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March 27, 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 \$2,000,000 for Sweetwater Hospital outpatient services expansion in FY 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Sweetwater Hospital Association, located at 304 Wright St, Sweetwater, TN 37874. The funding would be used to purchase a Positron Emission Tomography (PET)/Computed Tomography (CT) scanner and renovation of existing space for the installation of this piece of equipment. The equipment will significantly enhance the institution's diagnostic, staging, and treatment-monitoring capabilities. PET/CT combines metabolic imaging with high-resolution anatomical imaging, enabling earlier disease detection, improved treatment planning, and better patient outcomes across oncology, neurology, cardiology, and infectious/inflammatory conditions. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Sweetwater Hospital Association Primarily serves residents in remote mountainous areas with low socioeconomic status, limited education, and a culture of independence, contributing to restricted access to health care and poor health. Currently, over 500 of these scans are referred out-of-county annually due to Sweetwater Hospital not having the ability to absorb this volume into the outpatient schedule in a timely manner with only one scanner currently available. Other types of providers, primary care offices, urgent care clinics, and federally qualified health clinics are no substitute for a full-service hospital.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Public Health Service Act.

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