

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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

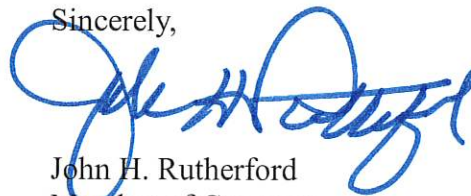
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for security and safety equipment for the Pace Center for Girls in Jacksonville, FL in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pace Center for Girls, Inc, located at 6745 Philips Industrial Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32256. The funding would be used for security upgrades to Pace Center for Girls Jacksonville campus which is a juvenile justice prevention and early intervention program.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will promote public safety by ensuring that at-risk girls have a safe place to receive an education and wrap around services. Pace's program helps keep vulnerable girls out of the juvenile justice system by providing free prevention and early intervention services including education and counseling. Providing a secure space for girls that separates them from challenges they face at home or in the community is vital to improving behavioral health and ensuring long term success. Creating a safe environment allows girls to focus on self-efficacy and their mental health, decreasing their risk for justice involvement.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress