Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger   The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair   Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee   House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives   United States House of Representativesxc
Washington, DC 20515   Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the project named the "Construction of an early child care center at the Original Mount Vernon High School" in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Fairfax County, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.
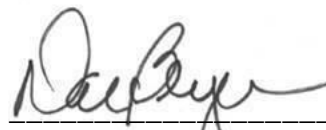
Funding is requested to support expanding the current footprint of construction of an early childhood center serving children from birth to age five. Additional space at the site has been identified to increase the early childhood facility. The requested funding will be used to increase the size of the program to serve an additional 86 children.

Not all children have access to the high-quality early childhood education supports and services they need. In Fairfax County, only 21 percent of children below age five, living in households with incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty level, currently have access to early childhood programs supported with public funds (i.e., child care subsidies, Head Start/Early Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiative, and FCPS Pre-K). Young children who begin kindergarten with a strong social, emotional, and cognitive foundation are more likely to reach high levels of academic achievement, less likely to drop out of school, more likely to earn higher incomes, and less likely to experience negative health outcomes. These outcomes benefit not only individual children and families, but also contribute to the enduring well-being of the community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.