

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol 1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the King County Sheriff's Office Co-Response Team in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the King County Sheriff's Office, located at 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104.

The funding would be used by the King County Sheriff's Office to support a co-response team (CRT) to East King County communities, including Maple Valley, Covington, and Sammamish. This includes cost for a dedicated mental health professional, a dedicated law enforcement officer and vehicle expenses, as well as ancillary expenses (training, uniforms, cell phone, etc.)

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because given the unfortunate increase in use of Fentanyl in our community, co-response is a great tool to help with the public health crisis. The CRT includes a trained mental health professional (MHP), supported by both an EMT and a deputy. By responding with the CRT, the person in crisis will get the correct assistance while simultaneously deescalating the encounter by providing options for how to respond (i.e., not solely with an armed officer). Additionally, by having an MHP and EMT respond to calls, that allows law enforcement to prioritize their time for crime response calls and crime prevention.

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 (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,



Kim Schrier, M.D.

Member of Congress