

SCOTT DESJARLAIS, M.D.

4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Rhea Medical Center HVAC system in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Rhea Medical Center, located at 9400 Rhea County Hwy, Dayton, TN 37321). The funding would be used to fully replace its 20-year-old, hospital-wide Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, which has reached end-of-life status. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because This project addresses updating critical hospital infrastructure that is driving avoidable operating costs and financial risk for RMC. Replacing the hospital's end-of-life HVAC system will reduce excessive energy and maintenance expenses, improve efficiency, protect heat-sensitive clinical and laboratory equipment, and help the hospital shift from costly reactive repairs to planned, long-term asset management. This kind of capital investment will stabilize hospital finances and preserve limited local healthcare dollars for patient care rather than emergency facility repairs. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title III of the *Public Health Service Act* (General Powers and Duties) – codified in relevant part at 42 U.S.C. § 241. 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, appearing to read "Scott DesJarlais".

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress