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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 Travis County's Peer Support Programming for Opioid Use Disorder Recovery Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Travis County, located at 700 Lavaca Street, 5th Floor, Austin, Texas 78701.

The funding would be used to establish peer support specialists in the Emergency Department (ED) and Drug Courts, which would (1) fund a team of peer support specialists that would work rotating shifts at the ED and in the community to connect with persons with opiate use disorder and support recovery based on a model supported by research and funded in recent State Targeted Response (STR) grants, and (2) provide direct engagement and support to individuals enrolled in the drug court programs to recovery, successful completion of the Drug Court, and participation in alumni supports including peer support specialist certification programs.

The project would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because its goal is to help curb the opiate crisis by integrating peer support specialists in both the Emergency Department and the Travis County Civil and Criminal Drug Courts to assist individuals in seeking opioid recovery and reduce recidivism.

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