April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding Pilot Program to Address Learning Loss in South Texas to Improve Student Achievement in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Texas A&M University-Kingsville, located at MSC 201, 955 N. University Blvd Kingsville, TX 78363.

The for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) is authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. The Secretary is authorized to make grants to or enter into contracts with, institutions of higher education to enable such institutions to improve postsecondary education. This project is within the statutory scope of FIPSE and will improve teacher preparation and implement university partnerships with local school districts and community colleges. Learning loss resulting from the COVID pandemic is a significant issue for students at all levels. To help student achievement in the university and area school districts, TAMUK would train and equip student teachers to provide tutoring as a project-based assignment to address learning loss. In addition, the university will develop a summer bridge program for South Texas high school students and community college transfer students to assess deficiencies and develop a tailored plan best-suited for their needs with the ultimate goal of improving student persistence, retention, and graduation through both high school and college for the students of South Texas.

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

Sincerely,

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress