April 27, 2022

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $1,000,000 in funding for the Brotherhood Crusade's Proud to Be Me Young Adult Middle-Wage Workforce Development and Career Placement Initiative project in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade Black Fund Inc., located at 200 E. Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011. The project location is 4401 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90043

The Brotherhood Crusade's Proud to be Me project provides a culturally responsive, holistic, and research-informed career development program for South Los Angeles young adults, age 18 to 24, who have multiple barriers to employment. Those barriers may include previous placement in the foster care system, homelessness, educational challenges, justice system involvement or other challenges. The project will build in Brotherhood’s decades-long track record of successful engagement, intervention, training and mentoring with this population, with the goal of preparing these young men and women to enter into and thrive in high-demand, middle-wage careers. Brotherhood Crusade's strategy is a collective impact model that fully incorporates historical research, evidence and lessons learned with respect to their specific targeted demographic.

This is an excellent use of taxpayer funds not only because it aims to help young people reach their full potential but because helps avoid possible costlier interventions in future. In addition, it will contribute to the growth of a diversified pool of talented young adult workers at a time when businesses are scrambling to find workers. Within 12 months from receiving the grant, 200 young adults with multiple barriers to employment will be well-prepared for the workforce and mentored to succeed. The large majority of the young adults trained will have secured and sustained employment or advanced in their careers.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Member of Congress