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CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS 119th Congress

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Murray, and
Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write to express our strong and unequivocal support for full funding for the National Museum of the American Latino in the Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The National Museum of the American Latino was authorized with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump through Public Law 116-260. We note that on June 6, 2025, our colleagues in the Republican-led Congressional Hispanic Conference also sent a letter to your Committees urging funding for this critical institution. We echo their concerns and call for the restoration of funds that were eliminated in the FY26 President’s Budget.

The proposed reversion of the Museum to a scaled-down “center” fundamentally undermines the congressional intent of a world-class, permanent Smithsonian museum located on the National Mall. Latinos make up nearly 20% of the U.S. population and have shaped every facet of our national story—from military service and labor rights to music, science, and art. A permanent, brick-and-mortar institution is the only appropriate way to recognize this legacy.

In addition to its symbolic and cultural importance, the Museum has laid out a clear strategic vision for the next five years that includes:

- Assembling a world-class collection of artifacts reflecting the diversity of Latino experiences;
- Building a team of professionals attuned to the Museum’s mission and purpose;

- Launching national education and community outreach campaigns;
- Delivering robust exhibitions and public programming through the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History; and
- Finalizing the site for the permanent museum near the Tidal Basin—currently under consideration and requiring congressional approval.

The museum's work is already underway, with the successful launch of "¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States," and plans for the 2026 "¡Puro Ritmo: The Musical Journey of Salsa" exhibit. The museum is also actively investing in youth leadership, internships, and public engagement programs across the country. Curtailing these efforts through inadequate funding would be a setback not only for the Latino community, but for all Americans who benefit from a more complete and inclusive historical narrative.

We urge the Committee to uphold congressional intent, support the Smithsonian's efforts to secure an optimal site, and provide the funding necessary to advance this long-overdue museum. The time to invest in this institution is now—not only to honor the contributions of Latinos to the American story, but to ensure future generations can learn from and be inspired by it.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



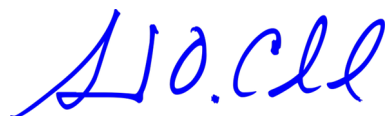
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



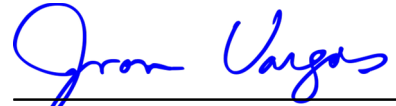
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



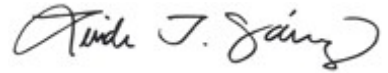
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress




Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



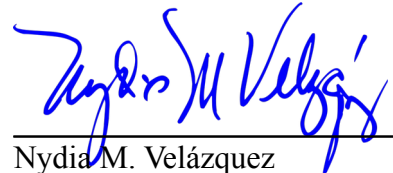
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



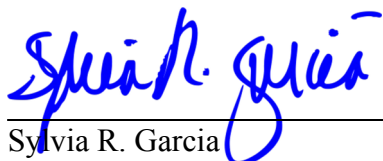
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



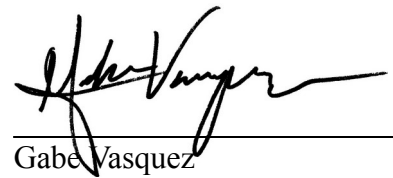
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



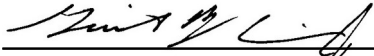
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



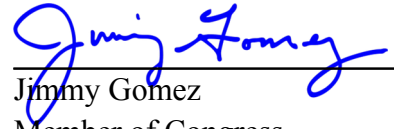
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Gabe Vasquez
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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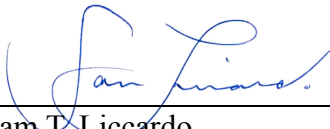
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



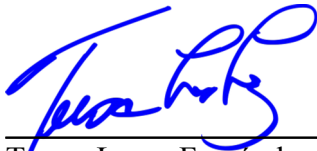
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



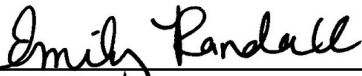
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
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Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
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Mike Levin
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