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By Appointment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 28, 2021

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for the **Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center (VNACJ CHC)'s Red Bank Primary Care Center**, a key community health partner which is located in my district.

The VNACJ CHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center which provides free or reduced-cost comprehensive health care to many of my constituents. The Red Bank Primary Care Center is one of VNACJ CHC's four locations.

Among the services provided by the Red Bank Primary Care Center, patients receive primary, dental, behavioral, and prenatal care. These services are directed towards individuals most in need, including the homeless, mentally ill, elderly, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the VNACJ CHC has provided testing and vaccinations to the community—reaching populations which may not have otherwise had access to these services.

As the need has grown in the community, however, the current facility has become insufficient. Therefore, VNACJ CHC is seeking funds to build a new Primary Care Center, located at a site that is both more convenient and has an increased capacity to serve more residents of the community. This facility would be located at ground level, enhancing accessibility for patients with disabilities, and also include six additional exam rooms, expanding VNACJ CHC's capacity to serve patients.

I am specifically requesting \$400,000 in Community Project Funding to complete this project, which would be used for both construction and equipment—including mammogram machines, exam tables, and IT equipment. These funds would be drawn out of Health Resources

and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Health Facilities Construction account and spent in fiscal year 2022.

This project is widely supported throughout the Red Bank community, and has been endorsed by New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal, Monmouth County Commissioner Director Thomas Arnone, and Red Bank Mayor Pasquale Menna, whose letters of support have been attached to this application.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress