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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Florida International University Nicklaus Children's Hospital Congenital Heart Defect Research in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida International University, located at 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199.

The funding would be used to acquire technology for cutting-edge treatments for congenital heart defect conditions. One in every 100 babies is born with a congenital heart defect (CHD), the leading cause of death among infants with birth defects. Florida International University and Nicklaus Children's Hospital are seeking to launch a unique Research & Innovation Institute with the most cutting-edge equipment that will produce groundbreaking research and drive disruptive innovations and cutting-edge technologies.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds, as these funds will support the Pediatric Clinical Research Institute (PCRI) at Florida International University in providing critical benefits to children, families, researchers and the healthcare industry by addressing the shortage of pediatric research infrastructure in South Florida.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress