

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for including \$10 million in funding for the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This timely and necessary program responds to a bipartisan public policy priority to assist Holocaust survivors and now other diverse aging populations impacted by trauma.

Between 30,000 and 60,000 Holocaust survivors live in the United States today – most aged 85 or older and an estimated one-third living in poverty. After witnessing the darkest period of the last century and demonstrating the resiliency of the human spirit, survivors built a new life in the United States, raised families, and enriched our country. As a group, Holocaust survivors are subject to increased risk of depression, social isolation, and extremely poor outcomes associated with institutionalization, which can trigger the traumas experienced during the Holocaust. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these conditions.

Administered by the Administration for Community Living, the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program established a Center for Aging and Trauma, which leverages public-private partnership opportunities with nonprofits, foundations, and the private sector to address the urgent needs of the survivor population and the nonprofit organizations and family caregivers that support them. The work of the Center has led to the development of innovative Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) approaches that can ameliorate increased risks.

PCTI care is a holistic approach that promotes the dignity, strength, and empowerment of trauma victims by incorporating knowledge about the role of trauma in victims' lives into agency programs, policies, and procedures. It combines the core principles of person-centered care (e.g., self-determination, choice, empowerment, and individual preference) with the core activities of trauma-informed systems espoused by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



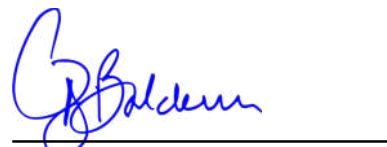
Since its 2015 inaugural year, over 400 different PCTI based programs have been implemented through the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program. Most are designed to reduce isolation among survivors. Others target their physical, mental, and cognitive health. Several programs train professionals (e.g., physicians, dentists, lawyers, social workers, nurses, and home health care workers), volunteers, and family caregivers on how to provide PCTI care. In its first five years, the program served more than 28,000 unique Holocaust survivors, more than 5,000 family caregivers, and nearly 15,000 professionals and volunteers at social service agencies that provide services to Holocaust survivors.

The Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program remains a critical lifeline for survivors, their families, and providers. Due to its success, the program is now beginning to assist other aging adults who also have been exposed to traumatic events. There is great potential for its application as nearly 90 percent of older adults in the United States have been exposed to traumatic events, including aging military veterans, first responders, victims of childhood and domestic violence, refugees, and survivors of man-made or natural disasters. Aging survivors of the COVID-19 pandemic can be added to the list.

As the nation ages, we should promote new approaches to understand and treat the long-term impact of trauma on older adults. It is critically important that we robustly fund the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program, particularly as it expands to help both Holocaust survivors and other older adults with a history of trauma. Consistent with this mission, the program requires \$5 million to build on previous advances serving the Holocaust survivor population, and an additional \$5 million to further embed person-centered, trauma-informed approaches to care in all parts of the aging services network, which is now one of the objectives of the Older Americans Act.

We urge you to prioritize this cost-effective innovative initiative in the FY 23 Labor-HHS budget and look forward to working together to ensure that older adults can live in dignity, comfort, and security in their homes and communities for the remainder of their lives.

Sincerely,


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



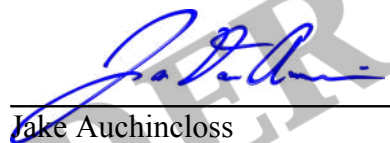
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



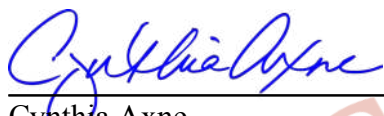
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



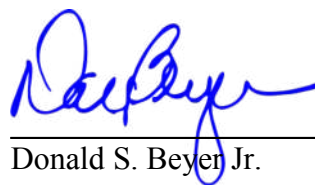
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



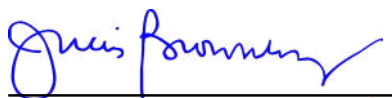
Jamaal Bowman
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



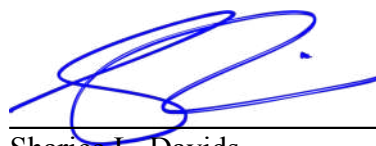
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



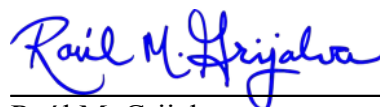
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



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



John Katko
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



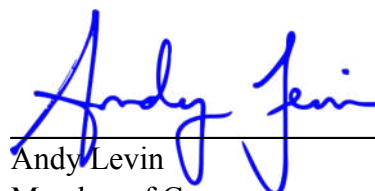
David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



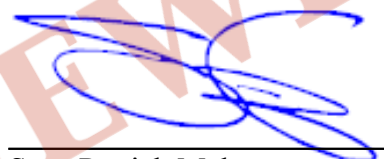
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress

M.C.



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



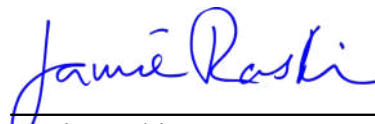
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



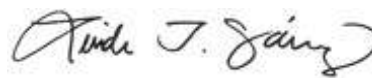
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



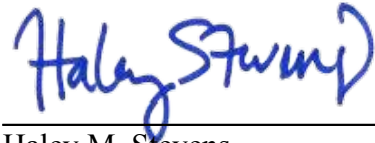
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



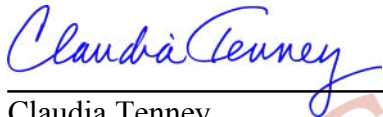
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



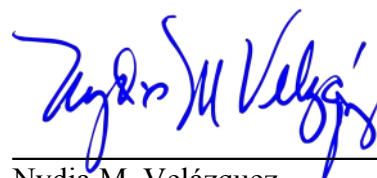
David J. Trone
Member of Congress



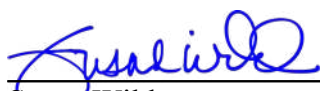
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



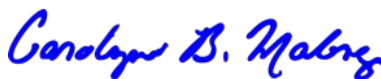
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



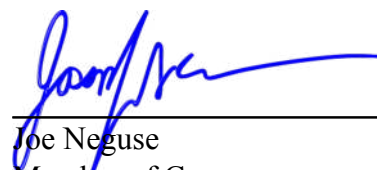
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



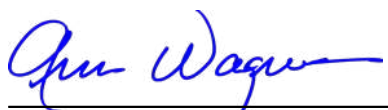
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



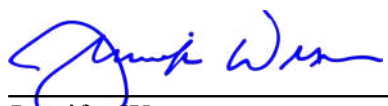
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



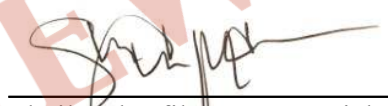
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress




Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



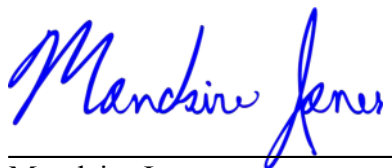
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



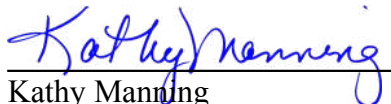
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress




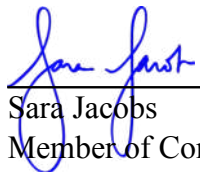
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress





Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

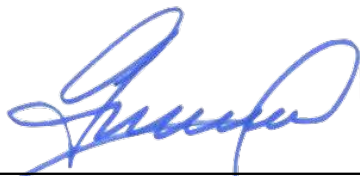

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress


Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

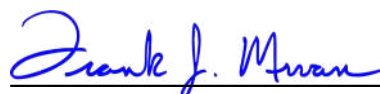

Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress


Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



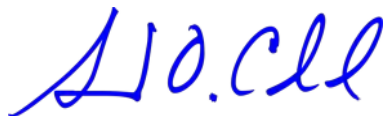
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress




Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



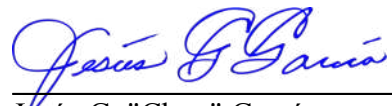
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



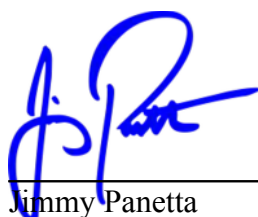
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



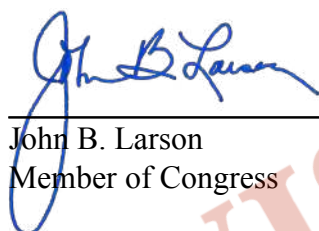
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



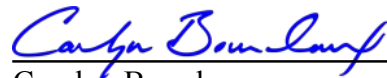
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress




Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



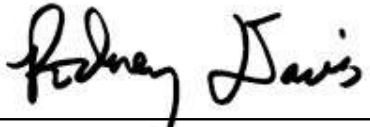
Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



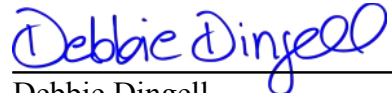
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress



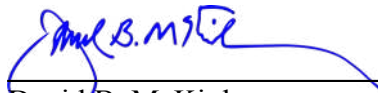
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



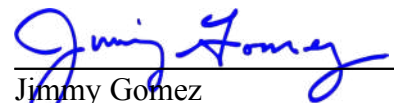
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



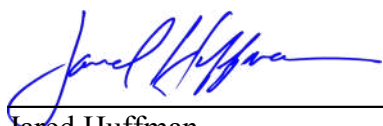
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jared Huffman, written in a cursive style.

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

A green ink signature of Al Green, written in a cursive style.

Al Green
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of David Scott, written in a cursive style.

David Scott
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Tracey Mann, written in a cursive style.

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Troy Carter, written in a cursive style.

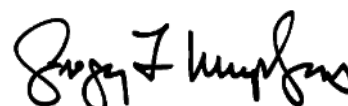
Troy Carter
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jack Bergman, written in a cursive style.

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Michael Waltz, written in a cursive style.

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Gregory F. Murphy, M.D., written in a cursive style.

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Vern Buchanan, written in a cursive style.

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Cori Bush, written in a cursive style.

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Stauber". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

JEWISH INSIDER