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The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 10, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Post-Overdose Response Team Expansion in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Seattle located at 600 Fourth Ave. Seattle, WA 98104.

This funding would be used by the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) to assist in handling the dramatic rise in opioid overdoses in the Seattle and King County region. This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as this has led to burnout and operational strains among emergency personnel who lack effective tools for managing the crisis beyond immediate resuscitation or hospital transfers. In response, the innovative Post-Overdose Response Team, part of the SFD's Mobile Integrated Health program, aims to offer immediate and follow-up care through specialized teams, using trauma-informed techniques and medications like buprenorphine to enhance treatment continuity and engagement, and reduce emergency service burdens.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that neither I nor anyone in my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Adam Smith
Member of Congress