

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
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 North Carolina State Crime Laboratory-Instrumentation for Gunshot Residue and Firearms Comparison Testing Project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the North Carolina Department of Justice – North Carolina State Crime Laboratory, located at 121 E. Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC 27603. The funding would be used to purchase instrumentation for the testing of evidence related to crimes involving firearms.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it provides the resources necessary to continue the high-quality analysis on forensic evidence in firearms-related cases. On an annual basis, the Laboratory analyzes approximately 266 criminal cases which includes over 1,500 samples related to the testing of gun shot residue (GSR) particles. Testing for these specific particles on forensic evidence related to these violent crimes can provide critical information to law enforcement agencies that could assist in the investigation of these crimes.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress