



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
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 Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the SAFE Rathgeber Village Safety and Security Infrastructure Upgrade in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Travis County, located at 700 Lavaca St., Austin, Texas 78723.

This funding would be used for the repurposing of buildings at Rathgeber Village (RV), run by The SAFE Alliance (SAFE), a Central Texas nonprofit committed to helping anyone who has experienced violence and abuse, funding urgently needed improvements to safety and security measures suitable for the multipurpose use of this site. The site will continue to house older youth transitioning out of foster care as well as a temporary, 10-unit community shelter for domestic violence survivors with a lower risk of lethality; additional space for Eloise House, SAFE's forensic exam clinic; and a building rented to Integral Care to serve youth dealing with mental health crises. Fewer children are being removed and placed in the child welfare system in Texas, and for those that are, it is the State's preference that they be placed in family foster homes. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because SAFE has reduced the number of youth living at RV and will be using the rest of the campus to provide shelter and support to youth and adults who have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and/or sex trafficking. The SAFE Rathgeber Village Safety and Security Infrastructure Upgrade 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)(4).

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

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett