



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*.**

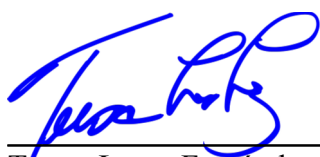
In December 2020, the American Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino were authorized with broad bipartisan support through the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, signed into law by President Trump. Since then, Members of both parties have worked together with the 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.

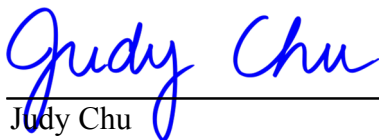
The amended bill also now vaguely states that only “biological women” can be included in the museum. While the author’s intent is clearly to target transgender women and girls, the provision invites arbitrary enforcement and could be used to challenge the inclusion of any woman or girl a politician deems 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.

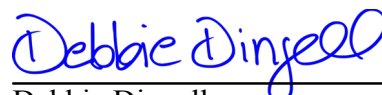
Sincerely,



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



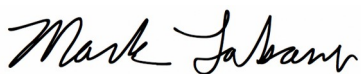
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



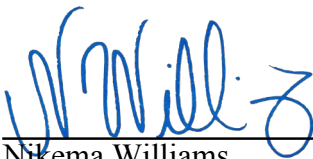
Lateefah Simon
Co-Chair
Caregiving Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



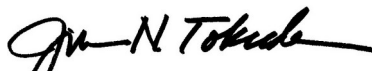
Emily Randall
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sarah McBride
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



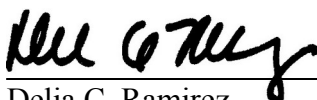
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



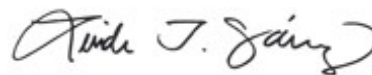
JM Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



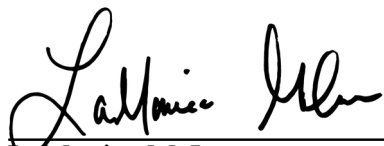
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



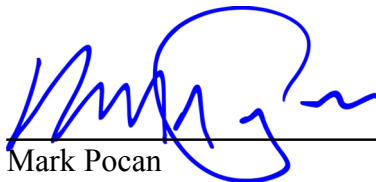
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



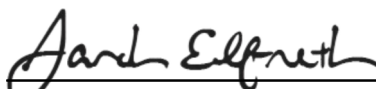
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Chair Emerita
Democratic Women's Caucus



Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



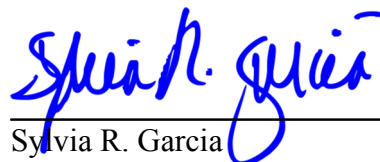
Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



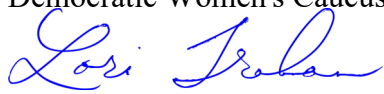
Joyce Beatty
National Leaders & Advocacy
Organizations Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



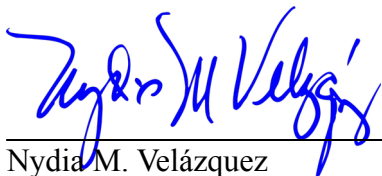
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



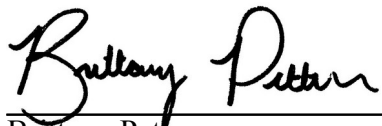
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
CAPAC Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



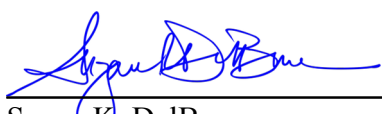
Brittany Pettersen
Co-Chair
Caregiving Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



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



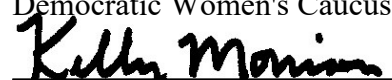
Chrissy Houlahan
Chair
Servicewomen, Women Veterans &
Military Families Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



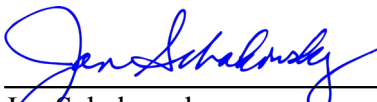
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



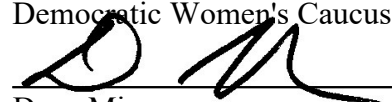
Kelly Morrison
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care Task Force
& Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



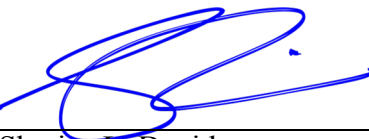
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



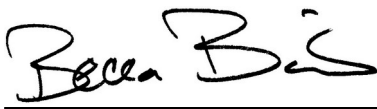
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



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



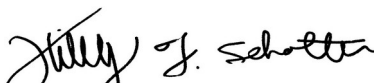
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



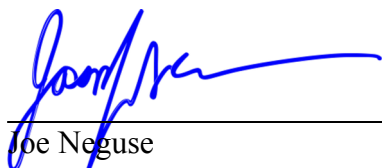
Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



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



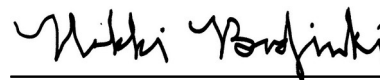
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



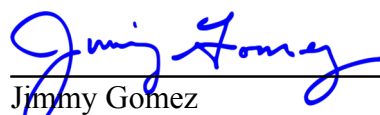
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



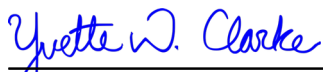
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



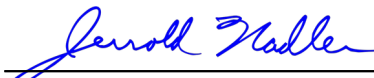
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



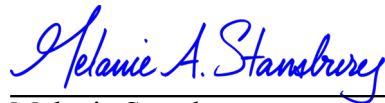
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



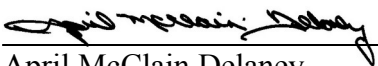
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



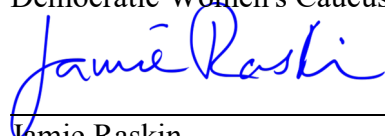
Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



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



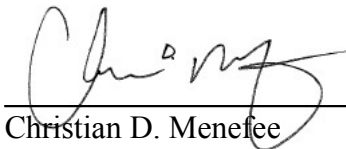
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



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



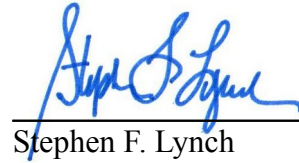
Sydney Kamlager Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



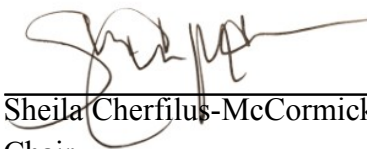
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



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



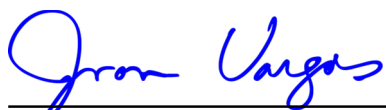
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



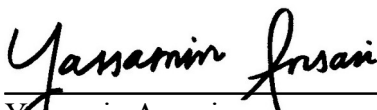
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



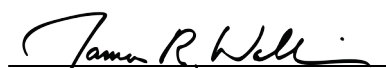
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



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



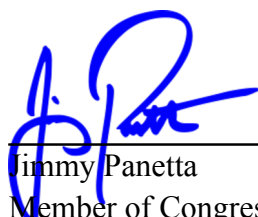
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



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



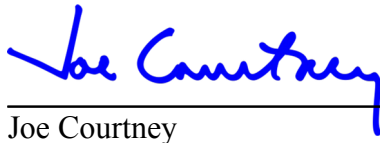
George Latimer
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



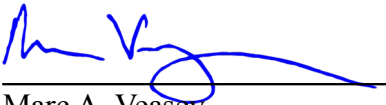
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



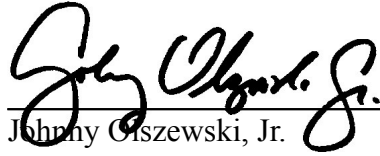
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



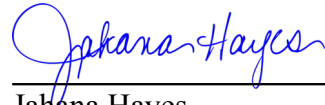
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Johnny Giszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



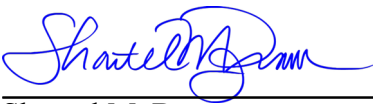
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



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



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress