



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

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the University of Central Florida Pathogen Surveillance Laboratory in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Central Florida's College of Medicine, located at 6900 Lake Nona Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32827.

The funding would be used for purchasing two research instruments: A fully automated genomic sequencing instrument and a high-capacity automated sample preparation instrument.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this laboratory will be a part of an Infectious Disease Initiative, which unites researchers from other universities who work together to understand, predict, survey, and mitigate the threats of infectious pathogens benefitting all U.S. citizens. The Initiative's recent research included mosquito-borne diseases, including Zika.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto
Member of Congress