

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.  
4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1004

SUBCOMMITTEES:

*RANKING MEMBER*

COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND THE INTERNET  
ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, REGULATORY REFORM,  
AND ANTITRUST  
OVERSIGHT

AVIATION

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

May 2, 2025

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 Reaching Teens Georgia in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wellroot Family Services, located at 1967 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 400 Tucker, GA 30084.

The funding would be used to expand a proven, trauma-informed training program—Reaching Teens, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics—to enhance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system in Georgia. The program trains local law enforcement, first responders, judges, courts, probation officers, and public defenders in best practices for identifying and responding to teens experiencing trauma, including sexual and physical abuse, human trafficking, substance abuse, and other adverse events such as death, illness, and natural disasters. Research shows that 86% of youth in the juvenile justice system have experienced trauma, and those exposed to such events are significantly more likely to come into contact with the justice system. By equipping frontline personnel with trauma-informed tools, this initiative will reduce youth entry into the system, lower recidivism, prevent family separation, and improve long-term outcomes for teens. In doing so, the program promotes safer communities and reduces taxpayer costs associated with court involvement, incarceration, and long-term social service dependency. Reaching Teens has been successfully implemented by the Hall County Juvenile Court for three years, with additional adoption in states like Texas and Illinois. This funding would support program expansion into DeKalb County, Chatham County, and surrounding cities, including through partnerships with local law enforcement agencies such as Avondale Estates and Decatur. The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice has also expressed interest in collaborating with program provider Wellroot to deliver this training statewide, contingent upon federal support. Investing in this evidence-based program represents a wise use of taxpayer funds by proactively addressing root causes of juvenile justice involvement and promoting cost-effective, community-based solutions.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 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,  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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