

**SCOTT DESJARLAIS, M.D.**

4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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<http://DesJarlais.house.gov>

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro: I am requesting funding for the Ascension Saint Thomas River Park Rural Health Expansion Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Ascension Saint Thomas River Park, located at 1559 Sparta Street, McMinnville, TN 37110. The funding would be used to support the build-out of existing facilities at the Ascension St. Thomas River Park Hospital in McMinnville. This investment will expand service capacity, specifically for Maternal Health and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) services. This request leverages rural health funding to close critical care gaps in Tennessee and ensure the sustainable growth of comprehensive primary care.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this investment will help directly address the acute healthcare shortages facing the Upper Cumberland and Southern Middle Tennessee regions. By more than doubling patient exam capacity at the Ascension Saint Thomas River Park campus, this project provides a critical "medical anchor" for rural residents that currently face a 100-mile travel radius for specialty care. Specifically, this request targets elevated maternal mortality and chronic disease rates by establishing dedicated spaces for prenatal, postpartum, and FQHC primary care. Strengthening this facility is a fiscally responsible use of federal resources that shifts the local healthcare model from high-cost, reactive emergency room visits toward proactive, preventative care. This ensures that my constituents have reliable, local access to life-saving screenings and maternal support, ultimately bolstering the health and economic resilience of the district's workforce. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by U.S. Code Title 42 Chapter 1 Subchapter K part 124, Authority: Secs. 215, 1602, 1625, Public Health Service Act.

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", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress