

CHRISTIAN D. MENEFFEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY



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

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2027 bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding items that are shown below in priority order:

Community Funding Project Funding:

1. Support \$75,000.00 in Community Project Funding for the Coaching and Relationship Management Curriculum for Youth Justice Systems which will support the implementation of a coaching-centered model and the Journeys digital learning platform to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth and emerging adults in the district;
2. Support \$500,000.00 in Community Project Funding for the Enhancing Digital Accessibility and Data Integration of the Houston Forensic Science Center Through Strategic Digitization which will enhance digital accessibility and data integration at the Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) by converting large volumes of paper-based forensic records into searchable digital files; and
3. Support \$2,000,000.00 in Community Project Funding for The Advanced Screening Technology for Correctional Safety which will enhance security at the Harris County Jail through the purchase and installation of advanced bag-scanning technology designed to detect illicit drugs, weapons, and other contraband before they enter secure areas of the facility.

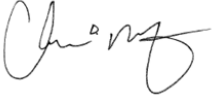
Program and Language Requests:

1. Support the following bill language for the General under Bill-wide (Language request only):
"Provided: That the secretary shall We respectfully request the Committee exclude discriminatory funding bans and restrictions on insurance coverage that further push comprehensive reproductive health care including abortion out of reach for our most vulnerable. This includes, but is not limited to, the Hyde Amendment."
2. Support total funding level of \$15,000,000.00 for Wrongful Conviction Review Program.
3. Support total funding level of \$15,000,000.00 for Kirk Bloodsworth Wrongful Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program.
4. Support total funding level of \$25,000,000.00 for Forensic Sciences.
5. Support the following report language for the Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review Program
"The Committee recognizes the need for legal representation and investigation services for individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence. Given the urgent need to identify and remediate wrongful convictions, the Committee directs that at least 50 percent of the appropriated amount to the Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review grant programs shall be used to support Wrongful Conviction Review grantees providing high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in postconviction claims of innocence. Wrongful Conviction Review grantees shall be nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and/or State or local public defender offices that have inhouse post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. Grant funds shall support grantee provision of post-conviction legal representation of innocence claims; case review, evaluation, and management; experts; potentially exonerative forensic testing; and investigation services related to supporting these post-conviction innocence claims".

In reference to our community funding projects, we humbly submit the following:

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Menefee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Rep. Christian Menefee