

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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

May 2, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Colorado Department of Corrections Fremont County Childcare Center in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Colorado Department of Corrections located at 1250 Academy Park Loop, Canon City, Colorado 81212.

The funding would be used for to rehabilitate a closed childcare facility in Canon City, Colorado. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because of the severe childcare shortage in Fremont County. With a growing population of young children and a median income of \$32,259, affordable childcare options are scarce. The CDOC, in partnership with local organizations, aims to alleviate this burden by providing essential childcare services, supporting working families, and fostering early childhood development. Opening a new childcare facility in Fremont County would provide significant benefits to the people of Colorado by addressing key economic, social, and workforce challenges. Access to reliable childcare allows parents to stay in the workforce, reducing absenteeism and increasing productivity. Quality childcare will help employers in Fremont County attract qualified professionals. A new childcare facility in Fremont County would not only benefit local families but also contribute to Colorado's broader economic and workforce goals, making it a critical investment in the state's future.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brittany Pettersen", written over a horizontal line.

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress