



March 29, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, we write to share our Future Forum Caucus and Member priorities for your consideration.

Established in 2015, Future Forum serves as a generational caucus comprised of 49 young Democratic Members of Congress who aim to address issues important to young Americans. We strive to bridge the divide between young Americans and their government, engage and empower young voters, and inspire the next generation of leaders in public service.

As you proceed with the FY24 funding bills, Future Forum Caucus respectfully requests the inclusion of:

- **\$5 Billion over the next 10 years for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC),**

Young voters play and will continue to play a prominent role in our elections as our youth understand that their civic engagement does in fact make a difference when it comes to addressing dire issues of importance to them. It is why we secure funding for the Election Assistance Commission as it plays a critical role in ensuring state and local entities have the support and resources needed to successfully carry out elections. Additionally, EAC develops recommendations to address the needs of voters and other election stakeholders to ensure every eligible American can vote independently and with confidence in our election system. Since its inception, the agency has been able to carry out the Help America Vote College Program grants to encourage the participation of college students in our elections by serving as poll workers, while fostering student interest in the election process.

- **\$73 Million for the American History and Civics Academies and the American History and Civics National Activities, and**

Further, we support funding to carry out American History and Civics programs as their objective is to improve the quality of American history, civics, and government education to provide our youth with a wholesome understanding of our history. Such programs provide the

necessary foundation for students to become active participants in our society by giving them an insight on how our government works and how they too can engage and shape our future.

- **\$10 Billion for the First-Generation Down Payment Assistance Program.**

Lastly, over the years, home ownership is a goal that has become extremely near impossible to achieve, particularly for millennials. Elevated housing prices, coupled with high interest rates, stricter lending practices and credit standards are just some of the factors that hinder many from achieving this goal. Yet, despite these challenges, younger generations still have a desire to buy a house. That is why we must invest in programs that assist first time home buyers, like the First Generation Down Payment Assistance Program, to help facilitate the purchase of a home.

Caucus Member funding priorities for FY24:

Through the appropriations process we continue to support programs that intend to make college affordable as education is an opportunity that should be available to every single American. We also support efforts to strengthen our workforce by making Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients eligible for federal employment, creating onramps for young people to join and stay in the public service sector, and create robust pipelines to our workforce.

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Agriculture to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Commerce and Department of Justice to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
Rep. Derek Kilmer	RECOMPETEACT Program	Funding	\$20 Million
Department of Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Energy to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
Financial Services and General Government			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Colin Allred	Election Security Grants	Funding	\$1 Billion
Rep. Pete Aguilar	Employment of DACA Recipients	Bill Language	Expand federal employment requirements to include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program within the broader Federal Government.

Rep. Darren Soto	Office of Young Americans, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President	Report	Request funding for the creation of the Office of Young Americans within the Executive Office of the President to ensure the broader federal government addresses issues that impact younger Americans.
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Energy to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education, to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
Rep. Seth Magaziner	Federal Pell Grant Program	Funding	Robust Funding to facilitate the maximum individual award to \$13,000
Rep. Derek Kilmer	Civic Bridgebuilding	Report Language	To advance the goal of uniting Americans through national service, a proven model of civic bridgebuilding, and to support the Community of Practice Pilot Program.
Legislative Branch			
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Pete Aguilar	Employment of DACA Recipients	Bill Language	Expand federal employment requirements to include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program within Congress.
Rep. Derek Kilmer, Rep. Seth Moulton	House Interns	Funding	Highest Funding Level
Rep. Darren Soto, Rep. Derek Kilmer	House Committee Interns	Funding and Report Language	Highest Funding Level
Rep. Derek Kilmer	House Intern Resource Office	Funding	Highest Funding Level
Rep. Derek Kilmer	Educational Assistance and Professional Development for House Employees	Report Language	Language directing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to inform offices and staff of the Student Loan Repayment Program expansion to cover tuition assistance.
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a report to Congress on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Request Type</i>	<i>Request</i>
Rep. Darren Soto	Internship Program	Report	Directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a report to Congress

			on the status of their internship programs, a first step to establish a robust internship program.
--	--	--	--

We thank you for your leadership in crafting these important appropriations bill and for your consideration of these requests. Future Forum stands ready to help facilitate and advance our requests. If you have any questions, please reach out to Isabel J. Sanchez, Executive Director, at Isabel.Sanchez@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Co-Chair of Policy



Haley Stevens
Co-Chair of Administration



Colin Allred
Co-Chair of Communications



Brittany Pettersen
Freshman Representative