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Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,000,000 in funding for the Passaic County/Paterson Victim Services and Violence Prevention Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the St. Joseph's University Medical Center ("SJUMC"), located at 703 Main Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07503.

SJUMC has a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office in providing victim/survivor services and for partnering in violence prevention programming.

The Passaic County/Paterson Victim Services and Violence Prevention Project will fund resources and trauma services to victims of crime and provide violence prevention and intervention programming with the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. The project will assist in providing desperately needed victim services following traumatic events, including incidents related to shootings, violence, assaults, abuse, neglect, and other crimes. This initiative addresses the pervasive violence impacting disadvantaged communities in Passaic County, with a particular focus within Paterson, New Jersey. Reports estimate that Passaic County's crime rate is higher than 89% of New Jersey's cities and towns of all sizes, yet the county lacks accessible victim/survivor services, as well as resources for violence prevention and intervention.

St. Joseph's University Medical Center ("SJUMC") has partnered with the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office for nearly 15 years to address community violence by providing community members with the critical victim services following violent incidents and tragedies, in addition to organizing and creating violence interdiction and prevention programming. SJUMC has engaged over 600 clients with hospital-based violence services and programming through its partnership with these law enforcement departments and offices. However, gaps remain in preventive services,

particularly for at-risk youth and families. The Passaic County/Paterson Victim Services and Violence Prevention Project will allow SJUMC to expand its capacity in providing victim and trauma-focused services, including intervention and counseling, and continue its work with county and local law enforcement departments and offices in providing violence prevention programming, with a target towards youth violence prevention and interdiction.

With regard to trauma related community violence, SJUMC will engage its trained violence intervention specialists, counselors, and outreach workers to identify individuals in need of services and provide immediate connections to survivor support and victim services. SJUMC will closely coordinate with the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and Passaic County Prosecutor's Office to ensure alignment with broader public safety strategies, intelligence sharing, and facilitate victim/survivor hand-offs and care between law enforcement and community service providers, including licensed providers, county public health systems, community organizations, and the healthcare system.

For SJUMC's coordinated violence prevention and interdiction work with local law enforcement departments and offices, SJUMC will coordinate youth with Police Activities League programming and provide intensive intervention services for individuals at the highest risk of involvement in community violence, including those connected to gang and group-related conflicts. The project will also allow SJUMC to develop new events and youth violence prevention programming in coordination with its law enforcement partners.

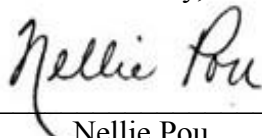
Reports estimate that Passaic County's crime rate is higher than 89% of New Jersey's cities and towns of all sizes. The project will ultimately assist law enforcement in providing critical victim/survivor services in coordination with law enforcement, giving vital care and safety in the aftermath of violent and criminal incidents, and improve public safety through violence prevention and interdiction programming in our communities.

The project is an appropriate/valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will enhance public safety and assist in reducing and preventing violence and crime in New Jersey.

The project complies with the federal nexus, as it is for activities consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nellie Pou". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nellie Pou

Member of Congress

9th Congressional District of New Jersey