April 28, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Recovery To Work Initiative in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wayne County, located at 925 Court Street, Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431. The funding would be used to create a regional hub for treatment and rehabilitation for individuals struggling with addiction and behavioral health challenges. This property provides a unique opportunity to develop a best-practice recovery-to-work model for treatment and rehabilitation that integrates both drug & alcohol and behavioral health facilities with housing, career training, and job placement. Supporting the recovering individual through a longer, stepped-down approach along with access to human services, housing, career development and jobs will mitigate risk factors and address social determinants that affect recidivism and successful outcomes. This project would help to pay for construction of four buildings that would be used in a multitude of capacities to address much-needed drug recovery, mental health and work training initiatives in Wayne County and the surrounding region where such facilities are non-existent or few and far between. The county has already set aside more than $3 million in funding for this project, but the total cost is nearly $10 million. The construction cost alone is $7.8 million so to be able to receive $3 million toward this would be a huge achievement. This initiative would save taxpayers money in the long run as it would offer treatment to drug addicts and those with behavioral health issues and would offer job training to former inmates to keep recidivism low and prison and unemployment costs low. By keeping people who need help out of hospitals and prison would be a huge help to already strained federal and state budgets.

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

Sincerely,
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress