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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-130 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for International Institute of Minnesota facility improvements and expansion in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the International Institute of Minnesota, located at 1694 Como Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55114.

The funding would be used for capital improvements, including a comprehensive renovation of its existing 18,000 square foot space and the addition of a 16,000+ square foot wing containing six new classrooms, interactive training labs and a welcoming lobby and gathering spaces for clients and their families. The Institute provides support services, education, ESL, and workforce training that places our program participants into careers that facilitate wealth creation and multi-generational success. The Institute's employment programs benefit all Minnesotans, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its Medical Careers Pathway has trained and placed nearly 3,000 New Americans in front line healthcare positions as nursing assistants caring for seniors in our community; and 581 have advanced their nursing careers by becoming RNs, LPNs and other advanced healthcare positions with support of the Institute's College-Readiness Academy and Medical Career Advancement programs. With an expanded facility, the Institute will be able to double its efforts and make a greater contribution to our need for a skilled workforce in the region, including the demand for skilled nurses to care for Minnesota's seniors.

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

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress