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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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June 6, 2022

Kimberly A. Waller, Associate Commissioner
Family and Youth Services Bureau
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
330 C Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. Waller:

I write in support of the application from Safe, Inc. in Schenectady, New York to the Basic Center Program. This funding will be used to support an emergency youth shelter.

Safe Inc. has been serving Schenectady and the surrounding counties for more than 37 years. In 1985, a unique coalition of members of the Schenectady community united to address serious concerns regarding teenage prostitution in Schenectady. These clergy, merchants, neighborhood activists, police, and other community leaders came together to assist young people who had been abused at home and ended up on the street where they were frequently exploited.

Safe House is 30-day emergency shelter. It is the only certified emergency youth shelter in Schenectady County. The shelter serves youth under the age of 18 and has the capacity to house homeless youth with infant children. While the youth are residing at Safe House, they receive counseling services, case management, advocacy, outreach, and referrals. The goal is to either reunite the youth with their families or assist them in gaining a safe and stable place to live.

Like you, I am committed to improving the health and well-being of our country's youth. Your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with current laws, rules, regulations, and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress

PDT/npl