

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for STEM and Healthcare Workforce Development in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Agnes Scott College located at 141 E. College Ave (address including street name, city, state and zip code). The funding would be used for the acquisition of equipment to enhance undergraduate and graduate STEM coursework and research training at Agnes Scott College. This includes investments in chemistry and biochemistry including spectrophotometry, spectroscopy, ellipsometry, computer lab upgrades, and pH meters; anatomy and physiology, including 3D anatomy software and two Anatomage Tables, molecular biology including equipment such as incubators, imaging systems, a vibratome, qPCR/ELISA plate reader, and a fluorescent microscope; neuroscience, psychology, and counseling physiological measurement tools and audiovisual recording systems. This also includes Anatomage Tables, computers, BIOPAC systems, blood vessel models, digital microscopes, and related training tools for the Medical Science Simulation Lab. Additional needs include cell-culture expansion equipment, genomic sequencing tools (Nanopore units and data-processing computers). Finally, this funding will go to support Physician Assistant Training simulators and anatomical models.

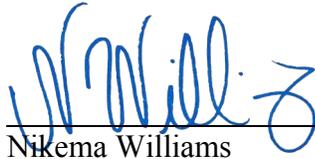
The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Georgia faces a persistent and growing shortage of qualified healthcare professionals across primary care, specialty medicine, behavioral health, and allied health fields. In 2023, Georgia faced 40,000+ open healthcare jobs, projected to reach 100,000 by 2030 with the demand for physician assistants increasing by 38%. In 2022, there were 299 people for every mental health provider in DeKalb County. The acquisition of modern scientific and simulation equipment will allow Agnes Scott College to provide students with the hands-on clinical and research competencies required for success in competitive professional programs and high-demand healthcare and biomedical research careers.

This project will modernize instructional and research infrastructure across Agnes Scott's STEM and health sciences programs, serving students in pre-health, graduate Medical Science, Physician Assistant, neuroscience, and clinical counseling tracks. Investments will upgrade laboratory and simulation environments to support experiential, human-centered learning — enabling students to engage with clinical scenarios, conduct biomedical research, and develop the professional competencies demanded by today's healthcare workforce. All enhancements will be integrated into existing curricula for immediate educational impact.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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, appearing to read 'Nikema Williams', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress