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April 30, 2021

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
H-307 The Capitol
First St SE
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
1036 Longworth House Office Building
1 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for The Center for Family Justice in Fiscal Year 2022. This request is for the Economic Development Initiative account under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The entity to receive funding for this project is The Center for Family Justice, located at 753 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

The Center for Family Justice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is seeking \$865,000 to assist in physical renovations of a large home that will be converted into a domestic violence safe house. The renovations include equipment purchases and accessibility alterations for hearing impaired, visually impaired, and physically disabled persons; bedroom and bathroom renovations; installation of a commercial kitchen; development of a safe kennel for pets; installation of a computer lab; physical site security upgrades; installation of an HVAC system; installation of sprinkler systems; creation of recreation space for children; and installation of energy-efficient windows.

The upgraded facility will improve safety and economic outcomes for up to fifteen individuals at a time who are fleeing domestic/sexual violence, human trafficking, and/or child abuse. This will account for up to 5,475 bed nights during each year of operation. These improvements are critical as an increased demand for services in recent years has created a bed shortage at the organization's current emergency shelter.

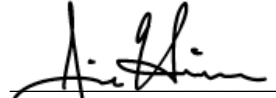
Since its origins as a YWCA in 1895, The Center for Family Justice has provided a physical and emotional safe haven for citizens in the Greater Bridgeport area. The organization aims to break the cycle of abuse and violence — domestic, sexual, and child — by providing services that create hope, restore lives, and drive social change through education and community collaboration. The Center for Family Justice's model focuses on holistic care and services, including victim advocacy, shelter, and legal services, all of which are available in one safe location.

This project would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help assist more victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Center for Family Justice will deploy a successful strategy of providing mental health, wellness, and self-sufficiency care. Funds for this project

will help the organization provide victims and their children the greatest chance to build resilience and thrive in the local economy while being free from abuse.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Himes", written over a horizontal line.

JIM HIMES
Member of Congress