

GREG PENCE  
6TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA,  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1406

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I write to request that you give consideration to the following priorities:

1. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 requested funding level of \$1,858,079,00 for the **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant**. Continued funding for the SAPT Block Grant will strengthen vulnerable families and communities, help build a healthier society, and most importantly, save lives in Indiana's Sixth District and across the nation. Substance abuse disorders are a significant public health problem in the United States. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States, outnumbering both traffic crashes and gun-related deaths. The opioid crisis continues to be the primary driver of drug-related deaths in the U.S. Since 2000, over 300,000 Americans have died from overdose involving opioids. In 2017, 11.1 million Americans aged 12 and older misused opioid pain relievers, and roughly 890,000 individuals used heroin. Adequate funding for SAPT program is essential because it attacks the opioids crisis from every angle: treatment, prevention, and recovery.
2. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 requested funding level of \$5,728,000,000 for the **Health Center Program**. Continued funding for the Health Center Program will allow Community Health Centers to continue to serve over 29 million Americans, predominately from low-income and vulnerable backgrounds. Community Health Centers have a proven record of using cost-effective, clinical strategies to deliver high-quality, affordable health care. Robust funding for this program is essential for the seven Community Health Centers in Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District that provide Hoosiers with comprehensive and vital health care services.

3. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 requested funding level of \$89,500,000 for the **Rural Health Outreach Grant Program**. This program allows rural communities in Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District and across the nation to continue to address diabetes, obesity, health promotion, health screening and mental health. Robust funding for the Rural Health Outreach Grant Program is essential as it is the only federal rural health care program that allows communities to use these funds based on their specific community needs.
4. Support no less than the Fiscal Year 2020 funding level of \$110,000,000 for the **Rural Communities Opioids Response Program**. In 2017, there were 1,800 drug overdose deaths in Indiana, averaging to five Hoosiers a day. Continued funding for this program will allow rural communities in Indiana and across America to expand their capacity to combat substance abuse.
5. Support President Trump's Fiscal Year 2021 requested funding level of \$29,000,000 for the **Rural Telehealth Program**. Specifically, please support adequate for the Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program within the Rural Telehealth Program so that clinics, providers, and hospitals are able to integrate telehealth into their operations. The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC) while based in Indiana, has provided expert and customizable telehealth technical assistance to health care professionals in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio since 2010. With recent public health crisis such as the opioid epidemic, telehealth is an essential tool for health care providers to reach vulnerable and rural populations.
6. Support **pro-life policies** by including conscience protection language, ensuring no funds be made available for research on fetal tissue obtained from an induced abortion, and end taxpayer financing of abortion businesses such as Planned Parenthood. Conscience protection provisions are necessary to ensure federal funds are not used to force health care providers to participate in abortion. Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2019, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received \$120 million in taxpayer dollars directed toward fetal tissue research. We must ensure that federally funded research does not enable the abortion industry to profit from the harvesting and trafficking of innocent, human lives. Lastly, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's 2018-2019 annual report revealed they received \$616.8 million taxpayer dollars in one year while performing 345,672 abortions. Hardworking Hoosiers and the pro-life community should not be forced to directly or indirectly support the abortion industry.
7. Support funding for the **Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program (SRAE)**. Specifically, funding of Title V SRAE programming in parity with the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) and Fiscal Year 2020 levels. Continued funding for the important SRAE programs at parity with PREP will give young Hoosiers the tools to practice healthy relationships and sound decision-making skills. Additionally, equal funding of SRAE and PREP will allow administrators to develop the evidence base that Congress expects of government-funded projects.
8. Support the maximum funding for the **Job Corps Program**. For more than 50 years, the Job Corps Program has served as the premier career and technical education program for out-of-work and out-of-school youth in Indiana and nationwide. Maximum funding for this program will allow our nation's Job Corps centers such as Atterbury Jon Corps in Indiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District to sustain their full operational capacity and provide our nation's youth with the career and technical education they need to be successful.

9. Support the following report language for **Cross-Disciplinary Microbiome Research**:

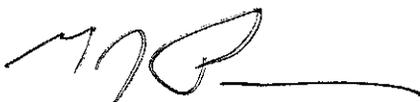
*“Cross-Disciplinary Microbiome Research - The Committee is pleased with the developments made by the NIH’s Human Microbiome Project and encourages relevant institutes and centers to spearhead new cross-disciplinary efforts in microbiome sciences. The Committee also encourages collaborations with academia to develop knowledge and tools required to predict and control behavior of diverse microbiomes through multidisciplinary approaches.”*

10. Support the following report language for **Apprenticeship Programs**:

*“The Committee supports the funding and development of industry or sector partnerships as a means to expand work-based learning programs and registered apprenticeships in in-demand industries.”*

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress