April 27, 2022

Hon. Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
2413 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1026 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Building Their Futures Through the Iowa Homeless Youth Center Employment Skill Building Initiative Facility in fiscal year 2023. They are requesting $1,200,000 in funding.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Iowa Homeless Youth Center, located at 612 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309.

The Iowa Youth Homelessness Center is seeking funding to build a facility for a program titled: Pathway to Prosper: Building Futures Through the YSS Workforce Development & Employment Fostering Initiative. The program would support foster youth as they "age out" and transition into adulthood and into the workforce, and would work to break the cycle of poverty by providing guided work experience and access to livable wage careers. Foster youth often struggle to transition to adult life and the workplace because of past trauma and abuse.

The Workforce Development Initiative teaches and mentors transition age youth who often lack the soft skills required to secure employment. Youth help operate a year-round rooftop hydroponic farm with guidance from staff, providing them with job skills, access to healthy (locally grown) foods, nutrition education, and community engagement.

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

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress IA-03