

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND
RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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April 3, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahart
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you begin drafting the FY2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for the following projects in or near the 7th district of Texas.

To simplify your task and to help control federal spending, I apply a rigorous filter to every spending request I receive. I tell everyone who asks me for federal funding that the starting answer is “no” and that “yes” is very hard to earn. I will not even consider a request from a private individual or a private company because I think it will unavoidably lead to problems. Then it must be an absolutely essential project of great public benefit that falls within the confines of the U. S. Constitution’s grant of authority to Congress, and it must be in dire need of federal funding to assure the continuation of the work in question. Even if these conditions are met, I still filter out quite a few projects because of the dangerously large federal deficit and the unsustainable national debt. After all these filters are applied, I then try to limit the projects I consider to medical or scientific research at the Texas Medical Center or NASA, critical flood control or transportation projects, or defending our borders and our national security. I am especially supportive of nanotechnology research because it will totally transform our lives forever by helping us cure human diseases at the earliest stages when only a few cells are involved, by improving human productivity as well as the efficiency of every device that runs on electricity, and by helping to make America energy independent.

These few scientific and medical research projects and the equipment purchases I am asking to be funded hold immense promise to help identify and cure human diseases at the earliest stages. The Texas Medical Center is universally recognized as the greatest collection of medical and scientific research talent on Earth and I am immensely proud of the ground breaking work they do each year to alleviate human suffering and improve our quality of life.

1. **M.D. Anderson Cancer Center:** \$2,000,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration for equipment, supplies and production at the Center for Cancer Immunology, a center utilizing innovation in immunotherapies and vaccinations to cure cancer. In the near future, the center will vaccinate children and adults against Leukemia.
2. **Memorial Herman Hospital Texas Medical Center:** \$250,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to support comprehensive health care for children and families affected by autism. Clinical staff will conduct full assessments of patients, coordinate initial referrals for hospital outpatient testing, and conduct follow-up visits with patients and families to provide ongoing monitor of patient progress.

3. **Memorial Hermann Hospital Texas Medical Center:** \$1,500,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to purchase equipment at the Level 1 Trauma Center and expand existing adult and pediatric trauma care facilities. This equipment is critical to the Center's ability to serve its patient volume, which is the highest in the nation.



Medical staff moves a patient on a gurney so that an Army helicopter can transfer him to an outlying hospital.

4. **Rice University:** \$500,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to purchase equipment for the BioScience Research Collaborative, dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of human disease through biomedicine and drug development.



Upon completion, the Bioscience Research Collaborative will facilitate Collaborative, cutting edge biomedical research

5. **University of Texas Health Science Center Houston:** \$200,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to purchase equipment for the Center for Translational Neuroinformatics. The center conducts innovative research to prevent and treat developmental and neurodegenerative diseases including autism, Alzheimer's and brain injury.

6. **Harris County Hospital District:** \$250,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration to purchase direct-capture digital imaging devices. This equipment will enhance clinical work flow, patient treatment and increase the productivity of imaging technologists.

7. **St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital:** \$250,000 in Department of Health and Human Service's Health Resources and Services Administration to purchase a 3-Tesla Magnetic

Resonance Imaging scanner. This equipment will allow St. Luke's to serve more patients with cardiovascular and neurological disease, pursue focused research projects that can have immediate clinical impact on patient care, and develop new, cost-effective imaging techniques that might otherwise be unavailable to the greater healthcare community.



*3-Tesla Magnetic
Resonance Imaging
Scanner*

8. **University of Houston:** \$500,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration account to purchase equipment for the Institute of Molecular Design. The Institute is developing new treatments to control catastrophic diseases including cancer, stroke and diabetes, as well as trauma
9. **Cure Search:** \$100,000 in Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control to create and support the Childhood Cancer Research Network, the nation's first and only pediatric cancer. This database will ensure early access to best available pediatric therapies and clinical trials and enable researchers to conduct studies on the causes of childhood cancer.
10. **Houston Baptist University:** \$50,000 in the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration account for updated space and equipment dedicated to training healthcare professionals. Expanding HBU's Nursing Skills Lab will increase the number of students trained in nursing each year.

You will also have my support for any increase you can provide above and beyond the President's budget request for the National Institutes of Health to ensure that we can continue investigating new treatments and ultimately finding cures for human diseases. I believe that medical research and development is one of the most important functions of the federal government.

Should your office need any additional information, please contact Katie Bruns at 5-2751.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress