

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin drafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, we respectfully request the bill include 1) \$368 million, at a minimum, for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Since FY2010, the NLRB's budget has decreased 25 percent in real dollars adjusted for inflation, and this requested increase in funding would provide long overdue resources to allow the NLRB to accomplish its statutory mission. We further request that you 2) include report language directing the Board to spend appropriated funds to address the NLRB's regional office staffing crisis; and 3) remove the appropriations rider prohibiting the Board from implementing an electronic voting system to conduct union representation elections.

The NLRB is an independent agency, created by Congress in 1935 to administer and enforce the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), as amended in 1947 (Taft-Hartley) and 1959 (Landrum-Griffin). The NLRA is the primary and largely exclusive federal statute governing labor relations in the private sector and serves the public interest by effectively and efficiently reducing disruptions to commerce caused by workplace strife. The Board effectuates the NLRA by protecting the rights of employees to free association and speech, and promoting good faith relationships between employers, unions and employees nationwide.

All NLRB proceedings originate from unfair labor practice charges or representation petitions filed by employees, employers, or unions at any of the Board's regional offices throughout the country. Virtually all NLRA enforcement and election work is conducted by these field offices. This decentralized model allows Board personnel to efficiently and effectively process petitions and resolve disputes on the ground, while minimizing cost, maximizing public access and promoting favorable resolution of labor disputes.

Despite the NLRB's vital mission, the Board has received the same appropriation of \$274M for nine consecutive fiscal years—effectively a 25 percent cut since FY2010, when the Board received \$283.4M. Additionally, overall staffing levels have dropped by 39 percent over the past two decades and field staffing has been cut in half. These cuts come while there has been a dramatic increase in labor activity which has caused a higher caseload for NLRB staff. Just in the

first half of FY2022, union election petitions were up 57% and unfair labor practice charges were up 14% compared to this time in 2021. Additionally, with 60 million non-union workers saying they would join a union if given the chance (including nearly 75% of young workers age 18-24), we only expect union election petitions to further increase. With this skyrocketing workload, the NLRB is now responsible for far more workers than a decade ago yet has been denied the funding to meet these statutory requirements.

We further request that you exclude the rider barring the Board from using appropriated funds to issue any new administrative directive or regulation that would provide employees any means of voting electronically in union representation elections. The NMB has effectively and securely conducted telephonic voting in representation elections since 2002 and electronic voting by internet since 2007 in the railway and airline industries. Everyday commerce, official government business and jobs have been moving online in the past two decades. It is time to end this antiquated prohibition and allow the NLRB to join the rest of society in modernizing its processes and procedures. The rider ultimately serves to restrict employee access to the polls and free choice, and we respectfully request it be excluded from this year's Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important request.

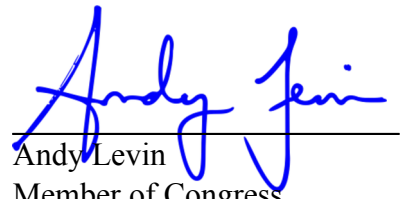
Sincerely,



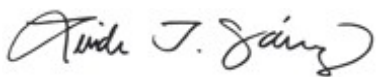
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



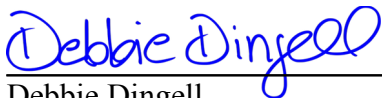
Suzanne Bonamici
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Andy Levin
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Debbie Dingell
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Steven Horsford
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Adam Smith
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Tony Cárdenas
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



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



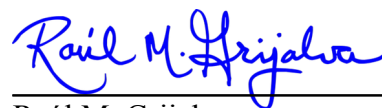
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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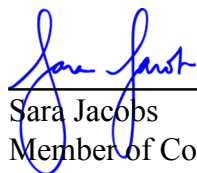
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



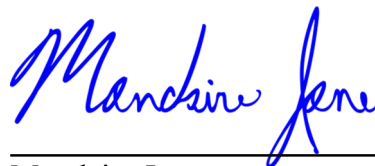
Lloyd Doggett
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Sara Jacobs
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Frank J. Mrvan
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Jan Schakowsky
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Dina Titus
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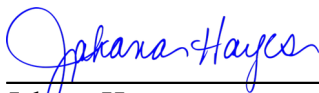
Brian Higgins
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Jimmy Panetta
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David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



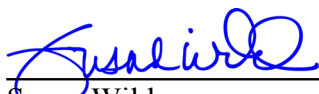
Jahana Hayes
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Mikie Sherrill
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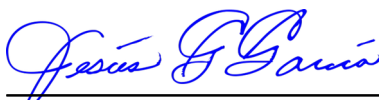
Susan Wild
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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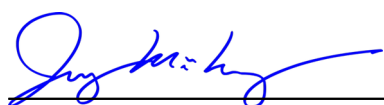
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



