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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro & Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$100,000 in funding for the creation of a 5,000 square foot/21 bed sobering center in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The project sponsor is the City of Morgantown West Virginia. The project has four additional supporter which are Monongalia County, West Virginia University, Mon Health Systems, and WVU Hospitals. The project is located at 20 Scott Ave, Morgantown, WV 26508.

The funding is designated for Monongalia county and its partners to conduct renovations to the Ramada Inn in Monongalia County, West Virginia. The project would create a 21-room sobering center for short term treatment, detoxification, and recuperation from the acute effects of alcohol or drug intoxication. The sobering center will allow local law enforcement to provide those suffering from drug or alcohol intoxication with a safe place to detox and begin the treatment process and avoid criminal charges.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits by creating a place where constituents can get behavioral health and substance use treatment and ease the burden on local law enforcement. This is a vital investment of taxpayer dollars because the impact of the substance use epidemic is significant in West Virginia and in Monongalia County. In 2014, West Virginia had the highest rate of drug-related deaths in the nation. While the numbers have lowered, West Virginia still leads most other states in drug related deaths (most often from heroin and opioids).

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

Sincerely,

David B. McKinley
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress