Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0926 448 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225–2778

DISTRICT OFFICES: 14221 SW 120TH STREET, #115 MIAMI, FL 33186 (305) 222-0160

404 W PALM DRIVE FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA 33034 (305) 222–0160

1100 SIMONTON STREET, ROOM 1-213 KEY WEST, FL 33040 (305) 292–4485

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack Chair Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington D.C. 20515 The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for the Historic Reynolds School Renovation Project in Fiscal Year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Monroe County School District located at 241 Trumbo Road, Key West, Florida 33040.

The funding would be used to support the cost of design and construction activities for restoration of the historic Reynolds School property in Key West, Florida. Originally founded in 1927, Reynolds School served as one of the first elementary schools in the Florida Keys and has been included on the City of Key West historic registry. Rendered inhabitable by Hurricane Irma, the District wishes to preserve this historic building and renovate the property to serve as a suitable site for the District's maintenance and operations department. Restoration of the Reynolds School property in this manner will facilitate the District's efforts in vacating its current administrative headquarters at Trumbo Point to allow that property to serve as a site for affordable workforce housing. The Reynolds School Restoration Project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds ensuring preservation of one of the first public schoolhouses in the Florida Keys, not only contributing to the historic character of Key West, but also facilitating the Monroe County School District's initiative to provide affordable housing to local educators and other members of the District's workforce. Through a public-private partnership, the District will develop 150 affordable housing units at its Trumbo Road property at no cost to taxpayers. Completion of this development will require the District to relocate its administration building to an alternative site. Reynolds School was identified as the most efficient and cost-effective way to accomplish this relocation.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in 42 USC § 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez