Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $1,200,000 for Bounce Innovation Hub - Minority Business Support Programs in Fiscal Year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Bounce Innovation Hub, located at 526 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44311. The physical address of the project location is 526 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44311.

Bounce Innovation Hub has served more than 300 entrepreneurs and startups in northeast Ohio. Located in downtown Akron, Bounce primarily serves Greater Akron and Summit County, which have historically experienced decades of economic challenges due to industry, population and job loss largely in part from the globalization of the rubber and tire industry. Unfortunately, Akron’s Black and minority populations have experienced historic economic inequities at a significantly higher rate than their white neighbors. These funds would be used to expand entrepreneurial programming for minority and historically marginalized entrepreneurs. Specifically, funding would go to training, curriculum planning, marketing, legal, accounting and other professional services designed to support the growth of minority businesses. As a major player in the Greater Akron economic development landscape, Bounce’s mission is to catalyze entrepreneurship and innovation by providing connections, resources, and expertise to build a vibrant community, making this an excellent use of taxpayer dollars.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress