



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We, members of the Democratic Women's Caucus and Republican Women's Caucus, write to support robust funding for the construction and operation of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum as the Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. A bill to establish the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum previously passed the House with bipartisan support but we need to approve the funding to turn it into reality. It's time that women's contributions to our great nation's history receive the recognition they deserve. Your commitment to provide robust funding is necessary for the museum to execute its mission.

The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum will give the public powerful access to the trailblazing women and untold stories that have shaped our nation. The National Women's History Museum conducted a survey that found less than a quarter of respondents could easily recall a historical woman figure but three-quarters of respondents could easily recall a historical male figure. Those who could recall male figures cited learning about them in their history textbooks.¹ This data is unsurprising given that over 70% of history books are written by men and only 6% of those men write about women in history.² Women are also underrepresented in national monuments with women making up only 6% of U.S. monuments.³ The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, like the National Museum of the American Latino, would address these critical gaps in our national story, and Congress should not deny this critical public resource the full funding it needs. We must prioritize projects that tell the stories of our contributions to society to honor the incredible women of the past and inspire changemakers of the future.

1 Perez, Rachel. Lee. (2022, August 25). 'A womanless history': The importance of including women in the historical narrative. *Ms. Magazine*. <https://msmagazine.com/2022/08/25/women-history-textbooks/>

2 Kahn, Andrerw, & Onion, Rebecca. (2016, January 6). *Is history written about men, by men?* *Slate*. https://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2016/01/popular_history_why_are_so_many_history_books_about_men_by_men.html

3 Brasted, Chelsea. (2023, March 8). *America still doesn't put enough women on pedestals*. *Axios*. <https://www.axios.com/2023/03/08/women-history-month-us-monuments>

As two of the Caucuses representing the women in Congress, we implore the Committee to acknowledge and act on our request. The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum is one of our shared priorities. As you consider the Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we look forward to the inclusion of robust funding for the construction and operation of the museum.

Sincerely,



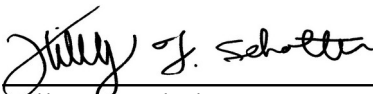
Teresa Leger Fernandez
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Kat Cammack
Chair
Republican Women's Caucus



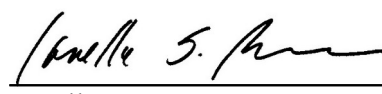
Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



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



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
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