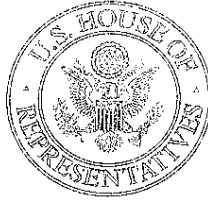


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March 16, 2006

The Honorable Henry Bonilla
Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Bonilla and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am writing to request your support for a children's nutrition research project in the FY2007 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

My request is \$900,000 on top of President Bush's proposed allocation for the Children's Nutrition Research Center at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas to maintain FY2006 funding levels. While the center would like to add new researchers, year to year increases have only covered USDA assessments from their allocation. This funding will be used to continue the research for utilizing genotyping in order to identify genetic variations within children that are predisposed to developing obesity at an accelerated rate. Childhood obesity is currently a leading threat to the health of future generations of Americans and it is imperative to understand the genetic, biochemical, and behavioral origins of childhood obesity to correct this growing trend.

If your office has any questions, please contact Ellie Essalih at 6-9172.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Culberson".

John Culberson
Member of Congress