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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

COMMITTEE ON
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Simulation-Driven Emergency Preparedness – A High-Fidelity Digital Twin of Campus Style Communities in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is George Mason University, located at 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA, 22030. The funding would be used for the project below.

Project: Simulation-Driven Emergency Preparedness – A High-Fidelity Digital Twin of Campus Style Communities

Recipient: George Mason University, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA, 22030

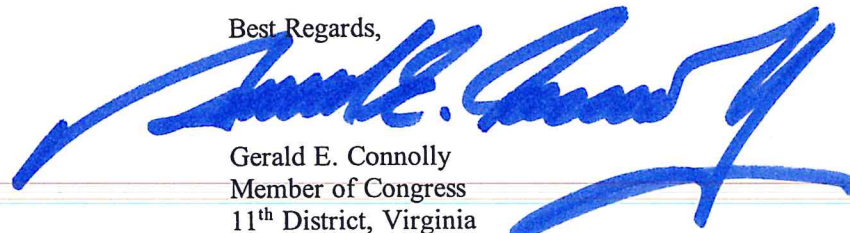
Amount: \$451,809

Justification: This project would create a dynamic digital twin to help emergency responders and law enforcement agencies better understand and respond to various crisis scenarios in campus-style communities, including an active shooter situation. It can be used in emergency preparedness exercises to better gauge situations and to simulate potential response scenarios. By creating a dynamic digital twin, the project aims to provide a more comprehensive and accurate representation of the community and its infrastructure. A high-fidelity digital twin can be used to simulate potential response scenarios, emergency preparedness exercises can be more effective, and response strategies can be better tailored to specific situations. Improved emergency preparedness and response strategies can lead to a reduction in response times, more efficient resource allocation, and minimized damages. The project's potential for raising public awareness encourages citizens to actively participate in related initiatives, building more resilient communities. By teaming up with emergency responders and law enforcement groups, digital twins can be progressively rolled out across different sites, ultimately improving the overall safety and resilience of these communities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

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

Best Regards,



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