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Congress of the United States
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REGIONAL WHIP, NEW YORK STATE

CO-CHAIR, NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS

March 19, 2026

Chairman Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Niagara County Sheriff's Office in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding is the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory, located at 5526 Niagara Street Ext., Lockport, New York 14094. The funding would be used for the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory DNA Expansion Project to purchase the instruments and equipment necessary to bring DNA analysis capabilities in-house.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it strengthens public safety, improves investigative turnaround times, and reduces long-term costs associated with outsourcing DNA analysis to Erie County. The Niagara County Forensic Laboratory currently serves over twenty federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and already employs two trained DNA analysts — but lacks the equipment needed to perform analysis locally. Bringing this capability in-house will enhance the laboratory's ability to identify suspects with precision, exonerate the wrongly accused, and deliver faster, more accountable results for the communities it serves. DNA evidence is one of the most reliable tools in modern criminal justice, and this investment ensures Niagara County law enforcement has direct, timely access to it.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, as authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, as amended (34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.).

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

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress