

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and
Education
House Appropriations Committee
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 Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to recommend \$25,043,040 for the Reading Is Fundamental Inexpensive Book Distribution Program.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is the nation's oldest and largest children's literacy organization. In partnerships with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations across the country, RIF provides millions of underserved children with free books for personal ownership; develops research-based resources to guide educators, parents, and other care providers in creating literacy-rich environments for children; and works to ensure that every child, no matter socio-economic status, is motivated to read and has the opportunity to experience the wonder of books.

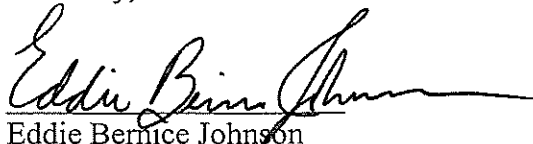
With the support of Congress, the U.S. Department of Education and private funders, last year RIF distributed over 16 million books to nearly 4.5 million children across the country. Almost 89 percent of the federal funds were used to purchase books and RIF volunteers leveraged the federal dollars to raise an additional \$9.2 million to support book ownership.

The monies we have requested for FY2008 would enable RIF to continue supporting some of our nation's most underserved children. Moreover, RIF could bring more quality training and resources to parents, childcare providers, and volunteers about the best ways to motivate and inspire children.

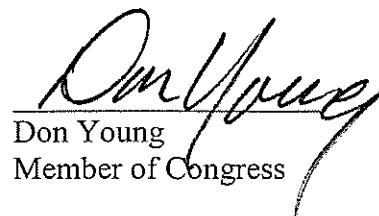
The RIF Inexpensive Book Distribution Program enriches the lives of children in every state and territory in the United States. We ask your support for an appropriation of \$25,043,040, the same as FY2007 Continuing Resolution and the amount requested by Administration for FY2008.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you need additional information.

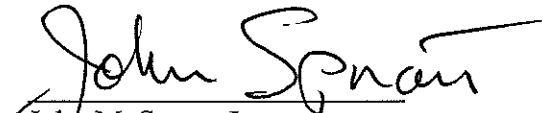
Sincerely,




Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress




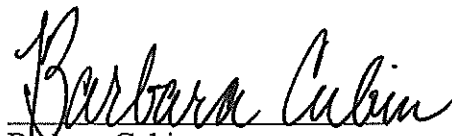
Don Young
Member of Congress


John M. Spratt, Jr.
Member of Congress



Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

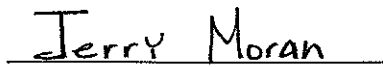

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

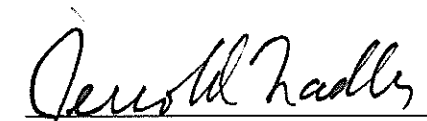

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress


Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress

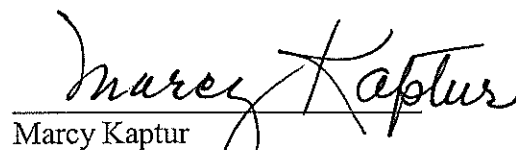

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Jerry Moran
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress

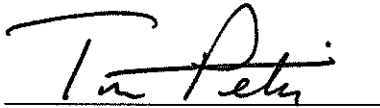

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



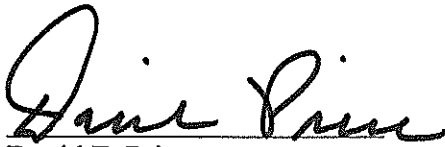
James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress



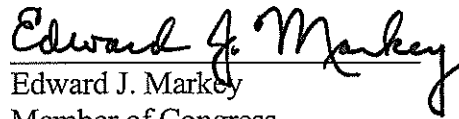
Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



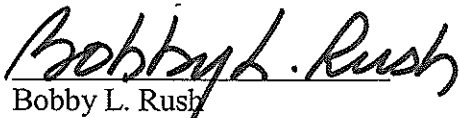
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



