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HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

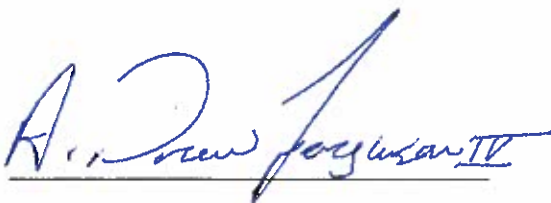
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the UGA Cognitive Aging Research and Education (CARE) Center in Spalding County, GA (ID 38229) project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is University of Georgia Research Foundation (EIN 58-1353149), located at 150 D Coverdell Center, 500 D. W. Brooks Drive, Athens, GA 30602. The funding would be used for advancing dementia care in rural Georgia.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because The CARE Center provides diagnosis and post-diagnosis support to patients, and these services are available to all communities and counties across Georgia. The CARE Center provides diagnosis and post-diagnosis support to patients, and these services are available to all communities and counties across Georgia. In 2021-2022, Georgia was ranked 50th in healthcare for older persons. This ranking reflects Georgia's high rates of medical co-morbidity including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). The COVID-19 pandemic made matters worse. By 2050, ADRD is expected to cost the US healthcare system more than \$1 trillion. Georgia will be severely impacted –ADRD incidence has increased by 37.5% in the last 3 years and is expected to increase by another 26.7% by 2025. The University of Georgia Cognitive Aging Research and Education (CARE) Center will improve early detection, reduce care crises, and ultimately reduce the incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Georgia while establishing a model system for adoption in every state with a land-grant university.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



A. Drew Ferguson, IV

Member of Congress