Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

Please see the following information about projects to be considered for the Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023. The following projects have community support and will be an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

**Project Applicant:** Southwestern Vermont Medical Center  
**Project Name:** Facility renovation to create a mental health outpatient program for children  
**Project Location:** 1128 Monument Avenue, Bennington, VT 05201  
**Project County:** Bennington  
**Requested Amount:** $250,000  
**Account:** Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
**Project Explanation:** This funding would be used to renovate an existing facility to create an outpatient mental health program for children.

One in six Vermont children struggle with mental health. A gap in the mental health care continuum hampers access to services, and unmet needs often escalate to crisis. The requested $250,000 will support the creation of a non-institutional site for children in need of intensive outpatient mental healthcare. For the scale of investment, this project will impact the futures of many children.

Intermittent outpatient counseling is often insufficient to address complex mental health challenges faced by children, yet many do not need the rigor of inpatient care. There are no intensive outpatient mental health programs in southern Vermont. In partnership with United Counseling Service, the region’s designated agency, children will receive counseling for several hours each day to learn reframing and resiliency skills in a bucolic setting that supports healing. The facility will foster collaboration with families and schools to create a psychosocial ecosystem that has life-long benefit.
I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter Welch
Member of Congress