April 29, 2022

Chair Rosa DeLauro
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Virtual Reality Judgement Training Simulator for fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, which is located at 3630 Lee Hill Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408.

The funding would be used to purchase a Virtual Reality Training Judgment Simulator to enhance the academy’s ability to effectively train officers to de-escalate crisis situations. The system would immerse students in a 360-degree scenario to make the training as close to reality as possible, while allowing real time observation and engagement as well as after-action reviews for further training discussion. The simulator would be used in training programs conducted at the academy – which services 43 member agencies in Virginia – to increase officer confidence and proficiency in de-escalation skills and improve judgment on use-of-force decisions. The Virtual Reality Training Judgment Simulator is a good use of taxpayer dollars because it would reduce officer and citizen injuries, as well as incidents of lethal force, thus saving lives.

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

Sincerely,

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Abigail D. Spanberger
MEMBER OF CONGRESS