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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
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ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Exterior Lighting Improvements for School Safety project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$1,250,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), located at 4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103.

This project would improve exterior lighting at several SDUSD campuses where the District's 2025-26 school safety survey identified exterior lighting as a critical safety infrastructure need. The campuses to receive the exterior lighting improvements include Balboa Elementary, Perkins K-8, Rodriguez Elementary, and Zamorano Elementary. In recent years, SDUSD has expanded wraparound and whole-child support through community schools and universal after-school programming for elementary students. As a result, more students are present on campuses beyond the traditional school day. As more students leave school grounds after sunset during winter months, schools face increased needs for improved lighting and enhanced visibility around campus entrances and surrounding streets in order to ensure student safety.

This project is a good use of federal funds because exterior lighting is critical to preventing safety hazards on campus, improving traffic safety by increasing visibility at pick-up and drop-off, and helping ensure the area immediately surrounding campus is a safe environment for students.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. §§ 5305(a)(2) & (4).

This project has broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including California Assemblymember Christopher Ward, California State Senator Akilah Weber Pierson, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego Council President Pro Tem Kent Lee, and City of San Diego Councilmember Henry Foster III.

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

Thank you for your consideration of funding for these programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Senior Legislative Assistant, Michael Rivas, at michael.rivas@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress