BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole Chairman Committee on Appropriations H-305 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Telemedicine Expansion project in fiscal year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment and is located at 205 Portland Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

The funding would be used to obtain and deploy telemedicine equipment for autism specialists at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to rural areas not currently served in MO-03. Patients in rural Missouri currently face many barriers for care, including transportation, cost and time in finding an autism provider in rural areas. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because by expanding telemedicine capabilities and making them more readily available in rural communities, this will help alleviate the current backlog of over 1,000 children in Missouri's 3rd district currently on the Thompson Center's waitlist to receive services.

This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

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

Sincerely,

COTTLEVILLE, MO 63304

PHONE: (636) 327-7055

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