



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
April 20, 2021

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

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$600,000 in fiscal year 2022 for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to implement a "53206 Initiative" to provide additional support to elementary, middle, and high school students in one of Milwaukee's most vulnerable communities.

The entity to receive funding for this project is MPS, the largest school district in the state of Wisconsin serving some 71,000 students. MPS main office is located at 5225 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208

Funding under this initiative would support two prongs: 1) expansion of MPS Building Resiliency in Classroom Education (BRICE) program which helps students struggling with mental health, academic, and/or behavioral challenges. This program supports mental health services as well as a nonviolence education curriculum that increases young people's capacity to identify and resolve conflicts. It would reach 2,300 students enrolled in 8 MPS schools in one of Milwaukee's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

The second part of this initiative would fund a Driver's Education program aimed at students in 53206. One of the most serious but fixable, workforce barriers facing minority youth populations is in obtaining and maintaining driver's licenses. Improving access to licenses and helping at risk teens acquire the skills and competencies to maintain those licenses will not only improve employment and education potential but also positively impact traffic safety and reduce unlicensed driving. Less than a fourth of Milwaukee County's estimated 19,076 African American males ages 16 to 24 had a driver's license in good standing in 2015. The low percentage is even more problematic in the poorest Milwaukee neighborhoods, like the 53206 zipcode, given the high concentrations of youth in these densely populated areas. There are over 6,500 sixteen-year-olds residing in 11 of Milwaukee's poorest zipcodes, and only 4% of these youth have driver's licenses in good standing. These numbers pale in comparison to nearby

suburbs and statewide averages for the same age groups resulting in another barrier to employment and even continuing education opportunities.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwen Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gwen Moore

Member of Congress