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

May 2, 2025

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 the Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Los Angeles, located at 200 N Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The CIRCLE program is a response program that operates under the Mayor's Office of Community Safety and deploys trained teams to address non-urgent Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) calls related to unhoused individuals. The funding would be used for supporting its expansion to additional communities, including North Hollywood, Sun Valley, and the West Valley. Additionally, funding will help to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement resources and increase community safety. The expansion will include a call center with trained operators ready to receive and manage diverted calls from 9-1-1 and funding for a 24/7 Response Team to respond to diverted incidents from a CIRCLE Facility.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because these centers help to curb the opioid crisis by offering individuals a place to rest, access water, and meet privately with a counselor or case manager. All CIRCLE personnel complete a rigorous training program that prepares them to respond to crisis situations and assist our unhoused neighbors, including trauma-informed care; de-escalation and harm reduction; crisis intervention; transitional age youth cultural competency; Homeless Management Information System; self-care and wellness; and safety, CPR, and first aid. This comprehensive approach allows CIRCLE to respond effectively to crises and to reduce strain on local law enforcement in my district by allowing them to focus on critical public safety issues.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34U.S.C. § 10152).

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

Sincerely,

Luz Rivas

Member of Congress