

Re: Virtual Shoe-Fitting Grants

Adam Andrzejewski

Wed 9/26/2018 3:49 PM

To: Lungren, Kelly <Kelly.Lungren@mail.house.gov>;

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>;

Hi Kelly,

Congress has the power of the purse. Therefore, agencies have no spending power besides the powers they are granted or ceded by Congress. We are saying Congress has not done an adequate job of limiting the role and authority of agencies. This is, in part, why we see so many examples of waste and abuse. Congress is not an innocent or helpless bystander. Members of congress can not make the argument that they are powerless. You are making that argument and we vehemently disagree.

Therefore, we stand by our very responsible public policy position to map federal grants by congressional district and showcase the worst of those grants in the nation's leading papers. On a go-forward basis, we've added the member of congress (CA-18), an additional year (FY2015 & FY2016), and increased total funding of \$902,789 to our new display ad.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder | 312.320.1867



Read Adam's '*Latest*' & '*Most Popular*' editorials at *Forbes* -

[Click here](#) and scroll down

From: Adam Andrzejewski

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 12:26 PM

To: Lungren, Kelly

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski

Subject: Re: Virtual Shoe-Fitting Grants

I will respond to your argument.

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder | 312.320.1867



Read Adam's '*Latest*' & '*Most Popular*' editorials at *Forbes* - [Click here](#) and scroll down

From: Lungren, Kelly <Kelly.Lungren@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 10:21 AM
To: Adam Andrzejewski
Cc: Lungren, Kelly
Subject: RE: Virtual Shoe-Fitting Grants

Adam –

A couple of points I would like to make in writing.

Your claim is that Congressman Griffith is RESPONSIBLE for this money flowing through the district because the money was sent to the district and he didn't fight hard enough to stop it.

FACTS:

1. Congressman Griffith never sent a support letter for this grant application.
2. Congressman Griffith voted NO for the FY2016 Omnibus, which provided funding to the NSF grant pool.
3. The awardee, Eclo, Inc. is housed in Mountain View, CA as noted on the National Science Foundation Website and NOT in Congressman Griffith's district.

You claim that Congressman Griffith didn't fight hard enough to prevent the money from flowing into the district.

FACTS:

1. Since earmarks are no longer, grant money is included in appropriation bills.
2. The respective agency then awards grant money to specific projects/individuals that have submitted applications.
3. The specific awarded projects/individuals are NOT line itemed in any appropriation bills.

Therefore, how, as you suggested, could my boss, Congressman Griffith, offer an amendment to prevent this specific award?

Please explain.

If I follow your rationale, Congressman Griffith would have had to offer an amendment PRIOR to the award being made stating no funds could be used for virtual shoe fitting. How would he have known that this award was going to be made to this specific individual ahead of time.

Kelly Lungren McCollum

Chief of Staff

Congressman H. Morgan Griffith (VA-09)
2202 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3861 phone
202-225-0076 fax



From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Lungren, Kelly <Kelly.Lungren@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Subject: Fw: Virtual Shoe-Fitting Grants

Hi Kelly,

Thank you for reaching out. The grants in FY2016 flowed to an individual named "VILLANUEVA, ALEXIS A". Mr. Villanueva is the owner of Eclo, Inc. The grants were sent to an address in Blackstone, VA (VA 09). In FY2015, the grant of \$149,197 went to Eclo at the same address in Blackstone, VA. So, over \$900,000 funded this project!

We appreciate your inquiry. Here's some more information and please review the attached database for the raw federal transaction data.

When looking back on our underlying data which supports our "Where's The Pork?" federal grant oversight report, we were able to validate that two grants, totaling \$753,502, were paid out to "VILLANUEVA, ALEXIS A" for "SBIR Phase II: Footwear Fitting System for Online Retailers" in FY2016. This purpose of this grant was validated by the link below (also included in the original report) which indicates Mr. Villanueva is the founder of Eclo, the National Science Foundation is an "investor", and the purpose of the grant was for "virtual fitting", as displayed in the video.

<https://angel.co/eclco>

Attached to this email you will find the raw data supporting our findings. Let me know if you have any questions. We stand by our findings and confirm the accuracy of the reporting.

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)
CEO & Founder | 312.320.1867



Read Adam's 'Latest' & 'Most Popular' editorials at *Forbes* -
[Click here](#) and scroll down