

Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05)  
Appropriations Committee Members Day Testimony

M\_\_ Chair\_\_\_\_, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I want to briefly discuss some of the ways the appropriations bills can help the people I am proud to represent in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, which includes Delaware County, South and Southwest Philadelphia, and part of Montgomery County.

Federal investments play a critical role in ensuring the success of juvenile justice programs. Efforts to protect youth, prevent delinquency and create opportunities in our most underserved communities require robust investments. My district has recently seen the closing of two juvenile detention centers-- both the Glen Mills school and the Lima Juvenile Facility. Though the details of each case are unique, both facilities faced credible allegations of misconduct that highlight just how vulnerable young people are in these systems. These stories exemplify why Congress should do everything in its power to prevent young people from entering the justice system, protect them once they are there, and ensure that robust re-entry programs exist upon their release. I urge the committee to support fully funding and implementing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, the Incentive Youth Promise Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs Act of 2018, and allocating robust funding for additional juvenile justice programs that would protect vulnerable young people. I hope this committee will consider increasing funding for juvenile justice programs to give juvenile offenders a real second chance at a good life.

Second, I hope this committee will also ensure the continuation of the vital CH-47F Block II program, which will provide critical upgrades to the Army's fleet of Chinook helicopters. The Chinook is the Army's primary heavy-lift helicopter, and the Block II upgrades will deliver advanced heavy-lift capabilities now and for decades to come. I am confident that continued investment in the CH-47F Block II program will benefit the men and women who are vital to the defense industrial base that is so critical to our nation. I hope the Defense Appropriations bill will reflect how critical this program is to our national security.

I hope you will also increase funding for SNAP and WIC programs, especially those programs directed at the highest need areas. In Philadelphia, we have an epidemic of hunger, particularly in our children. It is estimated at least 21% of people in Philadelphia do not have enough food to lead a healthy life. This is a national crisis and a preventable one. SNAP and WIC have shown that, when fully funded, they can dramatically reduce hunger in America. Expanding these programs will allow my constituents in need to access food and the ability to grow, learn, and work.

Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to recommend ten exciting projects for Community Project Funding. Allowing members to recommend targeted, well-vetted project funding for governments and nonprofits in our district will ensure federal budget priorities meet the real needs of the American people.

Even just the process of selecting ten CPF requests was helpful to my entire office and me. We had almost sixty applications submitted, all of which were excellent and would have been strong candidates for funding. We were able to learn about incredible work happening by service providers all over southeast Pennsylvania.

The ten we submitted represent a diverse set of goals and communities to be served. From a mussel hatchery to clean the Schuylkill River to a new playground for a school in an area of dense economic challenges. From expanding an opioid treatment center and rebuilding the oldest continually operating library in the country, to a county-administered micro-grant program. I've recommended two workforce training programs serving communities in need, a green roof for a community center and the restoration of a historic performing arts space.

And finally, an exciting new program that would fund the hiring of mental health professionals who can be dispatched with law enforcement to help de-escalate contentious disputes and get those in crisis the help they need.

I am grateful for the opportunity to talk with the committee about these exciting projects and hope you will consider funding these requests. Each one would change my constituents' lives for the better.

Thank you for the chance to be here today and talk with you about my region's priorities. As always, my staff and I are available for any follow-up questions.