

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 23, 2025

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

It has come to our attention that the Board of Trustees at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is purported to rename the institution as the “Trump-Kennedy Center”. The Board – on which you conveniently serve as Chair, and most of whose members you have handpicked – has no statutory authority to make this egregious change<sup>1</sup>. We demand that this illegal effort is reversed, including that your name is removed from the building immediately.

The Kennedy Center is a national cultural institution established by Congress and no board vote nor social media post has the legal authority to change the name without an act of Congress. Furthermore, the Administration misleadingly claims that the Board of the Kennedy Center unanimously voted for the name change, even though Representative Joyce Beatty, who is an ex officio member of the board, was muted on the call and not allowed to voice opposition. This decision was not unanimous and is a clear case of censorship.

For more than 50 years, the Kennedy Center has stood, as intended by Congress, as a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, who was a fierce champion of the arts and of free expression. In contrast, your administration’s takeover earlier this year has already deeply damaged the Center’s reputation, leading to tanking ticket sales<sup>2</sup> and cancelled performances<sup>3</sup>. Audiences are being driven away and the livelihoods of the artists and workers who make the Center great are in danger.

We strongly condemn the Administration’s insistence on sullyng President Kennedy’s legacy by further politicizing the Center. We’ll be working to reverse this disgraceful renaming effort at every possible opportunity and restore the Kennedy Center’s rightful place as our nation’s cultural center without the burden of vanity projects or political influence.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



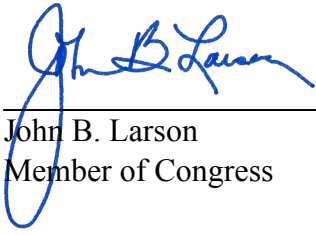
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 76j

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/2025/10/31/kennedy-center-sales/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/06/nx-s1-5319979/hamilton-kennedy-center-cancel>



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



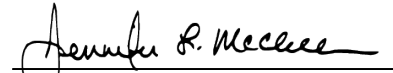
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



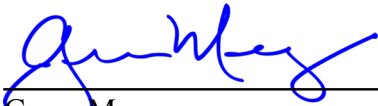
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



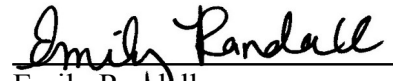
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



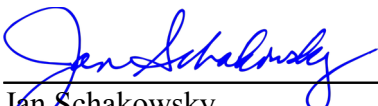
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



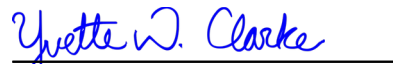
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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

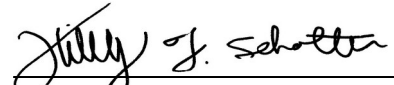


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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



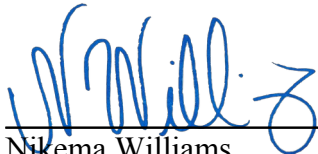
Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



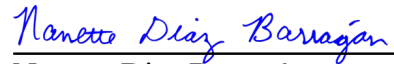
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



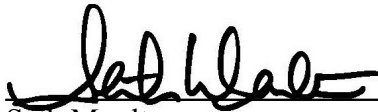
Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



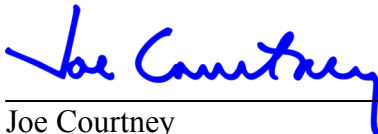
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



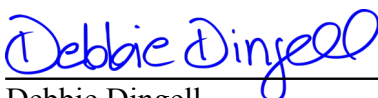
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

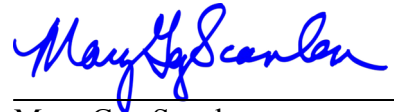


James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



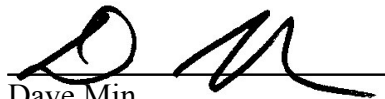
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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Dave Min  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



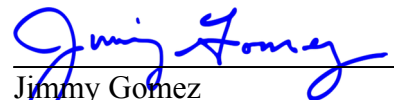
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Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



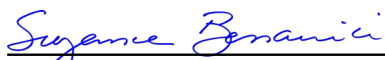
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



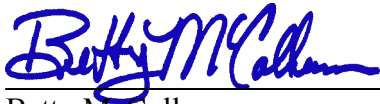
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

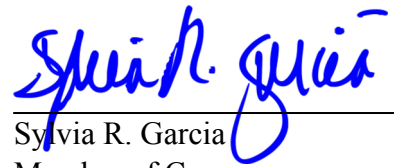


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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



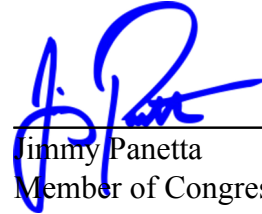
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



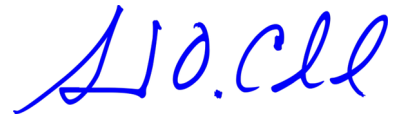
André Carson  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress




Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress




Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

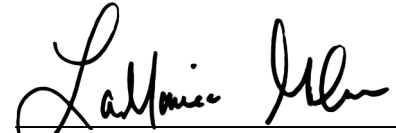


Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress




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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



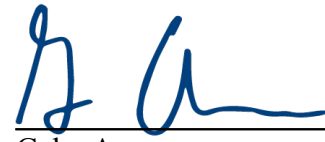
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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



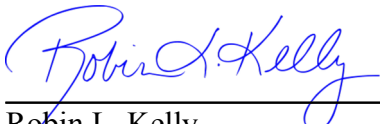
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



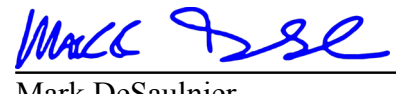
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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress




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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



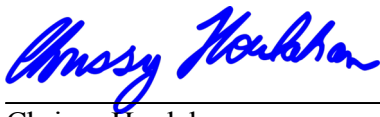
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress




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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



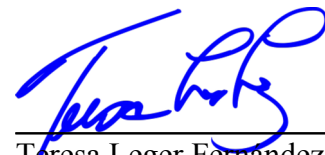
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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



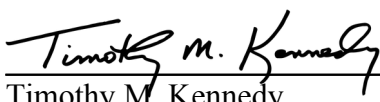
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Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



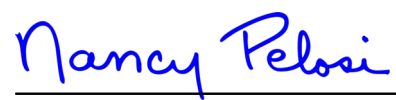
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Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



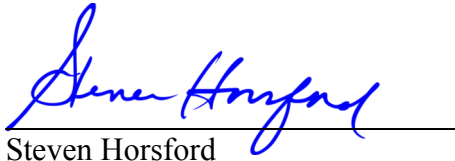
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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steven Horsford", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress