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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Austin's Victims & Survivors of Violent Crime Trauma Recovery Program in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Austin, located at 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

The funding would be used to establish a Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) in Austin/Travis County to provide evidence-based mental health services such as individual and group psychotherapy, medication management, substance abuse treatment, case management, and assertive outreach to victims and survivors of violent crime and their families. The Trauma Recovery Center will be in an underserved community where many residents face insurmountable barriers to connecting with support services after victimization. The project would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Trauma Recovery Centers are needed in Austin/Travis County as most survivors of violent crime do not seek services due to the debilitating nature of the experience which can impact their ability to navigate services such as Victim Restitution Funds or psychotherapy. This service gap is exacerbated among low- and moderate-income households. The Trauma Recovery Center will fill this gap through its service model using assertive outreach where case managers actively work in community to connect survivors to much needed mental health and wraparound services at no cost, with the intention of removing barriers to treatment and enhancing healing and stabilization of survivors of violent crime.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett