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Congress of the United States
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CENTRAL ASIA, AND NONPROLIFERATION

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I write to respectfully request \$413,000 in fiscal year 2022 funding for the program the Innovation Skills Hub: Apprenticeship Readiness Training Program.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Fairfax County Government, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Fairfax County is launching a new skills development center to link immediate pandemic recovery efforts with long-term plans to grow employment opportunities for low-income and communities of color. One critical component is an Apprenticeship Readiness Training Program provided by the Baltimore/DC-Metro Building Trades. Apprenticeship opportunities for local Fairfax County residents are significant to ensuring good careers for local workers and sustainable economic development for the County. The Baltimore/DC-Metro Building Trades (BDCBT) places a high premium on apprenticeship training; affiliates have 27 apprenticeship and journey person training centers in the region. BDCBT provides free, earn-while-you-learn training for members in industry standard trades across a variety of construction crafts. Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARP) are a proven way to ensure that apprenticeship opportunities are available to underrepresented minorities and women. This project would create an ARP for the Innovation Skills Hub.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia