



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the USF Entrepreneurship Center in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida, located at 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida, 34243.

The funding would be used to expand previously enacted federal funding and establish the USF Center for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. This follow-on CPF request will build upon and expand the capabilities of the previously proposed Center for Entrepreneurship to support the growing ecosystem of small businesses, startups, and specialized sectors in Manatee and neighboring counties. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it gives students, entrepreneurs, emerging companies and business professionals more tools to grow bigger, faster and continue contributing to the economy of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

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 "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress