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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 27, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Campus Redevelopment project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Rochelle Community Hospital, located at 900 N 2nd St, Rochelle, IL 61068. The funding would be used for the construction and modernization of emergency, radiology, laboratory, and urgent care facilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Rochelle Community Hospital is a 25-bed independent critical access hospital whose oldest infrastructure dates to 1944, with 59 percent of mechanicals in the oldest portions of the building determined to be end-of-life. The six-bed Emergency Department treats between 8,000 and 9,000 patients annually and regularly exceeds capacity, the Laboratory processes over 87,000 specimens per year in less than 2,000 square feet with inadequate climate controls, and the facility's Convenient Care clinic is one of the only urgent care options within a ten-mile radius. The proposed construction will replace the failing 1944 structure with a purpose-built facility that expands emergency capacity, modernizes critical building systems, and ensures continued access to quality healthcare for a rural community with limited alternatives.

The 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin LaHood".

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress