



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Reimagining Rural Healthcare - Van Buren County Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Van Buren County Hospital, located at 304 Franklin Street, Keosauqua, IA 52565.

The funding for this project would be used in a three-part initiative focused on modernizing emergency services and clinical training to provide high-quality care close to home. The first component strengthens EMS response by replacing aging ambulances and equipping responders with advanced tools like Power Load Systems and AEDs. The second component establishes a high-fidelity simulation lab to provide hands-on training for staff, students, and local first responders. Finally, the third component focuses on safety and quality by upgrading medical equipment to ensure rural residents have access to the same modern industry standards as urban facilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it ensures high-quality care to residents of rural Iowa. With momentum already started on addressing critical healthcare issues, the funding for this project will expand access, improve health outcomes, and ensure that residents of rural Iowa can receive the care that they deserve.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Public Health Service Act.

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 "Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks".

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress