



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

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro,  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I strongly urge your inclusion of \$3.3 million for the City of Palo Alto, in partnership with the City of Mountain View and the City of Los Altos, for a Community Project Funding request to respond to welfare and mental health-related emergency calls with appropriate resources rather than law enforcement. This project is associated with the Health Surveillance and Program Support account through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

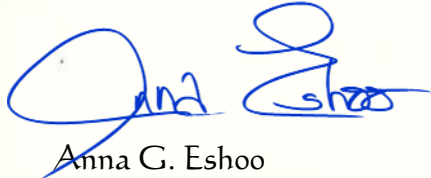
It's abundantly clear that governments must begin to rethink traditional policing. An idea with mounting support is for cities to provide an alternate means of responding to calls of service like welfare checks and mental-health-related incidences. Police are often not equipped or trained to handle these calls in a way that is helpful to all parties. Several recent tragic incidences have shown that when an officer is not able to handle the situation appropriately, the result can be violence. This is unacceptable, and we can do better.

Providing an alternative service would reduce the burden of police and create better outcomes for the community. Cities such as Denver, Albuquerque, and Portland have begun piloting similar programs. Denver's Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) unit responded to 748 incidents in its first six months, none of which involved an arrest nor escalation to a police response. Previously, these incidences would have required a law enforcement response. This is why I believe a pilot project for alternative responses in my region is worthy of federal funds.

As an indication of local support, I've enclosed letters of support from the Mayor of the City of Mountain View, the Santa Clara County Behavioral Services, Project Safety Net, and 67 of my constituents.

If enacted, this request would create safer and more compassionate communities, and it's why I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do so as well.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Eshoo". The signature is stylized with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke.

Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures