

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

23RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Molecular Surveillance of Infectious Diseases in South Florida in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this is the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, located at 1600 Northwest 10th Avenue, Miami, FL 33136.

The funding would be used to expand the capacity for the molecular surveillance of infectious diseases such as Zika, COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, and others that impact the South Florida community. Molecular surveillance is the most effective way to monitor for the emergence of new viral variants in a population. However, the extent of molecular surveillance in Florida is severely limited and, as a result, Florida is vulnerable to the threats posed by new COVID-19 variants that may have resistance to current vaccines and/or have increased disease potential. This funding would expand the capacity for molecular surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants that would provide an early warning system to alert to the presence of new variants of concern in the population. Furthermore, molecular surveillance platforms can readily be re-aligned to identify threats posed by emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases including HIV-1, Zika, and other mosquito borne agents.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz".

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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