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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 STEM Education program in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Congolese Integration Network located at 19550 International Blvd. Suite #103 SeaTac, WA 98188.

This funding would be used by the Congolese Integration Network to launch an initiative to address the digital disparity among refugee and immigrant communities by providing basic and coding classes aimed at enhancing digital literacy and fostering interest in STEM careers. This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as the program offers culturally competent instruction in fundamental digital skills and programming languages like Python and Java, tailored to the diverse needs of participants, with the goal of empowering them towards economic independence and professional growth in technology sectors. This initiative not only aims to provide economic empowerment and social integration by opening high-demand employment opportunities but also enhances participation in the digital world, promising substantial public benefits by fostering inclusivity and broadening career horizons in STEM fields for refugees and immigrants.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



[Type here]

Adam Smith
Member of Congress