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Senate of Pennsylvania

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June 20, 2022

Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader
Room: 535 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203043
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

Senator Vincent Hughes
Minority Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Room: 545 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203007
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

Re: Scoutreach and TrailBlazer Funding Support for The Boy Scouts Laurel Highlands Council

Dear Leader Costa and Chairman Hughes,

I write in support of two important programs that allow boys and girls, along with their families, to experience challenging activities, promote character, and enjoy the outdoors throughout the year. The Boy Scouts Laurel Highlands Council administers the Scoutreach and TrailBlazer programs and have requested funding in the FY 2022-23 budget to help carry out these programs. These two programs provide Scouting opportunities to low-income youth and youth with disabilities.

The TrailBlazer Program provides traditional Scouting programs in several educational and community centers that serve people with physical, intellectual, and emotional, disabilities, and those with Autism. Program leaders adapt each program to meet the needs of individual Scouts and create settings in which they can effectively provide these services. This includes serving as consultants to Scouts with disabilities and helping match their needs with traditional units to ensure they find their most comfortable pack, troop, or crew. Program leaders also provide training to adult leaders and individual units on disability awareness and acceptance. This helps Scouting youth with disabilities and special needs participate in programs like other youth.

Scoutreach is a program that provides special leadership and emphasis on urban and rural Scouting organizations. This is part of Boy Scouts of America's broader commitment to ensure that all young people have an opportunity to join Scouting, regardless of their family or economic circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background. Both programs serve significant populations in Allegheny, Beaver, and Washington Counties. Please make this funding request a priority and if you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out: Lindsey.Williams@PASenate.com | 412-364-0469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey M. Williams".

Lindsey M. Williams
38th Senatorial District