

NICK LALOTA

NEW YORK'S FIRST DISTRICT

122 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3201
(202) 225-3826

515 ROUTE 111, SUITE 3B
HAUUPPAUGE, NY 11788
(631) 289-1097

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

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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 for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Corrections Intelligence Technology Upgrade in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Office of the Suffolk County Sheriff, located at 100 Center Drive, Riverhead, NY 11901.

The funding would be used for acquiring and implementing artificial intelligence communication and investigative technology for the Sheriff's Corrections Intelligence and Security Unit, which supports in-custody intelligence investigation, surveillance, and analysis across two correctional facilities in Suffolk County, New York. The technology will provide real-time transcription of inmate communications, keyword-based search capabilities, and automated alerts that flag communications of concern for review by trained humans. The platform is incapable of taking any independent action, and all use is strictly limited to lawfully monitored inmate communications within correctional facilities pursuant to applicable law and facility policy.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the technology directly supports the prevention of suicides, overdoses, and violent incidents within correctional facilities; deters drug smuggling and gang activity; reduces inmate-on-inmate violence; and assists in contraband and weapons recovery. The technology replaces a time-intensive manual review process, generating recurring cost savings for Suffolk County. Intelligence gathered through the system is shared with regional law enforcement partners, extending its public safety impact beyond the facilities. All funds can be fully expended within 12 months of enactment.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

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

Sincerely,



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress