



KAREN BASS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
37TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

April 29, 2021

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$300,000 in funding for YWCA Sexual Assault Response Team project in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Los Angeles, located at 1020 S. Olive Street, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90015. The project location is 2501 W. Vernon Street, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Los Angeles California (YWCA GLA) is the largest service provider addressing sexual violence prevention and intervention programs in Los Angeles County. Existing programs include the Rosa Parks Rape Crisis Center located in South Los Angeles and serving the 37th Congressional District residents. Their free services include a 24-hour rape crisis hotline, counseling, community awareness and prevention education, advocacy and victim accompaniment services.

These funds would support the creation of a Sexual Assault Response Team in the heart of South LA. SART offers a multi-disciplinary approach, coordinating immediate and long-term medical care, advocacy, crisis counseling and criminal justice services to sexual violence survivors. SART eliminates repetitive or unnecessary questioning and ensures the proper collection of forensic evidence that often results in the successful conviction of sexual offenders. Following the exam, advocates provide crisis counseling and referrals for ongoing mental health care. Currently, residents in South Los Angeles and Inglewood who are impacted and/or affected by sexual violence have to travel outside of their community for counseling and support services. For many victims of violence this commute prevents them from receiving the services they need in order to heal from the trauma of a sexual assault. Addressing the needs of sexual assault victims in a cost-effective way that offers better evidence collection, greater accessibility and healthier outcomes for the survivors is an effective use of taxpayer funds.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass".

Karen Bass
Member of Congress