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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Aurora Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center in Fiscal Year 2022. This request is for the Health Facilities Construction and Equipment Account under the Health Resources and Services Administration. The entity to receive funding for the project is Aurora Community Mental Health Center, located at 1290 South Potomac Street, Aurora, CO 80012.

The Aurora Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center (AuMHC) is seeking \$1,000,000 to support planning and design costs for the construction of a new health campus. Currently, AuMHC operates three separate locations: a walk-in crisis and 16-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit, a Connect to Care walk-in access point; and Withdrawal Management (Detox) services. These disparate locations require first responders and the public to determine which location to access, creating unnecessary confusion, as well as the need to move clients across sites when needed. By co-locating crisis services on a single health campus, AuMHC aims to increase access to care and improve the continuum of care. Additionally, AuMHC will partner with STRIDE Community Health Center (STRIDE), a federally qualified health center, to provide physical health and oral health services on campus.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. In recent years, Congress has demonstrated a commitment to removing barriers to mental health and substance use disorder acute care. Making these services accessible and providing holistic care to patients is even more important as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. The health campus model will enable clients to access mental health, addictions, crisis, primary care and oral health services at a single location, eliminating barriers to access for both clients and community partners.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jason Crow
Member of Congress