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NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE

Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I respectfully request funding for The Right Response for NYC (Queens, New York, Sixth Congressional District) project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, located at 42-09 28th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. The funding would be used to establish a formal operational protocol among the NYC Department of Health, NYPD, and FDNY to strategically divert non-criminal calls from the 911 emergency system to specialized 988 counselors. Funding also supports a public messaging campaign to educate on the optimal use of law enforcement services. By establishing 988 as the primary resource for non-violent mental health needs, the project lifts a substantial administrative and tactical burden from the NYPD.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will reduce the volume of police dispatches to non-public safety concerns, freeing up police resources to focus on public safety and enforcing the law. By diverting appropriate mental health crisis calls to 988, resources can be allocated more efficiently, ensuring that emergency services are reserved for situations that truly require them.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Meng".

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

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