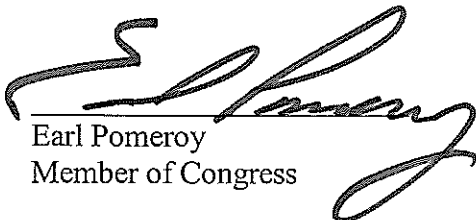
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



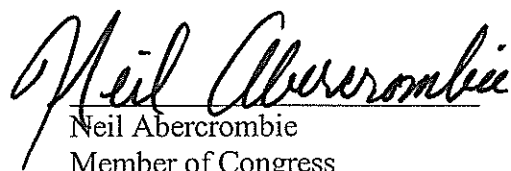
Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



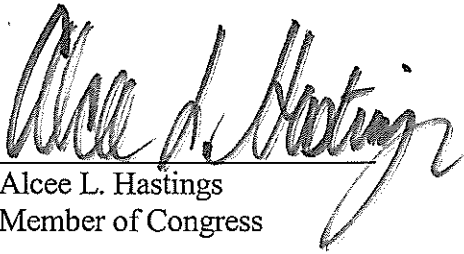
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



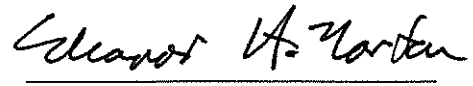
Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



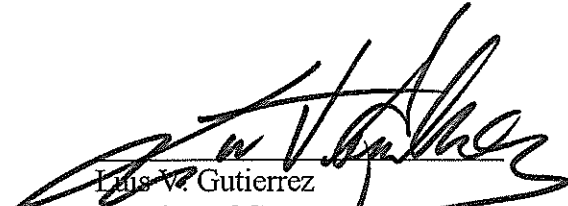
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



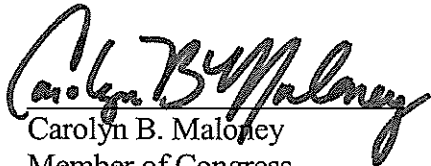
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



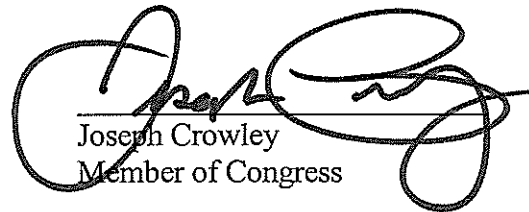
Mary Bono
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress




Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



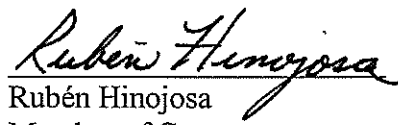
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress




Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



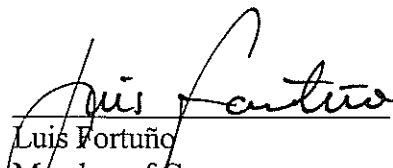
Julia Carson
Member of Congress




Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

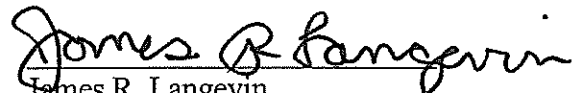


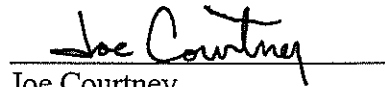
Luis Fortuño
Member of Congress




Anna Esheo
Member of Congress

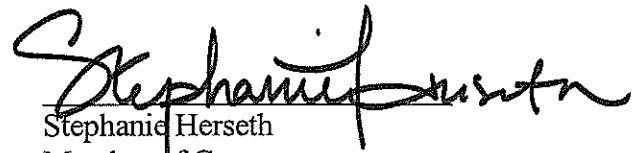

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

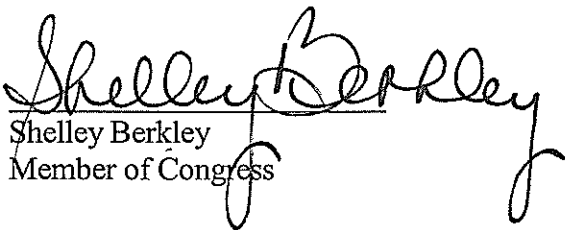

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

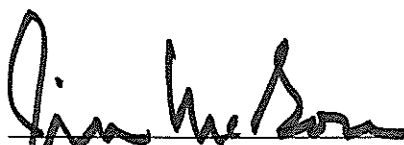

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

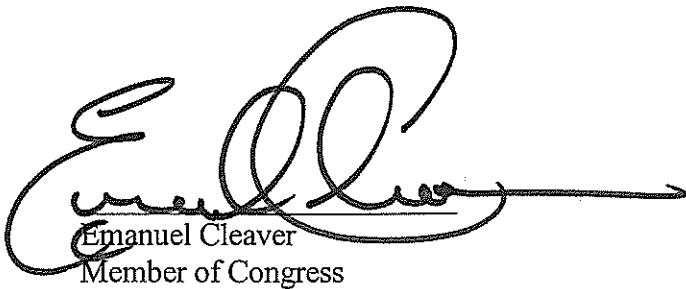

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

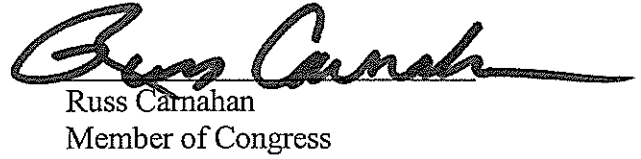

Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

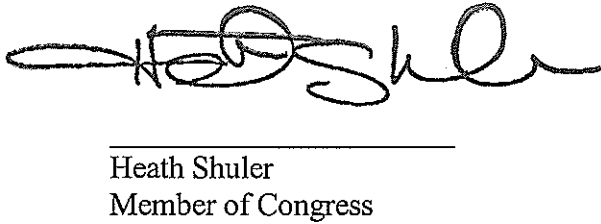

Ron Kind
Member of Congress



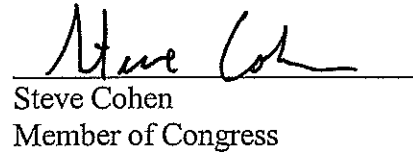
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



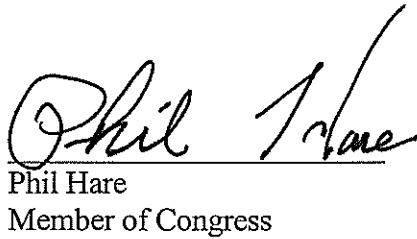
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



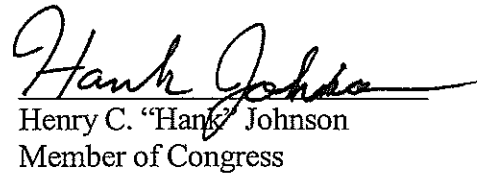
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



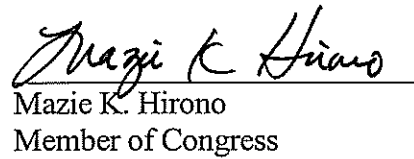
Phil Hare
Member of Congress



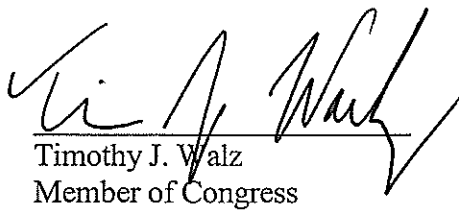
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress



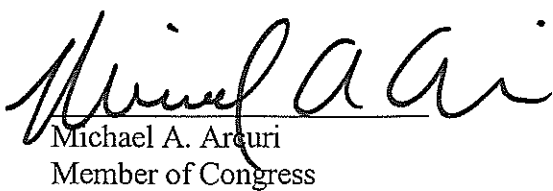
Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress



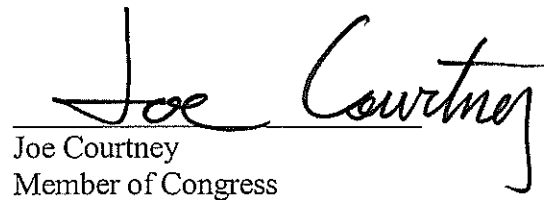
Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers (AL-03)
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress