

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Bard Prison Initiative: Reducing Recidivism and Increasing Public Safety in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Bard College – Bard Prison Initiative, located at 30 Campus Rd. Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504.

The funding would be used to provide college opportunities to women and men across seven prisons in New York State and enroll them in innovative preparation for reentry, as well as unique transitional support in continuing education, housing, career development, and wellness through hubs in New York City. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it aims to increase public safety by reducing recidivism.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in 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 I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ritchie Torres", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress