

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4403

Project Name: Behavioral Health Unit in the Summit County Jail

Recipient: Summit County

Address: 60 N. Main Street, PO Box 128, Coalville, UT 84098

Amount Requested: \$3,000,000

Project Explanation: The funding would be used to help establish a behavioral health unit within the Summit County Jail to address the increasing mental health needs of incarcerated individuals and improve safety of law enforcement officers. The project includes the addition of padded safety cells, high-visibility observation rooms, a deputy monitoring station, and integrated surveillance. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because one-third of the jail's population is diagnosed with a mental illness, a number that is increasing due to the ongoing opioid epidemic, and current facilities are insufficient to provide safe, humane care. Expanding behavioral health capacity will increase the safety of both inmates and correctional officers, reduce liability for the county and the state, and align with state and federal priorities to improve mental health services in correctional settings.

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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

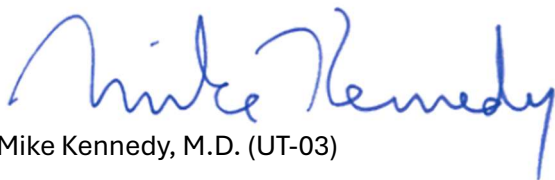
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a Behavioral Health Unit in the Summit County Jail in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Summit County, Utah, located at 60 N Main Street PO Box 128, Coalville, Utah 84098. The funding would be used to help establish a behavioral health unit within the Summit County Jail to address the increasing mental health needs of incarcerated individuals and improve safety of law enforcement officers. The project includes the addition of padded safety cells, high-visibility observation rooms, a deputy monitoring station, and integrated surveillance. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because one-third of the jail's population is diagnosed with a mental illness, a number that is increasing due to the ongoing opioid epidemic, and current facilities are insufficient to provide safe, humane care. Expanding behavioral health capacity will increase the safety of both inmates and correctional officers, reduce liability for the county and the state, and align with state and federal priorities to improve mental health services in correctional settings.

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,



Mike Kennedy, M.D. (UT-03)

Member of Congress