



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro,
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Service, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole,
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Service, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I strongly urge your inclusion of \$644,000 for the Healthier Kids Foundation to partner with the Campbell Union School District to expand a preventative mental health program to screen fifth graders for social and emotional needs. This Community Project Funding request is associated with the Health Surveillance and Program Support account under the category of "Mental Health" since this program would promote the prevention and treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.

With this funding, the Healthier Kids Foundation will expand its tested and acclaimed preventative mental health "MyHealthFirst" program. This program pairs a Healthier Kids Foundation screener with a physician and a school social worker to screen students using a mental health assessment tool, complementing the physical health screenings students in the District already receive. The screenings are set up through the parents for each student using linguistically skilled Parent Advocates. So far, the Healthier Kids Foundation has found that about 44 percent of screened students identified a need for behavioral health support. Follow-up calls by the Parent Advocates have helped families secure unemployment benefits, food, diapers, and rental assistance, while also successfully referring the families to the appropriate behavioral health services for the student.

As the nation continues to address the lingering impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, special attention must be paid to the mental health needs of children and youth who have suffered from severe stress as the pandemic disrupted their school routine, as

well as their food security and home life. This program will target an underserved community as 26 percent of the District's 6,000 students are English Language Learners, who speak over 50 languages. Six of the eight K-5 schools in the District are Title I schools.

With the \$6,440,000, the Healthier Kids Foundation will be able to hire staff to conduct program and financial oversight of the mental health screening; invest in needed technology to administer the program; and employ physicians, social workers, and parent advocates.

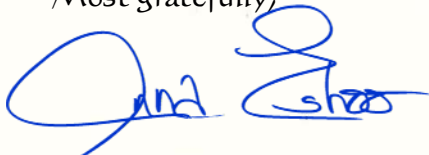
To fully support and sustain the program, the Healthier Kids Foundation is partnering with Santa Clara County, Kaiser Permanente, Anthem Blue Cross, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, Sutter Health, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and the Tiangio and Chrissy Chen Institute.

As an indication of local support, I've enclosed letters of support from the following local elected officials and community leaders:

- The Honorable Dave Cortese, Senator, California State Senate
- The Honorable Evan Low, Assemblymember, California State Assembly
- The Honorable Cindy Chavez, Supervisor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Susan Ellenberg, Supervisor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Becky Morgan, former Senator, California State Senate
- Mr. Dan Woods, Chief Executive Officer, El Camino Health
- Ms. Julia Miller, Chair, El Camino Healthcare District Board of Directors
- Dr. Shelly Viramontez, Superintendent, Campbell Union Elementary School District
- Ms. Elisa Koff-Ginsborg, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Contractors' Association of Santa Clara County

If enacted, this request would immediately expand the early detection and intervention of mental health problems for fifth grade students in the Campbell Union School District, but without the funding, the fifth graders will not be able to continue to receive expanded mental health care. I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do as well.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures