



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Administration Building
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120
303-795-4630
arapahoeco.gov

April 29, 2024

Representative Jason Crow
1323 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crow,

By 2026 there is expected to be a healthcare workforce shortage of 50,000; your support of funding in the amount of \$4,999,474 for Arapahoe Community College's Healthcare Simulation Center will dramatically increase the number of front-line health positions by providing simulated, hands-on training to more quickly deploy qualified individuals into the workforce, addressing the critical shortage of health care workers within our community.

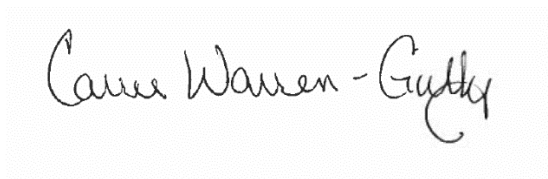
This request is consistent with programs provided by Arapahoe County through our workforce development center, Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, to ensure our region's workforce and economy remain competitive. Arapahoe County invested \$3.5 million in one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding to support initial renovations of the health innovation center that is reducing the talent pipeline timeline. With your support, Arapahoe Community College (ACC)'s new interdisciplinary health innovation center will add additional simulation and technology to safely prepare healthcare professionals to excel in providing quality patient care. ACC will be able replace the clinical experience required by the Colorado State Board of Nursing by 50%, ultimately growing the capacity of their registered nurse program by 25%. Paramedics will have 15% of clinical time supplemented with the new simulation center, getting individuals into the field faster.

Seventy-four percent of Colorado jobs will need some type of education beyond high school, yet only 55% of Colorado's current workforce has attained a post-secondary credential. Licensure and certification are necessary for the healthcare workforce; your support and investment in the advanced simulation technology will help increase these numbers. And ACC has a proven track record of success helping students obtain affordable access to a college education along with the support they need to enter the workforce. In 2022/23, ACC successfully increased enrollment in health and public safety programs by 11%, with a 39% increase in health and public safety program graduates. ACC currently has over 1,400 students

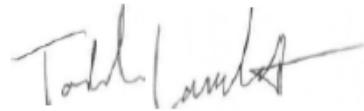
in their pre-health programs, completing prerequisites to enter health care fields. Due to space and clinical placement constraints, many HPS programs are only able to admit between 25-50% of qualified applicants. Continuing renovations of the Healthcare Simulation Center will expand ACC's ability to enroll more students and reduce clinical requirements through simulation and technology, deploying qualified professionals into the community faster to help address the challenges facing our health care workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Supporting ACC's collaborative efforts with local industry and government partners will assist in creating the next generation of health care talent.

Sincerely,



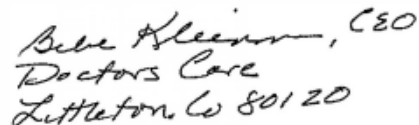
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Kent Hamstra MA, CCM
Clinical Professional Development Coordinator



Sasha Easton
Workforce Director & Division Manager
Arapahoe/Douglas Worksl

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James L. Becklenberg
Littleton City Manager