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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Early Childhood Education Center at Pease Site in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Austin Independent School District, located at 4000 S. I-H 35 Frontage Rd, Austin, TX 78704.

The funding would be used to create an Early Childhood Education Center at the repurposed site of Pease Elementary School, a historic landmark. An early childhood education use of the facility honors the legacy of the school, prepares students for kindergarten, supports workforce participation, and offers a critical amenity for workers due to real shortage in Austin.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it offers a one-time use of funds with lasting impact while preserving an historic structure. The project will benefit the general public in need of affordable and high-quality childcare, which allows parents, especially mothers, to remain in the workforce and is a foundation for children's learning and development. These funds would not only have an immediate impact in workforce participation from families served but would also have a lasting impact from the opportunities for participating children's cognitive and social development. The Early Childhood Education Center project is consistent with the primary objective of the EDI community development program and meets a compelling local need consistent with the statutory purposes.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2) and 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett