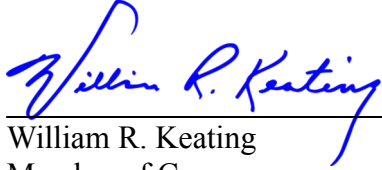


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

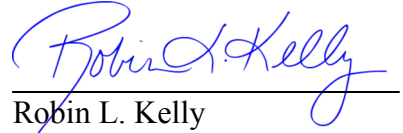




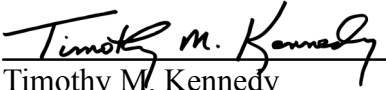
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



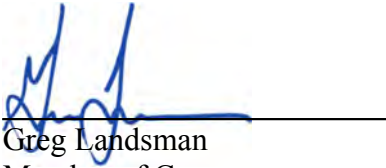
Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



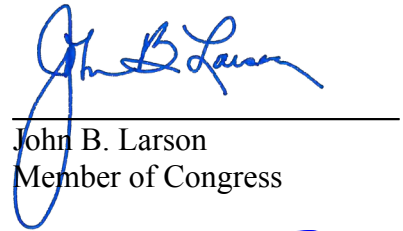
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



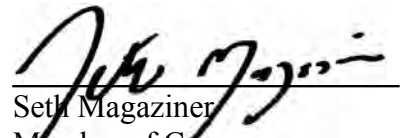
Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



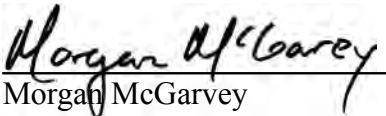
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress

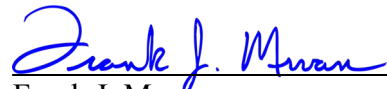




Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



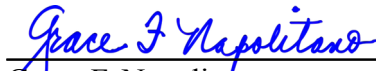
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



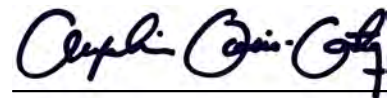
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



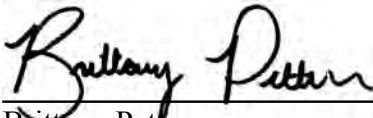
Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen  
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



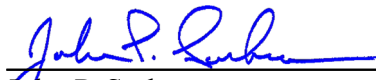
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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



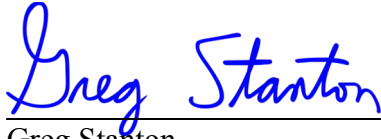
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



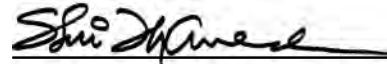
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



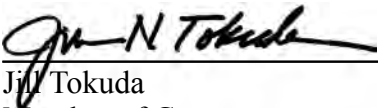
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress




Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



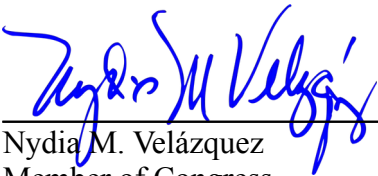
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



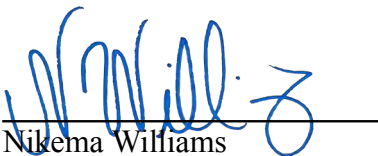
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress