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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM
ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
CENTRAL ASIA, AND NONPROLIFERATION

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:

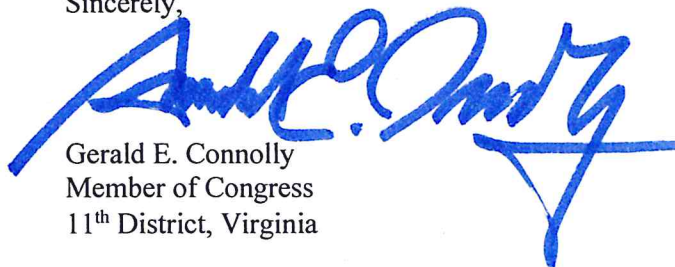
I write to respectfully request \$943,983 in fiscal year 2023 funding for the Community Project, Saving Lives and Decreasing Health Disparities.

The entity to receive funding for this project is George Mason University, 4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA, 22030.

Accurate assessment and identification of youth mental health difficulties is essential for reducing mental health problems. Without proper assessment, mental health conditions can be misdiagnosed or even overlooked, leading to increased suffering, a need for longer and more intensive treatments, increased emergency services and hospitalizations, and even the loss of life to suicide. This project will (a) train clinicians working with Community Service Boards in Northern Virginia who serve diverse low-income youth and families, and their clinical supervisors, using low to no-cost culturally sensitive evidence-based assessments that can be readily employed in community mental health settings; and (b) help administrators effectively implement use of these assessments across their organizations so that all clients may benefit from their use. The project's focus on culturally sensitive assessments will also contribute to decreases in disparities in access to high quality behavioral healthcare for diverse and lowest income youth and families.

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