

VERONICA ESCOBAR
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
Washington, DC 20515

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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 the UMC Surgical Hospital Robotic Service Line Expansion in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is El Paso County, located at 500 E. San Antonio, El Paso, Texas 79901.

The funding would be used for acquiring the Intuitive da Vinci DV5 robotic surgical system to expand minimally invasive surgical services at the El Paso County Hospital District, d/b/a University Medical Center of El Paso Surgical Hospital located at 1416 George Dieter Dr., El Paso, Texas 79936 and meet the needs of the rapidly growing East El Paso community. The DV5 platform integrates advanced robotics, artificial intelligence capabilities, enhanced force feedback technology, and refined ergonomics to support greater surgical precision and more efficient operating room workflows. With more than 150 design innovations, the system enables surgeons to manage all surgical components directly from the console, reducing care team workload and supporting consistent, high-quality performance across procedures. Its enhanced visualization, improved instrumentation, and data-driven analytics are designed to reduce procedure times, shorten recovery periods, and improve patient outcomes. Standardizing robotic platforms across UMC of El Paso campuses will reduce variability, streamline training and support, and strengthen El Paso's position as a regional leader in minimally invasive surgery. This investment ensures that residents have access to the same cutting-edge surgical technology available in major metropolitan academic centers while advancing UMC of El Paso's long-term strategy to expand high-value, patient-centered care. UMCSH will be leasing the robot, however the funding request would allow for purchase of the robot/buyout the lease.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because DV5 offers substantial long-term value to taxpayers. Robotic surgery is associated with shorter hospital stays, fewer complications, and lower inpatient costs, collectively reducing downstream expenditures for privately insured and publicly funded care. This technology also enhances the hospital's ability to recruit and retain highly skilled surgeons, ensuring sustained access to specialized clinical expertise within the district. This investment aligns national standards for value-based care and supports a more efficient, performance-driven delivery system. It also positions the district to meet rising surgical demand as the region continues to grow. Most importantly, the DV5 advances healthcare equity by ensuring that residents of all socioeconomic backgrounds have access to the same high-quality surgical technology available in major academic centers. For a public hospital system, this represents a prudent, mission-aligned use of taxpayer funds that delivers measurable clinical, financial, and community benefits.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by purposes authorized under 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 "Veronica Escobar". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Veronica" and last name "Escobar" clearly legible.

Member of Congress