

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

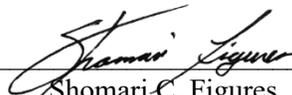
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence Research and Innovation in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Alabama State University, located at 915 South Jackson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. The funding would be used to establish a Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence Research and Innovation at Alabama State University as a statewide hub for AI research, workforce development, and technology-driven economic growth. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will expand federally funded research, prepare workers for high-demand careers in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science, and support industry partnerships with defense, manufacturing, healthcare, and technology companies.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

  
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Shomari C. Figures  
Member of Congress