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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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March 19, 2026

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 in the amount of \$860,200.00 for in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is The School District of Philadelphia located at 440N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 191300. The funding would be used for **Improving Emlen Elementary's Schoolyard**.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because redesigned playful schoolyard spaces provide a multitude of benefits for the taxpayer. Schoolyards provide a critical space for families within the community the schools serve. They introduce young families to the school community and ease transition from pre-school to the formal learning environment, providing a space for play after school and during the summer. An engaging schoolyard makes the community more inviting to prospective families and boosts the home values and fosters a strong sense of community. Playful learning areas provide a space for therapeutic processing of stress for children of all ages, critical for students' focus and attention and creating a healthy social climate within the school and the community.

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

Sincerely,



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress