

MADELEINE DEAN
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3804

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
150 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4731

DISTRICT OFFICES:
115 EAST GLENSIDE AVENUE, SUITE 1
GLENSIDE, PA 19038
215-884-4300

1200 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 105
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464
610-382-1250

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Anti-Trafficking Model and Revolutionary Prevention Tech for Foster Children in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Half a Million Kids, located at 944 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

The funding would be used to fund the expansion of Half a Million Kids' program to keep foster children safe. HMK's mission is to get 45% of foster children in safe loving homes and out of harms way, blunting one of the major pipelines of child sex traffickers. The CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) reports that 60% of children rescued have a history in the child welfare system. This statistic illustrates the intersection of foster care and sex trafficking.

This initiative is designed to fund the expansion of their program to keep PA 4th foster children safe, thereby reducing court and law enforcement engagement with missing children cases and other criminal occurrences that impact and involve foster children. Additionally, kids living in safe, stable homes and thriving vastly lessens the need for court involvement, reducing overload.

Combining early identification of risk, rapid safe placement, and ongoing whole child support through our HomeBase™ Program closes the system gaps that traffickers target, dramatically reducing vulnerability and creating a protective network around each child. This integrated model transforms foster care from a reactive placement system into a proactive child protection framework that keeps children safe, connected, and out of trafficking pipelines.

In totality, the program allows the children a powerful support system and education, improving their chances of avoiding being part of the dismal statistic of 50% who currently become homeless, incarcerated, government dependent and/or have substance abuse issues.

HMK is a committed partner to the courts and law enforcement in removing violence and vulnerability from the lives of PA 4th children.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because their technology platform, which represents a scalable solution that eliminates lagging reporting time and provides real-time data, transparency and analytics, improving child placement outcomes, caseworker retention and accountability at all levels. Its revolutionary design is a newly invented “databaseless” system, providing the ultimate in security, speed and economics. It provides the means to locate missing children immediately within the crucial 24-48 hour time frame. Caseworker turnover is at a crisis level due to antiquated systems, case overload, lack of standardized training and low wages. Each caseworker often handles in excess of 25 cases; research shows their capacity is 10-12. Children in foster care who experience one case worker have a 74% chance of a successful permanent placement; children who have had two caseworkers drop their chances to 17%, and those on their third case worker have only a 5% chance of a successful placement.

Once caseworkers are equipped with this technology that allows them to manage their case load and to effectively match children with families, we will run Multi-Media Awareness & Recruitment Campaigns to attract families to foster and adopt with the goal of finding safe and loving homes for 25% of foster children. This is in addition to the 20% populating into the House Parent Model. This multi-faceted and highly researched approach will produce vitally needed systemic change to protect and provide quality of life for children. The PA 4th District has the opportunity to offer its constituents the chance to lead the way in creating a child welfare system that is the model for PA.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in 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,



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress