

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng,

We write to express our strong support for funding the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) in the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Congress reauthorized this program during the 117th Congress on a bipartisan basis. During the program's 20-year tenure, it has impacted communities across the nation by providing states, local governments, and tribal nations with the necessary resources to plan and implement initiatives for people with mental illnesses involved with the criminal justice system to increase public safety, reduce state and local spending, and improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and their families.

This program addresses the disproportionate involvement of people with mental health disorders in the justice system and their strain on the system. Almost 2 million times each year, people with serious mental illness are booked into county jails, and they spend an average of 15 months longer in prison than people without mental illnesses, even when charged with similar crimes. Jails spend two to three times more on incarcerating people with mental illnesses, and yet this investment has not translated into increased public safety, or advances in longer-term recovery.

The subcommittee can continue its leadership addressing this challenge by sustaining its bipartisan support for funding that unites mental health providers, criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, consumers, and family members to better identify and address the needs of people with mental health conditions involved with the criminal justice system. This collaboration helps individuals receive appropriate care, which saves lives, reduces recidivism, long-term incarceration, and other criminal justice costs.

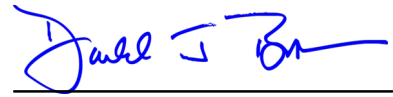
The JMHCPC program fosters these collaborations and connects people involved with the criminal justice system to treatment for behavioral health needs. Specifically, JMHCPC supports local innovations in applying research-based approaches to improve public safety and health outcomes through a range of strategies. These include police, mental health collaboration programs, mobile crisis teams, crisis services diversion programs, mental health courts, reentry services, and law enforcement mental-health learning sites. The program also supports suicide prevention in jails, co-responder teams, information-sharing between mental health systems and jails or prisons, and crisis intervention teams placed in 911 call centers. JMHCPC works across the criminal justice system, from crisis to reentry, to ensure jurisdictions receive tailored programs that meet their needs. To date, JMHCPC appropriations have funded mental health courts, court-based initiatives, local police departments, and other programs to improve outcomes for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use conditions who interact with the criminal justice system. JMHCPC has funded more than 800 grants across 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa. JMHCPC fosters local innovations in applying research-based approaches to improve public safety and health outcomes through a range of strategies.

Our criminal justice partners cannot keep our communities safe and strong without mental health and substance use partners. JMHCP fosters collaboration and innovation that helps identify and actually treat the behavioral health needs that often bring people into contact with police, the courts, and jail. The program recognizes that the most efficient way to solve a complex problem is to bring leaders together around a shared goal and help them apply national best practices to local priorities. By focusing our efforts on this population, this is a cost-effective opportunity to curb overcrowding in our correctional facilities and to stop using jails and prisons as substitutes for a properly functioning mental health system. We appreciate your subcommittee's continued support for this important program in the FY 2027 CJS bill.

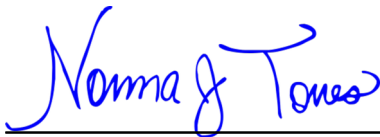
Sincerely,



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



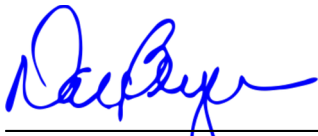
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



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



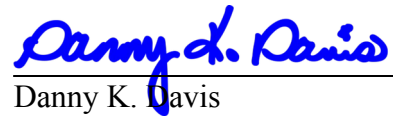
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



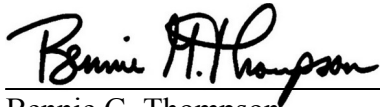
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



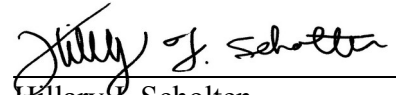
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



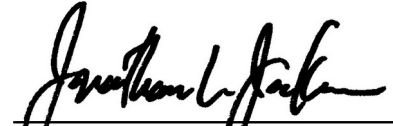
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



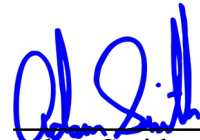
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



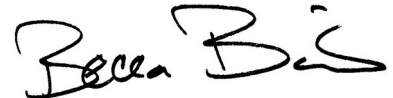
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



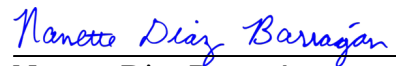
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



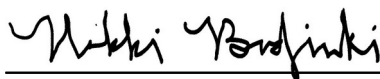
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



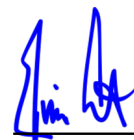
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



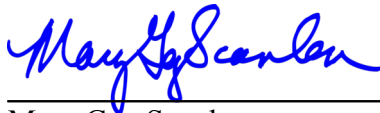
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



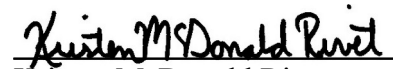
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



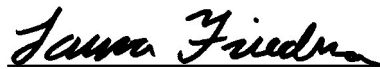
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



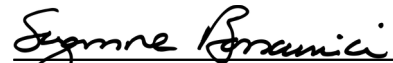
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



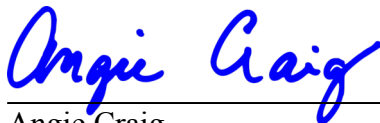
Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



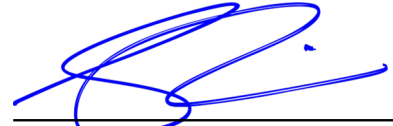
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



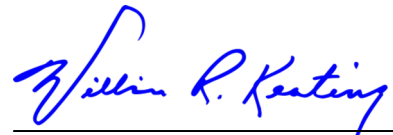
Al Green
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



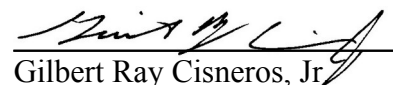
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



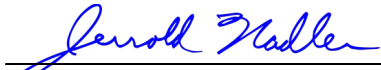
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress




Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ferrol Nadler
Member of Congress



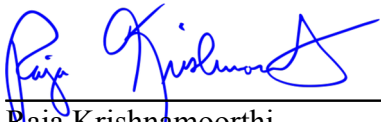
David Scott
Member of Congress



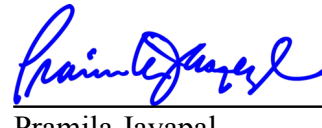
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



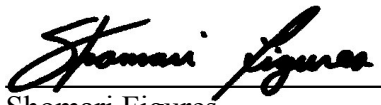
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress




Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress




Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



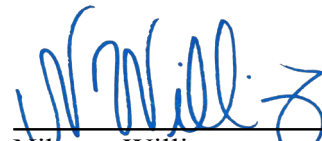
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



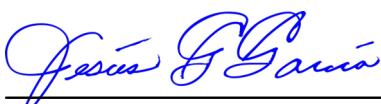
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



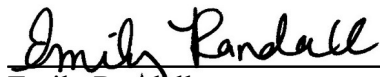
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



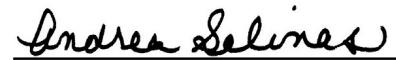
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



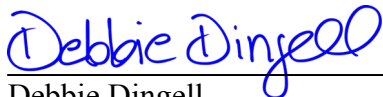
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



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



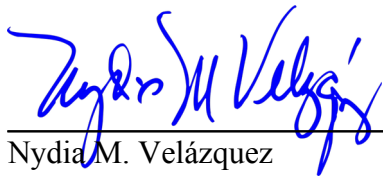
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



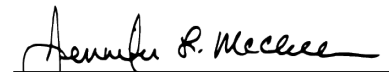
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress