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16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for acquiring Advanced 3T MRI System for El Paso Children's Hospital in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is El Paso Children's Hospital, located at 4845 Alameda Ave, El Paso Texas 79905.

The funding would be used for acquiring a high-field 3 Tesla MRI system for advanced pediatric and congenital cardiac imaging, such as the Siemens Health 3T MAGNETOM platform. A high-field 3 Tesla MRI system will significantly enhance diagnostic capability for pediatric patients by providing superior soft tissue contrast, a higher signal-to-noise ratio, and more precise visualization of neurological, musculoskeletal, abdominal, and cardiac structures. Faster imaging sequences reduce exam times and the need for prolonged sedation, improving safety and the overall experience for children and families while increasing daily throughput.

While the existing Siemens 1.5T system remains essential for a wide range of studies, a 3T system offers expanded capabilities to support the more advanced, highly detailed imaging required for complex pediatric and congenital cardiac evaluations. The addition of a 3T unit provides the higher resolution, faster, and motion-tolerant imaging needed to meet current and emerging diagnostic demands. The most critical factor in this request is ensuring full operability and seamless integration with the hospital's existing Siemens 1.5T MRI system. Using a fully compatible platform preserves protocol continuity, image comparability, and interoperability across coils, software, and post-processing tools, while leveraging established technologist training, service relationships, and IT infrastructure. This alignment minimizes transition risk, avoids duplicative training and support costs, and maintains a unified, efficient imaging environment. The system will expand regional capacity for adult patients with congenital cardiac disease who often travel outside El Paso for specialized cardiac MRI, allowing comprehensive, high-resolution studies to be performed locally.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because, if funded, it would expand high-acuity imaging capacity for pediatric and adult congenital cardiac patients. A 3T system provides substantially greater diagnostic capability than standard-field MRI by producing higher-resolution images, faster scan times, and more advanced cardiac and neurological imaging sequences. These improvements support earlier detection of complex conditions, reduce the need for repeat studies, and strengthen the hospital's ability to care for medically fragile children and adults with lifelong congenital heart disease.

This investment is a strong use of community project funds given it improves access to essential services while maximizing the value of existing public resources. Faster imaging reduces sedation requirements for children, lowering both clinical risk and procedure-related costs. Increased efficiency also expands daily throughput, shortens wait times, and allows the hospital to serve more patients without adding staff or increasing operational overhead. These gains translate into long-term cost savings for families and the healthcare system. The purchase also keeps specialized care within the region. Many congenital cardiac patients currently travel outside El Paso for advanced MRI studies, incurring significant travel expenses and delays in care. Providing these services locally ensures timely diagnosis, reduces financial and logistical burdens on families, and keeps healthcare dollars circulating within the community. By expanding capacity, improving efficiency, and strengthening regional access to advanced diagnostics, this investment delivers meaningful clinical and economic value for taxpayers.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

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 that reads "Vernice Eubank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Member of Congress