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Kay Granger
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House Committee on Appropriations
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Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

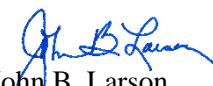
I am requesting \$1,322,539 in funding for the Brother Carl Institute for Workforce and Career Readiness in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Hartford Communities That Care, located at 2550 Main Street, Hartford, CT, 06120.

The Brother Carl Institute Workforce and Career Readiness Program is proposed to train and employ school aged youth and adults ages 17-35 to become Violence Prevention Professionals (VPP's). Across the state of Connecticut and certainly here in the Greater Hartford area, VPP's are few in numbers and in high demand to address community and inter-personal violence. Additionally, Public Safety careers in the Fire Safety services shows a large gap between citizens of color and representation in the Fire Service. To that end, this proposal not only seeks to train, certify and secure employment for those interested in violence prevention careers but also those interested in careers Fire/ Public Safety; the opportunity to introduce Fire/ Public Safety careers to participants will be accomplished in partnership with the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters.

The ideal candidates to fill these labor shortages are often those with "lived experiences" who can relate to those most impacted by community violence. With the proper training, supervision, mentoring and reliable wages, those trained to do the work as VPP's or within the Fire Safety sector will be in a position to make a decent living, address a labor shortage and prevent and reduce the surge in violence experienced through-out so many communities across America. Evidence suggests that the longer-term impacts on the target population (participants age 17-35) will be significant and far-reaching, and will include: a) increased grade advancement and graduation rates; b) increased postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion rates; c) increased employment rates; d) increased wages and lifetime earnings; e) decreased reliance on public benefits and decreased criminal behavior, substance abuse, and incarceration; and f) increased job quality and stability.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,


John B. Larson