

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2503

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Expansion in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment located at 205 Portland Street, Columbia MO 65201. The funding would be used to purchase equipment to enable telehealth visits at Missouri County Extension Offices to expand access to the specialized autism and neurodevelopmental services throughout the region.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will significantly expand specialized care to families dealing with autism or other neurodevelopmental challenges. Of the 20 county extension offices and Missouri's Autism Centers that will benefit from this telehealth equipment, many are in extremely rural communities with fewer than 20,000 residents. Without this equipment, families will either not have access to these services or be forced to travel long distances to receive this specialized care.

The project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

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

Sincerely,



Bob Onder (MO-03)
Member of Congress