



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4302

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$654,000 in funding for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Chemical Detection Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, located at 1840 Richmond Parkway, Richmond, Texas, 77469. The funding would be used for the procurement of multiple hand-held Raman spectrometers, which will allow for the enhanced detection and identification of chemical substances. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide the Sheriff's Office with enhanced capabilities for the detection and identification of illicit drugs, including synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Raman spectrometers will allow deputies in the field to rapidly and accurately test substances, supporting informed probable cause determinations. Additionally, the ability to accurately test in the field will reduce unnecessary submissions to confirmatory laboratories. This project will significantly increase public safety in Fort Bend County.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy E. Nehls".

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress