

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Linda McMahon  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Director Vought and Secretary McMahon:

We write today to express our strong support for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). We urge you to implement the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, which President Trump signed into law and requires \$52,123,000 to be used for carrying out CAMP and HEP. This funding is necessary to ensure these educational programs provide critical access to educational opportunities for agricultural farmworker students.

Continuing and potential new grantees, all of which are colleges and non-profit organizations, were slated to receive funding and begin providing support to students by July 1 but have yet to receive the funding that Congress provided earlier this year. We understand the Department of Education informed HEP and CAMP leaders in June that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was reviewing these programs, but grantees have not received follow up information as to when the funds will be released, which has imposed challenges on individuals and families served by these programs and applicants and grantees (and their employees) impacted by the uncertainty and delay.

HEP helps students who have dropped out of high school get their High School Equivalency Credential and serves more than 6,000 students annually. CAMP assists students in their first year of college with academic, personal, and financial support, and serves approximately 2,400 participants annually. Overall, nearly three-quarters of all CAMP students graduate with baccalaureate degrees.

The HEP/CAMP FY 2024 Report to Congress shows that despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of HEP participants who received a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) increased by 4.2 percentage points from FY 2021 to FY 2022 and 84 percent of HSED recipients entered postsecondary education or training programs, attained upgraded employment, or entered the military.<sup>1</sup>

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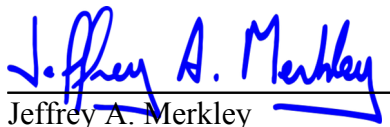
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/hep-camp-evaluation-webinar-transcript-109131.pdf>

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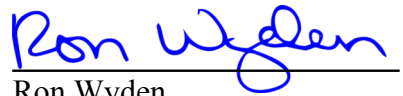
Similarly, the CAMP program is achieving results for students. The HEP/CAMP FY 2024 Report to Congress shows that “Despite pandemic-related challenges, in both fiscal years [2021 and 2022], CAMP exceeded the national retention rates for first time college freshmen returning in their second year.”<sup>2</sup> We should strive to retain more students enrolled in college, just as CAMP programs have achieved. These are results that can help strengthen the economy for agricultural farmworker families and rural communities.

HEP and CAMP programs rely on this funding to serve more than 8,000 students across the country. We urge the administration to release this previously allocated funding. We look forward to working with you to make this funding available as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



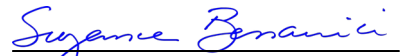
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



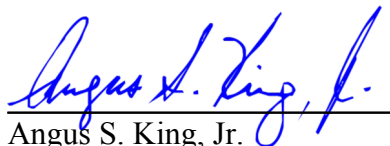
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



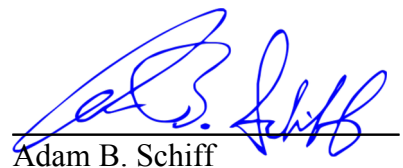
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United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

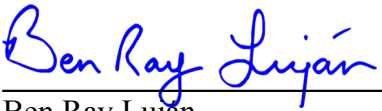


Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator

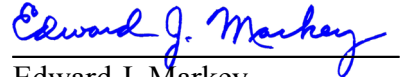
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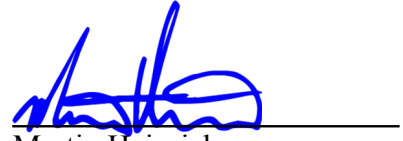
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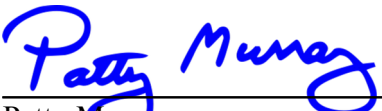
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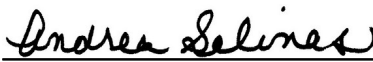
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



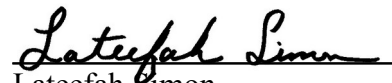
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Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
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