



April 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus and House Democratic Caucus, we write to express our deep disappointment that House Republicans have derailed a years-long, bipartisan effort to advance the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and National Museum of the American Latino. On March 18, Committee on House Administration Republicans entirely rewrote H.R. 1329, the *Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act* and advanced a bill that grants President Donald Trump authority to unilaterally select the Women's Museum site, hands control over design and construction to boards stacked with Trump's political loyalists, and dictates what the museum can and cannot say about women's history.

The work to establish the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum has been rooted in the joint conviction that women's history and women's stories are central to the identity of our nation. The eleventh-hour amendment not only wipes out years of hard-fought bipartisan progress but also threatens our support for the bill. **We urge that you do not bring the amended H.R. 1329, the *Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act*, to the House floor unless it is restored to the original bipartisan version that many of us cosponsored and is paired with H.R. 1330, the *Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino Act*.**

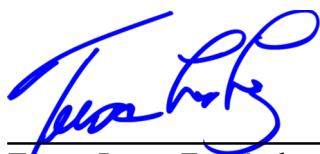
In December 2020, the American Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino were authorized with broad bipartisan support through the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, signed into law by President Trump. Since then, Members of both parties have worked together with the Smithsonian in a good-faith effort to address disagreements and concerns. These efforts led to the introduction of H.R. 1329 and H.R. 1330 to authorize sites for these museums on the National Mall. Before the amendment to H.R. 1329 was adopted on March 18, the bill had 230 cosponsors including 127 Democrats and 103 Republicans. The sudden decision to fundamentally rewrite this bill undermines years of bipartisan work and changes both the bill and the future of the museum. It is disappointing and embarrassing to see Republicans trade in years of good-faith bipartisan collaboration for a moment of careless political expediency.

The buildings that house museums are interpretative objects themselves. Their design and location frame how visitors understand the content inside. The design and location of a museum about women, fought for and supported by women, should not be controlled by one man and his loyalists—particularly not a man who has been found liable for sexual assault, and regularly denigrates women based on physical appearance, among other repulsive behaviors. American women deserve better. The American people deserve better.

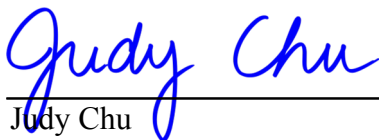
The amended bill also now vaguely states that only “biological women” can be included in the museum. While the author’s intent is clearly to target transgender women and girls, the provision invites arbitrary enforcement and could be used to challenge the inclusion of any woman or girl a politician deems not “feminine” enough. This is just another example of Republicans needlessly adding an anti-transgender provision to an unrelated bill that would impact not just transgender women and girls but all women and girls. The bill also omits the National Museum of the American Latino, which has historically been considered, advanced, and championed in tandem with the Women’s History Museum. The Republican mismanagement of these museums is a serious departure from longstanding bipartisan precedent that risks undermining our shared commitment to telling a more complete American story.

If Republicans truly want to celebrate women’s history, we call on you and your colleagues to restore the bipartisan version of this bill and move it forward with us. Our support for this bill is contingent on the retention of the museum’s spirit and the bill’s bipartisan foundation. Absent those conditions, we will be compelled to oppose the politicized version of H.R. 1329 on the House floor.

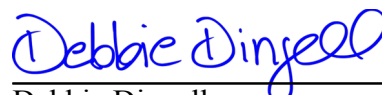
Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Judy Chu  
Co-Chair  
Reproductive Health Care  
Task Force & Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Debbie Dingell  
Senate Liaison & Co-Chair  
Caregiving Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



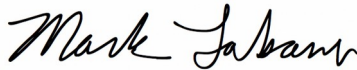
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



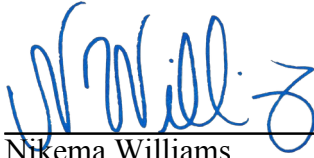
Lateefah Simon  
Co-Chair  
Caregiving Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



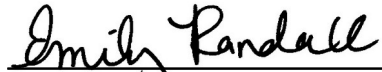
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Chief Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Emily Randall  
Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sarah McBride  
Whip  
Democratic Women's Caucus



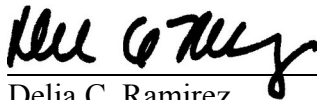
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



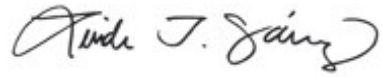
JM Tokuda  
Progressive Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



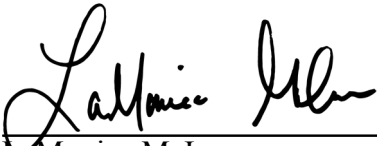
Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



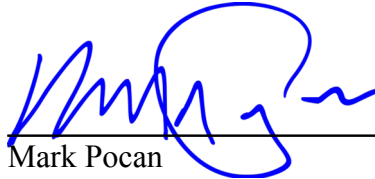
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



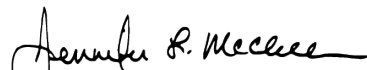
LaMonica McIver  
New Member Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



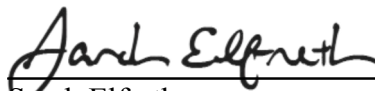
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfret  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Chair Emerita  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Adenta S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Co-Chair  
Policy Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



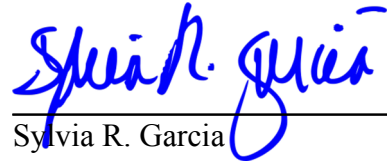
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



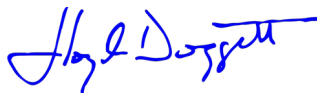
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
National Leaders & Advocacy  
Organizations Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus




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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



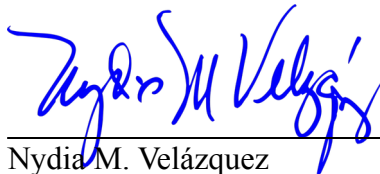
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



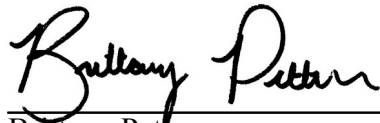
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
CAPAC Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Brittany Petterson  
Co-Chair  
Caregiving Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Equality Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Congressional Hispanic  
Caucus Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Norma J. Torres  
New Democrat Coalition  
Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



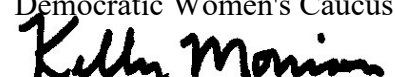
Chrissy Houlahan  
Chair  
Servicewomen, Women Veterans &  
Military Families Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



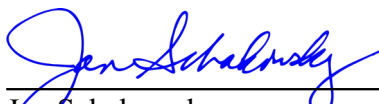
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



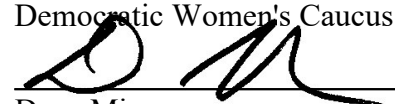
Kelly Morrison  
Co-Chair  
Reproductive Health Care Task Force  
& Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



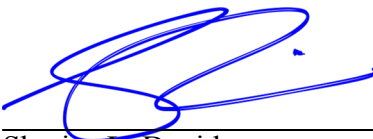
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



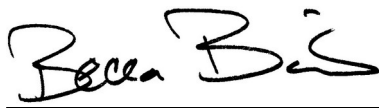
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



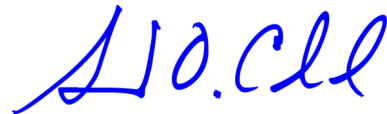
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



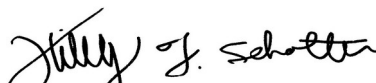
Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress




Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



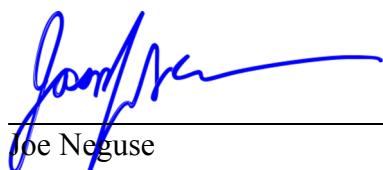
Jasmine Crockett  
Co-Chair  
Communications Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Hillary J. Scholten  
Vice Chair  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Glenn F. Ivey  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



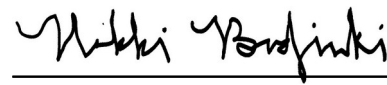
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



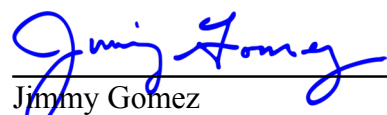
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



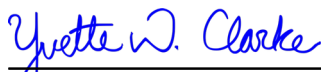
Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



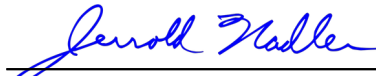
Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



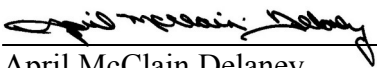
Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



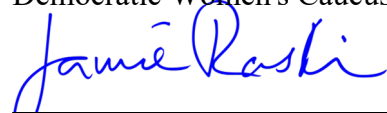
Melanie Stansbury  
Co-Chair  
Member Services Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



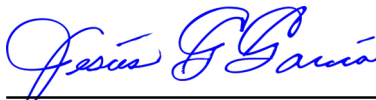
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



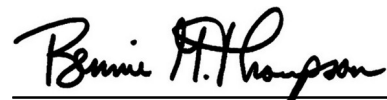
Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Congressional Black Caucus  
Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



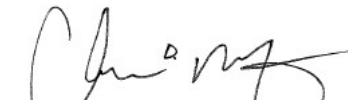
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress




Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee  
Member of Congress




Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Co-Chair  
Policy Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Chair  
Global Women's Issues Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Co-Chair  
Reproductive Health Care Task  
Force & Liaison  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Co-Chair  
Member Services Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



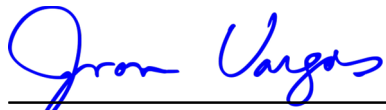
John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



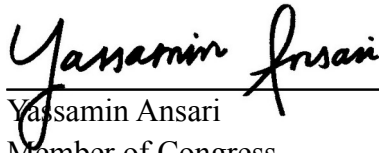
Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



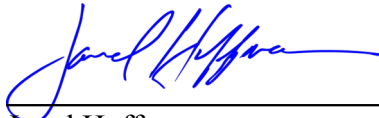
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



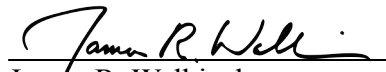
Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress




Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



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



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



George Latimer  
Member of Congress

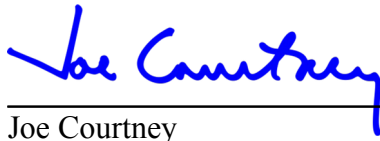


Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



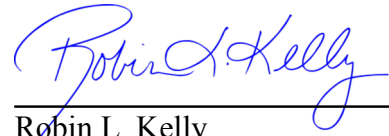
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



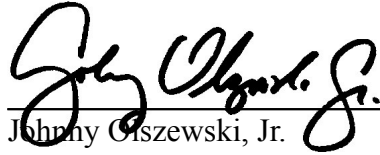
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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



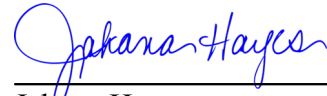
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Johnny Giszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress




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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Co-Chair  
Communications Task Force  
Democratic Women's Caucus



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress