

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813
April 27, 2022

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

"I am requesting funding for the SFU Healthcare Workforce Training and Educational Initiative Project in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is St. Francis University, located at 117 Evergreen Drive, Loretto, PA 15940. Building on the early success of the recently opened training site at the Curry Innovation Center (CIC) in the City of Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania, Saint Francis University proposes to launch a Patient Care Technician (PCT) program to address urgent workforce needs facing the region's healthcare systems. Accordingly, they are requesting \$500,000 in federal funds to support programmatic startup and equipment expenses as we work to implement this new training program. In ongoing conversations with representatives of our local healthcare systems, such as UPMC Altoona, they identified the urgent need to develop a sustainable model to meet the significant gaps in staffing and patient care. Local medical systems have elevated the demand for training individuals specifically for the PCT role to reduce the pressure placed on severely compromised nursing teams. A PCT is responsible for activities and tasks related to care for patients and their families in the care provider role.

A federal investment in this project is justified because it will address area workforce demands and help alleviate gaps in local healthcare delivery, and improve the quality of healthcare for patients in a short period of time. The lack of PCTs is forcing nursing staff, already strained by two years of COVID-demands, to perform all tasks related to patient care. Establishing a training program for PCTs will help fill this gap and alleviate some of the pressure.

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

Sincerely,

