

TED W. LIEU
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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Expanding Inclusive Friendship School Clubs in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Friendship Foundation located at 2108 Vail Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

This funding would enable the Inclusive School Friendship Club to expand its current 33 school clubs with the creation of at least 20 new clubs that will impact an estimated 1800 total students with special needs. One of these programs is the Inclusive School Friendship Club, which is in operation in 33 school-sanctioned high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools through the greater South Bay. At each club, children with special needs are paired with student volunteers on a 1-to-1 basis to each lunch, socialize, play games, and attend school events as a group. As a result of the Inclusive School Friendship Club, students in special education are seen and acknowledged, develop new friendships, experience less bullying and other abusive actions. Overall, students and the school body as whole become more aware of, and able to integrate special education students, which is vital to their happiness and safety on school campuses.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress