April 27, 2022

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 $1,523,717 in fiscal year 2023 funding for the Expansion of the Fairfax County Early Childhood Development and Learning Program.

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

This project would expand the Early Childhood Development and Learning Program (ECDLP) by providing access to early childhood education services for approximately 72 additional young children, ages birth to five years, in early childhood programs located in community-based settings (the number of children is dependent upon the care level – infant, toddler and preschool). In addition, the requested funding would be used to hire two additional staff positions, who would determine eligibility, process enrollment, and provide case management for participating families. Access to affordable, quality early childhood programs is a key strategy for supporting parents who are struggling to engage in the economy and take part in the workforce. This program helps address current labor shortages across most employment sectors. In addition, the program prepares young children for school and future workforce success, which provides long-term positive outcomes for Fairfax County and Virginia.

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