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March 9, 2023

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

Please accept this enthusiastic letter of support for the Aurora-Arapahoe Battered Women's Shelter, dba Gateway Domestic Violence Services (Gateway) as they seek funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the construction of two new buildings to house Gateway's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Program for victims/survivors of Domestic Violence (DV). This funding is being requested through Congressionally Directed Spending under HUD (Housing and Urban Development) – Economic Development Initiatives.

Gateway is the only DV program in the City of Aurora and Arapahoe County. For over 40 years, they have been providing crucial services of providing DV victims a safe place to land through their Emergency Shelter and Extended Stay Programs. The community has had significant growth, and the need for safe shelter has grown as well. The city is excited about this construction project as it will include a significantly larger Emergency Shelter, and thus able to serve three times the number of victims of DV. The second phase of construction will encompass building a state-of-the-art transitional housing program where the number of victims served will increase significantly, and be able to lengthen their stay with the focus being the successful placement of DV victims/survivors moving to more permanent housing.

The City of Aurora and Arapahoe County continue to support Gateway, and the city recognizes their strong commitment to ensuring everyone deserves a safe home free from violence. This project is a necessity in our community as we have seen 91 deaths from DV in Colorado during 2022. In addition, DV is the leading cause of homelessness for women and families. At least 50% of all women who are homeless report that DV was the immediate cause of their homelessness. The City of Aurora recognizes Gateway's strong commitment to ensuring everyone deserves a safe home free from violence.

We support this request and ask you to consider the extreme value of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman  
Mayor



# ARAPAHOE COUNTY

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Administration Building  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80120  
303-795-4630  
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March 28, 2023

US Representative Jason Crow  
2170 S Parker Rd  
Aurora, Colorado 80231

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### RE: Congressional Directed Spending Request: Gateway Domestic Violence Services

Dear Representative Crow,

Arapahoe County is pleased to share our support of the Aurora-Arapahoe Battered Women's Shelter, dba Gateway Domestic Violence Services (Gateway)'s \$2,000,000 federal funding request for the construction of two new buildings to house Gateway's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Program for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

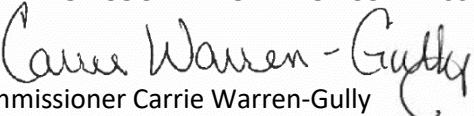
Gateway is the only domestic violence program serving Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora, providing victims a safe place to land through short-term and extended stay programs for more than 40 years. Domestic violence continues to be a significant problem within the community. At least 50 percent of all women who are homeless report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness, with 91 domestic violence deaths recorded in 2022. While the population of the county and city has grown, the critical facilities provided by Gateway have not, turning away 1,500 individuals who needed services in 2022. Forcing victims of domestic violence to choose from being in a home that is filled with violence or being homeless and without resources is simply not a choice for individuals.

Located in Aurora, the new emergency shelter will be able to serve three times the number of domestic violence victims, while the state-of-the-art transitional housing facility will provide individuals, children and pets with the progressive supports and on-site case management needed to secure permanent housing. Gateway's longevity in the community and experience working with survivors of domestic violence speaks to their continued commitment to meet the increased and complex needs of those they serve.

Arapahoe County is committed to expanding safe shelter options, providing \$1.5 million towards the project. With your financial support in a FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending Request, we can help make this a reality. Thank you for your consideration of this essential project.

Sincerely,

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully  
Chair of the Board