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CHAIR OF THE  
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



**PETE AGUILAR**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
33<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING  
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality Research and Retraining Center in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), located at 5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino, CA 92407.

The funding would be used for technology acquisition and the creation of an AI retraining platform as part of the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality Research and Training Center. This initiative is designed to begin the evolution of the regional ability to harness AI and VR for cybersecurity and supply chain and logistics occupations, propelling San Bernardino and its surrounding areas into a future marked by security, innovation, and competitiveness.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is an impending necessity for a workforce proficient in AI and cybersecurity. This center not only seeks to close the current skills gap, but also aims to position the Inland Empire as a frontrunner in technological innovation and AI.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Aguilar".

Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress