

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related  
Programs  
HT2, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related  
Programs  
1016 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you consider FY2017 programmatic funding, we respectfully request that you include language in the Subcommittee report urging the Department of State to include \$12 million through the Economic Support Fund for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

The ENP has functioned for the past decade as a supplementary program for Ethiopian-Israeli students, funding the staffing and operation of neighborhood outreach centers, academic tutoring, and workshops designed to empower parents and support community leadership. The ENP operates in 23 communities across Israel and serves approximately 3,413 in-need youth in its scholastic assistance programs – approximately one quarter of the 12,000 Ethiopian youth in Israel classified as in-need.

In addition to this assistance, students receive critical support, including personal support and empowerment workshops, and visit institutes of higher education. According to evaluations, these activities have significantly benefited students in areas related to personal development and academic achievement, and have resulted in some of the highest recorded matriculation scores in language and mathematics.

The Israeli Ministry of Education recently completed a long-term review to determine how to best meet the needs of Ethiopian Israelis. The plan that was presented to the Israeli government included approximately \$50 million, with the ENP to “carry out a big part of the educational initiative,” based upon the proven results of the program. Combined with partnerships with the Jewish Federation of America, private stakeholders, and local municipalities, ENP has been prioritized as key program for advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society. The ENP formally partners with the Prime Minister's Office as well as the Ministries of Education, Finance and Immigration. In addition, the program works closely with American organizations, and believes that its model could be an effective tool for reaching at-risk youth in the United States. In the near future, ENP hopes to establish a “sister-program” in the United States, utilizing its model to reach in-need students in a major U.S. city.

The Project estimates that it needs an additional \$12 million annually over the next four years to expand and effectively reach its target population, and to lay the groundwork for a U.S. sister-city program. We therefore ask that you include the following language in the Subcommittee's Report for the FY2017 Appropriations Bill:

*The Committee recommendation includes \$12,000,000 for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.*

We appreciate your past support for Israel and respectfully request that you include the above language in your Subcommittee Report, urging the Department of State to include \$12 million through the Economic Support Fund for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



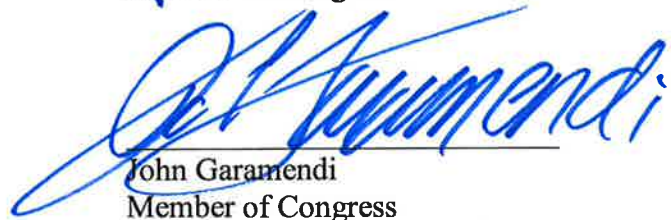
Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress




John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress




John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress




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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress




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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress