



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1408**

**MARK B. MESSMER**  
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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ivy Tech Evansville Surgical Technology Lab Relocation & Expansion. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Ivy Tech Community College Evansville.

The funding would be used to renovate 2,024 square feet of underutilized campus space (photography darkroom lab) into a purpose-built Surgical Technology Simulation Laboratory. The current program was operating in an inadequate space that required hallway areas for competency testing. We have temporarily relocated it to a classroom that is not properly equipped for this program, which is limiting enrollment growth despite strong student outcomes. Enrollment demand significantly exceeds capacity. In fall 2024 and 2025, the program enrolled 20 students per cohort, yet 55 students are currently in the interest group, and more than 35 qualified applicants apply annually. Approximately 40% of eligible candidates are turned away due solely to space constraints. The renovation will increase enrollment capacity by 50 percent and allow the campus to meet documented healthcare workforce demand in Indiana's 8th Congressional District.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a documented workforce gap in Indiana's 8th Congressional District: over 35 qualified applicants are turned away annually due solely to space constraints, with 55+ students currently in the program pipeline. The program maintains 80%+ student retention and 80-85% certification pass rates, demonstrating strong outcomes. This is a fiscally responsible use of taxpayer funds — repurposing existing space rather than constructing new facilities. Ivy Tech Evansville contributes \$244.3 million annually to the local economy and supports 3,214 jobs, ensuring a strong return on public investment.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark B. Messmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark Messmer  
Member of Congress