

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the UF Health Central Florida Simulation Lab in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is UF Health Central Florida, located at 600 E Dixie Ave. Leesburg, FL. 34748.

The funding would be used to purchase the technology needed to create a SIM Lab for students going into the medical profession as part of a workforce development initiative to address healthcare workforce shortages and create a pipeline of better-prepared individuals entering the healthcare sector. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses workforce challenges and shortages in the healthcare sector by providing critical clinical training and education in one of the fastest-growing areas in Florida. This lab will also help enhance clinical decision-making by providing a realistic, hands-on environment where health care professionals and students can practice and refine their skills without the risk of harming real patients.

UF Health Central Florida partners with two local economically disadvantaged high schools, Leesburg and Umatilla High and has invited Lake Sumter and Lake Tech Community Colleges to participate in SIM Lab programs, which are linked to significant improvements in skill performance, knowledge acquisition, and clinical performance; with research suggesting a 74% reduction in medical errors and an 85% reduction in infection rates.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress