



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Tim Ryan
Chair
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Herrera Beutler,

We thank the Subcommittee for its steadfast bi-partisan support of the Library of Congress (LoC). We support Congress funding an incremental appropriation in the amount of \$3.0 million in the FY22 Appropriations bill for its Librarian's Office | Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE) Account to fund Librarian's Office | Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE) Account for the Lewis-Houghton Civics and Democracy Initiative.

A broad array of reputable research unambiguously confirms that Americans of all ages lack grounding in American history, civics, and governance. The ongoing and life-changing COVID-19 pandemic and the disturbing events concerning recent key US elections have amplified the national urgency for Congress to include funding in FY22 appropriations for this pressing need.

This initiative is named posthumously after two long-serving and irreplaceable House Members – John Lewis (D-GA) and Amo Houghton (R-NY) – who jointly and separately supported these aims and this request in the last days of their lives. They urged bi-cameral and bi-partisan support for such initiatives for many reasons: first, the unquestionably pressing need to support history and civics education and positive civic and community engagement among young people in the U.S now; second, the need now for exceptional digitally-deliverable educational tools and resources to bring the knowledge and resources of our national archives to the nation's teachers and students more timely and effectively during this pandemic and beyond; and third, because the LoC is pre-eminently committed to advancing the use of primary-source based teaching and learning. Now is the time for Congress to act on this and the Library of Congress is uniquely positioned to respond.

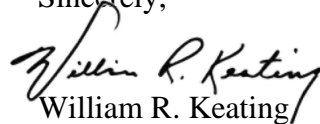
America's youth are the legacy-bearers of America's democracy and America's future. It is imperative that we find ways of energizing and deepening young people's understanding of our nation's foundational achievements, shared values and common humanity. To accomplish this, we know that we need to find – and outside partners have developed - new ways of sharing this history with today's youth because media, technology and popular culture have radically changed the way young people receive and process information, learn about the world around them, and find their "place" in this new world.

These funds will allow innovative outside partners to work in collaboration with CLLE to expand LoC's extensive outreach work in new ways that sharpen the focus while expanding the content depth and manner of delivery of "online" (digitally-delivered) curricula and teacher preparation materials in history, civics and democracy. Through this funding, key LoC historical and cultural resources will be more fully tied to each other and to the events and themes of modern American history in ways that: a) correlate directly to and supplement secondary school curricula, especially in history, civics and civic engagement b) can be used in additional required secondary-level subjects [e.g., language arts, STEM, media literacy, arts and culture;] c) can be identified and used in integrated, intuitive online search and distribution processes by teachers and students alike; d) are presented and organized in a comprehensive, sequential, fully-searchable and widely-accepted format such as Curriculum Mapping to facilitate expanded adoption and use; e) can be deployed in instructionally-based and community-based service learning activities; and f) align with and expand the reach and impact of the LoC's innovative teacher preparation and education outreach programs, including its national and regional activities.

Through the LoC, this funding will provide secondary students and teachers alike with new tools, resources and experiences to achieve these goals. Uniquely, this program is meant to enhance the integration of LoC's cultural resources (including music) with its history, film, photo and other documentary collections in order to bring these together in a manner that meaningfully and accurately integrates these resources within comprehensive and multi-year curricula for instruction of secondary school students. This will expand the type of offerings LoC has made available to date for easier and more meaningful use by teachers and students to support history and civics education and American democracy.

Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and multiplying effect as those of the Library of Congress, nor such a significant return on investment. We strongly urge you to support this incremental funding level of at least \$3.0 million for the Library of Congress in the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations for the Legislative Branch designated for this initiative. By approving this level of funding, you will make an important and unique contribution to secondary education while advancing the core mission of the LoC. We appreciate your attention to this request and hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,


William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Deborah Ross
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jahana Hayes
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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress