

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on crafting the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), we write to express strong bipartisan support for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) by requesting \$185 million for its Limitation on Administration (LOA).

In the 1930s, American railroaders gained access to a new railroad retirement system which preceded the creation of Social Security. The vast majority of railroad workers are not covered by Social Security and do not receive state unemployment insurance benefits. The RRB is an independent federal agency that administers retirement, survivor, disability, unemployment, and sickness benefits for rail workers and their families. It oversees a uniquely efficient and well-run retirement system that is projected to stay solvent through the next 75 years, the maximum time horizon its actuaries can project. The RRB is the sole entity that provides these essential earned benefits, a key workforce recruitment and retention tool for an industry competing for the next generation of talent.

The RRB's field representatives across the country help rail workers and their families file claims and counsel customers about applying for benefits. Agency staff also help adjudicate benefits claims and process payments. Setting the RRB's LOA at its requested level simply allows the agency to use its own RRB Trust Funds to serve our country's railroad workers and their families and give them access to the benefits they have worked and paid for. That is why this request is supported by the Transportation Trades Department (TTD), AFL-CIO, which represents the totality of rail labor; International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); the Association of American Railroads (AAR); and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA).

In Fiscal Year 2026, Congress funded the LOA account at \$127 million which was a \$1 million increase over Fiscal Year 2025. While we appreciate that this account received a modest increase, as a result of outdated technology and operating systems, limited staffing, and stagnant administrative funding, the casework backlog continues to grow. The average turnaround time

for disability claims rose to an astonishing 14 months in the last year, an extremely long time for railroaders and their families to go without the benefits they need and have earned over a lifetime of hard work.

RRB's benefits processing systems rely on technology developed decades ago, which severely slows down processing times and creates logistical hurdles for beneficiaries. Additionally, roughly a fifth of the RRB's workforce is eligible to retire today, leaving the agency at risk of losing technological expertise and further hampering service to beneficiaries. The agency urgently needs the resources to backfill these positions and train new workers. This constraint on administrative expenses has greatly diminished customer service for the rail workers and retirees who depend on this system. A continued lack of an increase on RRB's LOA would significantly undermine the RRB's ability to serve railroad workers, retirees, and their families.

For these reasons, we urge you to set the RRB's LOA at \$185 million in the FY27 LHHS bill. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Josh Gottheimer

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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Brian K. Fitzpatrick

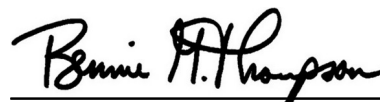
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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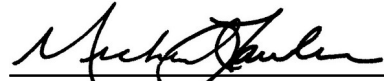
Suhas Subramanyam
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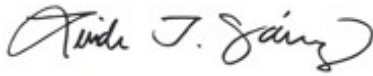
Mary Gay Scanlon
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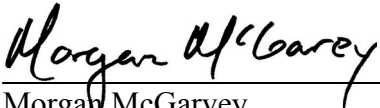
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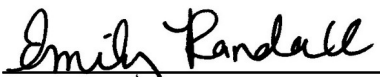
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Emily Randall
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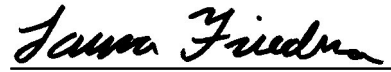
Pramila Jayapal
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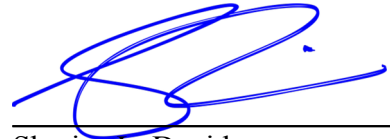
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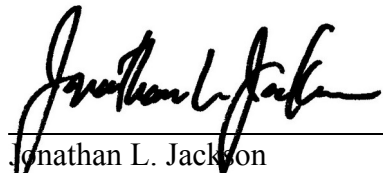
Laura Friedman
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Robin L. Kelly
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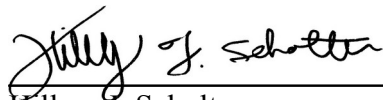
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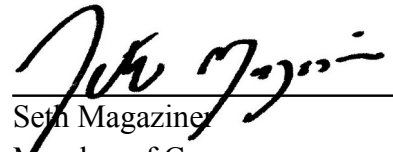
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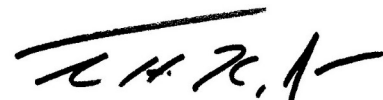
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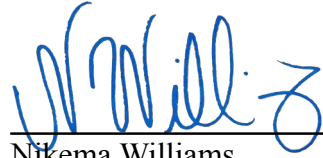
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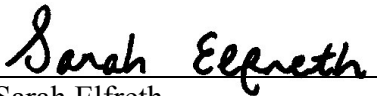
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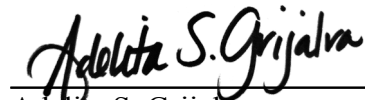
Sarah Elfreth
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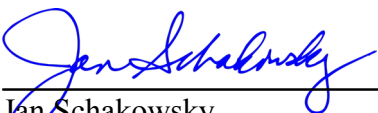
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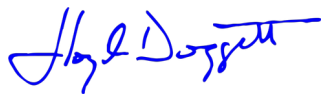
Greg Landsman
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Lloyd Doggett
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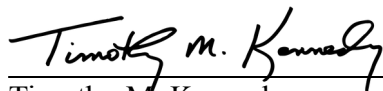
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Mike Bost
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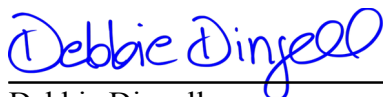
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