

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2012

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1300 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
Headquarters USAF
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Honorable Janet Napolitano
US Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Ave. Center, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Honorable Ray LaHood
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary McHugh, Secretary Mabus, Secretary Donley, Secretary Napolitano and Secretary LaHood:

We are writing to ask you to support robust funding for diversity outreach at the US Military Academy, US Naval Academy, US Air Force Academy, US Coast Guard Academy and the US Merchant Marine Academy. The findings and conclusions of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission (“MLDC”), which was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, highlight the need for the Services’ top leaders to reflect the diversity of the service members they lead. In their report, the MLDC found that “the Armed Forces have not yet succeeded in developing a continuing stream of leaders who are as demographically diverse as the Nation they serve.” They also concluded that “[m]en and women representative of the US population and with different skills, experiences, and backgrounds are needed to respond to new and emerging threats.”

While the Academies to varying degrees have made progress in reaching out to underrepresented communities in the US over the past few years, they have lacked resources to make substantial gains in some parts of the country. We believe it is important for the Academies to have the resources to continue building upon this progress.

Providing the Academies with robust diversity outreach funding through a commitment of resources and personnel will ensure that they can inform individuals in underrepresented communities of the opportunities available at the Academies to serve our country and obtain a world-class education. We urge you to ensure that the Academies have the resources to reach out to men and women from all corners of America and find those who are qualified and ready to serve. This critical investment would help America find the best and brightest for our military and for America's future.

We appreciate your attention to this request. Please contact Sirat Attapit with Rep. Becerra's office at 202-226-3744 or sirat.attapit@mail.house.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



JOE BACA
Member of Congress



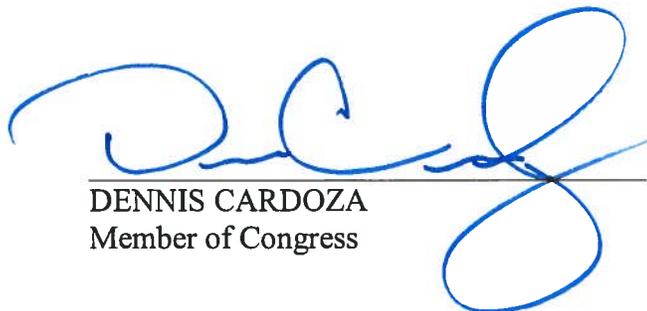
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress



ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress



RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



MAZIE K. HIRONO
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
Member of Congress



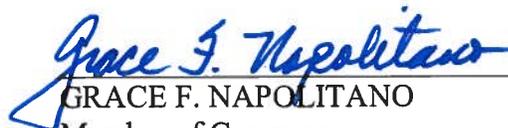
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



HANK JOHNSON
Member of Congress



BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



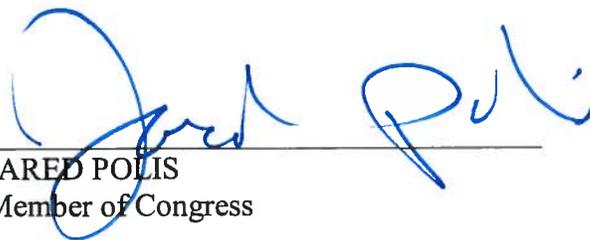
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ED PASTOR
Member of Congress



PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



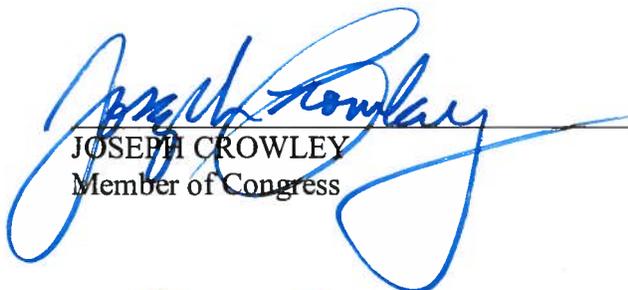
EMANUEL CLEAVER II
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



DONNA EDWARDS
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress



CHARLIE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress



JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress


CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress


SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress


LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

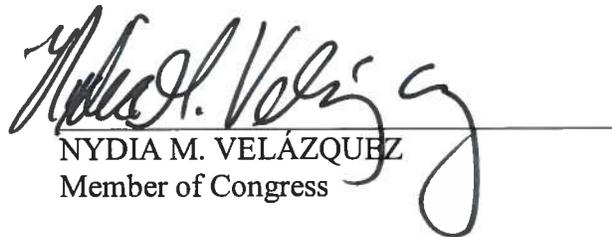

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress


GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress


LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


JOSE SERRANO
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress


NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress


FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress


LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress