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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for Housatonic Community College in Fiscal Year 2022. This request is for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) account under the Department of Education. The entity to receive funding for the project is Housatonic Community College, located at 900 Lafayette Blvd, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

Housatonic Community College is seeking \$999,900 to expand its Advanced Manufacturing training program in the Greater Bridgeport and Lower Naugatuck Valley regions.

Launched in 2012, HCC's advanced manufacturing degree programs include its College of Technology Pathway Programs in Engineering Science, Machine Technology and Technology Studies; and its WIOA-approved Manufacturing Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology. After completing a program in as little as ten months, students can enter the workforce. Since 2017, HCC's Continuing Education Department has offered WIOA-approved, non-credit specialized manufacturing programs in Computerized Numerical Control (CNC). The courses are geared to adult learners from the community. Students can expect to earn \$35,000-\$46,000 per year as an entry level CNC Operator. The estimated salary is expected to increase by 10% in the next five years.

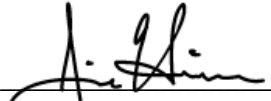
Funds for this project will be used to reconfigure and update equipment and machines, which will allow for smaller instructor-to-student ratios and additional student-to-machine contact time; increased instructional staff capacity, including salaries; scholarship assistance; and financial assistance for students in order to pay for supplies and equipment not covered by financial aid, like steel-toed boots, goggles, masks and tool kits.

This investment will help Housatonic Community College leverage its local partnerships and successful degree programs to ensure that students have successful careers, help employers fill open positions, and strengthen Connecticut's manufacturing pipeline. These goals are consistent with Governor Lamont's 2020 Workforce Council Workforce Strategic Plan, which identified Housatonic Community College as a critical ally in expanding and strengthening Connecticut's manufacturing sector.

This project would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will improve the quality of Housatonic Community College's postsecondary education options and increase student access.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


JIM HIMES
Member of Congress