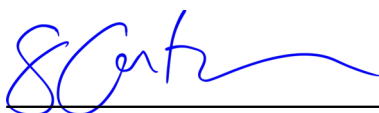
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Kathy E. Manning
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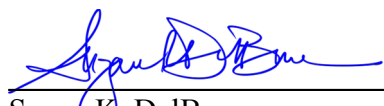
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Rashida Tlaib
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Lori Trahan
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Karen Bass
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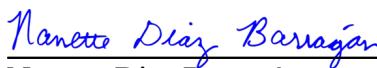
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



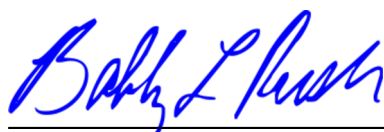
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



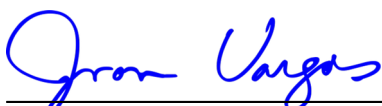
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



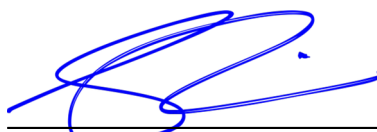
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



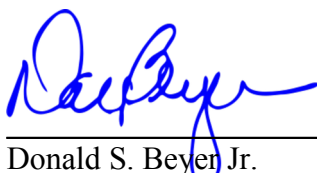
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



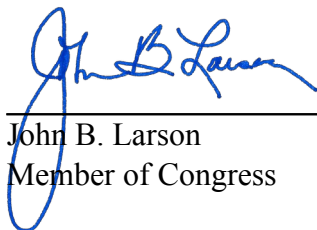
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



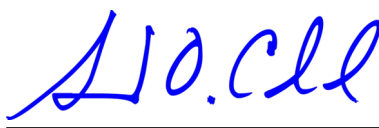
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



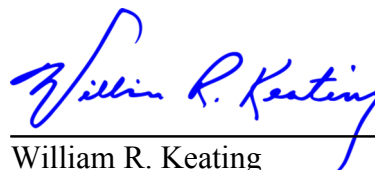
John P. Sarbanes
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Salud Carbajal
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Barbara Lee
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James P. McGovern
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Marc A. Veasey
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Diana DeGette
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Andy Kim
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Katie Porter
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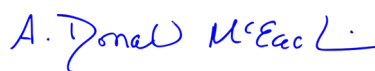
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David Scott
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A. Donald McEachin
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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Cori Bush
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Ritchie Torres
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Al Green
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Josh Gottheimer
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Marie Newman
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Ted W. Lieu
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Earl Blumenauer
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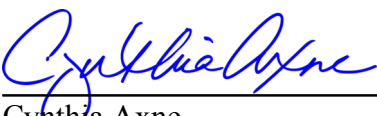
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



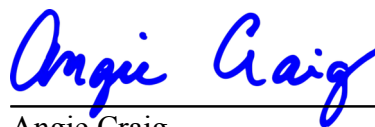
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



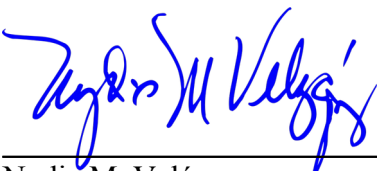
Cynthia Axne
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Mike Doyle
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Angie Craig
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Adam B. Schiff
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
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Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



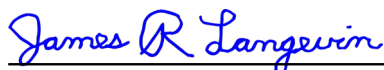
Terri A. Sewell
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Veronica Escobar
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Conor Lamb
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James R. Langevin
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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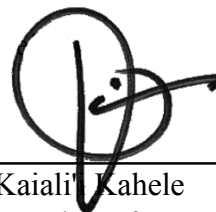
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



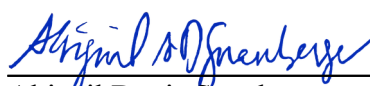
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



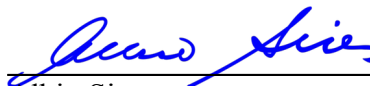
Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



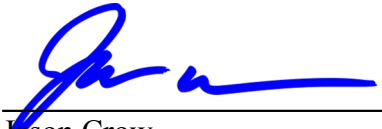
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



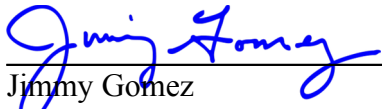
Albio Sires
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Jim Cooper
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
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Ruben Gallego
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Steve Cohen
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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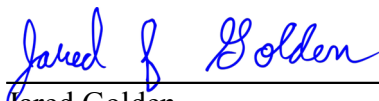
Paul D. Tonko
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Christopher H. Smith
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Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
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