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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$1,088,768 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Social Services Research and Demonstration account for the Higher Ground a Resource Center Restart S.M.A.R.T. Program located in Tucson, Arizona. The entity receiving the project is located at PO Box 27883, Tucson, AZ 85726. The locations of the project are Apollo Middle School - 265 W Nebraska St, Tucson, AZ 85706, Doolen Middle School - 2400 N Country Club Rd, Tucson, AZ 85716, Safford Middle School - 200 E 13th St, Tucson, AZ 85701, Utterback Middle School - 3233 S Pinal Vista, Tucson, AZ 85713, Lawrence Middle School - 4850 W Jeffrey Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746 and a possible prospective site would be Grijalva Elementary School - 1795 W Drexel Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746.

The Higher Ground a Resource Center - Restart S.M.A.R.T. Program seeks to use these funds to support five Restart S.M.A.R.T. school sites and a prospective additional school site within Arizona's Congressional District 3. This project follows a community school model where they use strategic, mindful, agile, resilient, and trauma-responsive practices to address community's needs. These funds will be used for the salaries of the staff, coalition expenses to ensure sustainability, afterschool and summer school programming for youth, and research and development of their patented mapping system which helps to individualize the supports for youth and families and ensure services are unduplicated, coordinated, and streamlined.

The requested funding is a valuable use of taxpayer funds as these federal funds are being invested directly into the community and the objective of Restart S.M.A.R.T. is to create a sustainable hub of resources for families and youth in historically underserved communities. When implementing a new Restart S.M.A.R.T. site, this organization targets communities that

have been historically marginalized and experience a disconnection to the resources they need. The youth and families have struggled with accessing services and making their voice heard in their respective school districts due to the lack of funding for our school districts to effectively address the impacts of poverty on families' physical, mental, social, environmental, and emotional health. Data from the program has shown existing inequities in the neighborhoods where Restart S.M.A.R.T. sites are located. Additionally, while data on the community has shown this, the voices of the community are often not represented or effectively engaged. Funding this project would mean that taxpayers are seeing real change in their community and having an active voice in that change.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress