April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for Variant Science Training Program in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Utah Tech University, located at 225 South 700 East, St. George, UT 84770.

The funding will be used to develop the online curriculum for a professional certificate program to train and prepare variant scientists, update laboratory equipment, and acquire a faculty fellow to design and oversee the program at Utah Tech University (previously known as Dixie State University). Variant science plays a critical role in clinical genetic laboratories, and yet, there are currently no formal training programs other than extensive on-the-job training. This would be an online program allowing participants to self-pace and work around existing jobs but will also include job-shadowing and hands-on lab experiences.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress