



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 21, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Nicklaus Children's Hospital Inpatient Psychiatry Unit Expansion in fiscal year 2023 for the amount of \$1,000,000.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Variety Children's Hospital DBA Nicklaus Children's Hospital located at 3100 SW 62nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33155.

This funding would go towards the expansion of Nicklaus Children's Hospital's in-patient psychiatry unit. There has been a 60% increase in the rate of suicide among 10-to-24-year-olds from 2007 to 2017, the second leading cause of death for this age group. As a result, Nicklaus Children's Hospital has seen Emergency department (ED) and admissions for mental health conditions dramatically increase. This project will double the mental health services currently being provided at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. It is an increase from a maximum capacity of 20 patients to a maximum of 40 patients, which will allow for our mental health experts to stabilize and treat the children in our community more efficiently. As such, I believe that this is an appropriate use of tax dollars as it will promote health and wellbeing for the children of our community.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Elvira Salazar', written in a cursive style.

Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar