

BRIAN J. MAST  
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0918**

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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed project to establish the Ballistics Innovation and Testing Center at Indian River State College (IRSC) in Fiscal Year 2026. IRSC is located at 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34981. This initiative will transform existing campus space into a facility for real-world testing of emerging technologies aimed at protecting law enforcement officers.

The Ballistics Innovation and Testing Center at IRSC will focus on advancing current protective gear—such as bulletproof vests, bullet-resistant glass, and reinforced vehicles—while also exploring the development of entirely new technologies. Through close collaboration with law enforcement agencies and rigorous real-world testing, the center will ensure that these innovations are not only effective, but also practical and affordable for widespread use.

With this funding, IRSC will acquire state-of-the-art equipment to enhance its capabilities in ballistic material testing. These investments will also support hands-on learning opportunities for students, encourage industry collaboration, and drive applied research efforts—all with the goal of increasing officer safety in increasingly dangerous environments.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the knowledge gained from the IRSC Ballistics Innovation and Testing Center can be used to serve as a national model, as IRSC will work with local, state, and federal law enforcement organizations in the design and testing of these fortifying law enforcement assets.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

I certify that neither I nor any immediate family members have financial interest in this project.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress