

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Gayle Conelly Manchin
Federal Co-Chair
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Co-Chair Manchin,

I am writing in support of Libera's application for federal funding through the Appalachian Regional Commissions INSPIRE Program for their project titled, "Expansion of Libera's Mentorship Program for At-Risk Young Women in West Virginia."

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, I am acutely aware of the drastic impact that substance use disorder has had on our state. I am also concerned of the effects this has on young women while they make their entry or re-entry into the workforce after successfully overcoming substance use disorder.

Should funding be awarded, Libera will begin rolling out this program that aims to provide mentoring, career and success planning, and networking for jobs and employment support. All of this will be focused on female at-risk youth who are aging out of foster care, incarceration, residential facilities, and shelters. This funding would also allow for Libera to expand their recovery ecosystem into new geographical areas in our state to reach new populations with their organization.

West Virginia's best days are ahead of us, and every investment made in our state brings us closer to the shared goal of uplifting Mountaineers everywhere. I am proud to see the Libera investing in the future of West Virginia, and I remain a committed partner to our federal, state, and local entities working in West Virginia. I hope you will give this application your full consideration, as you consider recipients for this year's INSPIRE program.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator