

CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN
3RD DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4203

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2187 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3271 (202) 225-3494 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICES
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, SUITE 126
900 GEORGIA AVENUE
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
(423) 756-2342 (423) 756-6613 (FAX)

200 ADMINISTRATION ROAD, SUITE 100
P.O. BOX 2001
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830
(865) 576-1976 (865) 576-3221 (FAX)

6 EAST MADISON AVENUE COURTHOUSE
ATHENS, TN 37303-4297

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 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 am requesting \$1,500,000 for the Children's Hospital at Erlanger, Pediatric Abuse and Advocacy Resource Center in FY 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Erlanger, located at 975 East 3rd Street, Chattanooga, TN 37403. The funding would be used to support Erlanger Children's critical work in preventing and treating child abuse in Chattanooga and Hamilton County. The funding would expand resources through additional staffing to coordinate complex cases dedicated to the care of abused children. This staffing not only strengthens existing services but also allows current staff to enhance and further develop programs, potentially extending assistance to a greater number of children in need. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Erlanger Children's has long supported the needs of this vulnerable patient population and could potentially extend assistance to a larger number of children in need.

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,

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress