

**BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.**

36TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
BABIN.HOUSE.GOV

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4336**

2236 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1555

203 IVY AVENUE, SUITE 600  
DEER PARK, TX 77536  
(832) 780-0966

769 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 301  
LUMBERTON, TX 77657  
(409) 883-8075

100 W. BLUFF DRIVE  
WOODVILLE, TX 75979  
(409) 331-8066

2004 N. CLEVELAND STREET  
DAYTON, TX 77535  
(832) 780-0966

March 13, 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 La Porte Police Department Digital Forensic Capacity and Technology Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the La Porte Police Department, located at 3001 North 23rd Street, La Porte, Texas 77571. The funding would be used to strengthen the La Porte Police Department Digital Forensics Lab, which serves as a regional lab for the Houston-Metro Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force by investing in critical forensic software, hardware, and secure data storage necessary to identify offenders, rescue victims, and reduce case backlogs in online child exploitation investigations. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it serves the constituents of the district, along with the surrounding Houston-Metro area, in the fight against online child exploitation.

The La Porte Police Department has three dedicated law enforcement officers (2 investigators and 1 digital forensic examiner) who are assigned all child exploitation CyberTips for the city and conduct proactive work to identify offenders. Over 20 local law enforcement agencies, including the Houston Police Department, regularly rely on the agency's specialized investigators and technology to assist with digital evidence analysis in online child exploitation investigations.

In 2025, La Porte PD analyzed 702 devices for evidence of child exploitation. Because many local agencies lack the resources to maintain advanced digital forensic capabilities or specialized investigative technology, the La Porte Police Department serves as a critical regional resource, directly supporting cases originating in communities throughout the district.

Strengthening the agency's investigative technology will improve law enforcement's ability to respond to cases involving offenders and victims in the district, reduce investigative delays, and enhance the protection of children and families in the community.

This project represents a responsible investment of taxpayer funds because it directly addresses the exponential growth in digital evidence associated with child exploitation investigations while improving law enforcement efficiency and victim identification outcomes. Investing in technology up front prevents far greater long-term social and criminal justice costs associated with unresolved exploitation cases.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)). [for DOJ COPS Technology and Equipment projects]. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Babin", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical line that extends downwards.

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

