May 23, 2025

| The Honorable Tom Cole | The Honorable Rosa DeLauro |
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| Chairman | Ranking Member |
| House Committee on Appropriations | House Committee on Appropriations |
| H-307 The Capitol | 1036 Longworth House Office Building |
| Washington, D. C. 20515 | Washington, D.C. 20515 |

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a **NEIU Master of Nursing Program Nursing Skills and Simulation Training Facility & Lab** in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation, located at 5500 N. St. Louis Ave. 60625.

The funding would be used to establish state-of-the-art Nursing Skills and Simulation Training Facility & Lab at Northeastern Illinois University’s Avondale campus location. The Nursing Skills and Simulation Training Facility & Lab will include a core state-of-the-art simulation lab for skill development with smart classroom furniture, simulation equipment, which prepares nurses for real-world scenarios. The simulation lab is required for program licensure by the Illinois State Board of Higher Education.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is a pressing need for skilled workforce development in IL-03 and across the State, as many employers struggle to find qualified candidates. By investing in a Simulation Training Facility & Lab, the University can bridge the skills gap and ensure a pipeline of skilled workers tailored to the needs of local industries.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Delia C. Ramirez

Member of Congress