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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,  
ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION,  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY,  
AND POULTRY

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Food for Friends Food Bank Pop Up and Food Pantry in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Gathering Place Community Church located at 268 North Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702. The funding would be used to provide quality, fresh food to individuals in an area where those are not easily accessible. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because as Americans recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, residents continue to struggle with food insecurity. Food for Friends food pantry has served approximately 1,000 residents across three food giveaways in August, November, and February, however, it still did not meet the need or demand, as people were turned away. 95% of the residents served were Black or Latino, and 40% were senior citizens and/or disabled. The location, Waterbury's North End Recreation Center, is within walking distance of three subsidized elderly and disabled housing developments and over 200 units of subsidized housing in the rear of the Center. Food for Friends seeks to deliver a bi-monthly pop-up food pantry on the second Saturday of the month, serving up to 300 families for each event. Additionally, Food for Friends would like to make available grab and go bags of food to children, youth and seniors weekly on Fridays. The goal is to serve up 100 individuals via the grab and go service.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jahana Hayes".

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress