

The Action for the Month is an action for all individuals in the U.S. El Sistema-inspired movement to take, together, to increase our impact and visibility. Please make a habit of taking every action and urging those you work with to do so too. This monthly action we all undertake is dedicated to the students and communities we serve.

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December 2016

Action for the Month:

Write a snailmail letter to Congressman Elijah Cummings, the most outspoken Congressional proponent of El Sistema-inspired programs. He has visited OrchKids in his Baltimore district and recorded a message of support for them. Let's shower him with thanks and urge him to become proactive in seeking support for Sistema-inspired programs. Let him know about the program you work with, and that there are 130 programs like yours and OrchKids around the U.S., and those students need his leadership. Write him at:

Representative Elijah Cummings
District Office
1010 Park Avenue, Suite 105
Baltimore, MD 21201

The rationale for this action. We have no proactive advocates for Sistema programs in Congress. However, the much-respected and powerful Congressman Elijah Cummings from Baltimore has showed heartfelt support for OrchKids. He has visited, appeared in a film of theirs, and endorsed the book *Playing for Their Lives* with statements about the power of El Sistema-inspired work. If his office were to receive thirty notes of thanks, nothing happens. If his office gets hundreds of unexpected letters of thanks and encouragement from around the country, asking that he keep our students and programs in mind when legislation that affects us arises, we have grabbed his attention and taken a solid step toward creating an ally. Cummings is a ranking member of the Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, and a member of the Black Congressional Caucus and The Progressive Caucus.