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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3217

March 19, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Equip Costello Hall Science Labs Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the St. Thomas Aquinas College, NY, located at 125 Route 340 Sparkill, NY 10976. The funding would be used to modernize Costello Hall at St. Thomas Aquinas College, updating laboratory and classroom spaces, improving accessibility, and installing cutting-edge research and instructional technologies. The project will create a modern STEM Hub to support advanced experimentation, data collection, and project-based learning in fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, and robotics. These upgrades will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthen community partnerships, and enhance the educational experience of over 500 students per semester, preparing them for careers in emerging scientific and technological fields.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly advances the mission of the National Institute of Standards and Technology by strengthening the nation's scientific infrastructure, expanding research capacity, and developing a highly skilled STEM workforce. By modernizing laboratories and providing industry-standard robotics, data analytics, and experimental tools, the project enhances the quality of STEM education, supports regional workforce needs, and contributes to long-term economic growth. It creates a state-of-the-art environment for student learning and research that aligns with NIST priorities, including measurement science, robotics standards, and emerging technologies, delivering measurable benefits to both students and the broader U.S. innovation ecosystem.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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 that reads "Michael Lawler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Lawler" clearly legible.

Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress