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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
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EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

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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 \$252,000 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education – Innovation & Improvement account for the Pima County School Superintendent's Office located in Tucson, Arizona. The entity receiving the project is located at 200 N Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701. The location of the project is 200 N Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701.

The requested funding is urgently needed to provide kindergarten and third grade teachers from across Arizona's 3rd Congressional District with the resources and professional learning they need to better meet the needs of their students. The project aims to positively impacts students' academic performance, a result seen when social and emotional learning interventions are implemented. The project will address the five key competencies of social and emotional learning (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making) using the Ninja Life Hack Books and Curriculum. This series of sixty-four books, their related lessons, and the skills of the professional educators will positively impact students. Developing social and emotional skills as early as possible is essential for the success and well-being of students. This is more important now than ever in the wake of the pandemic.

This funding request is valuable use of taxpayer funds as it is a critical investment in the social and emotional learning of Arizona students and educators are in need of tools to help develop the social and emotional skills of their youngest students. The Ninja Life Hack books and curriculum has the potential to positively influence both the social and emotional well-being of students and their academic performance. In addition to the program, the six full-day professional learning workshops for this project will be spread across the congressional district. The STEMAZing Project has relationships with partners in all these areas of the congressional district. These partners will be included in the coordination, recruitment of participants, and evaluation of the project. Additionally, the books and lessons will be translated into Spanish to make them more

accessible to all students in the congressional district. The STEMAZing Project has done work in Spanish for more than four years using a local educator as our translator, who will collaborate with the teacher leaders facilitating the full-day workshops and follow-up sessions. This investment will have an immense impact in the development of students across Arizona's Congressional District 3. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project.

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 flourish at the end of the last name.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress