

# **Implementing Partner Support Letters**

*LPN Registered Apprenticeship Program*



**Office of the President**

S. 16th Avenue & Nob Hill Boulevard, PO Box 22520, Yakima, WA 98907-2520

P: 509.574.4635 • [www.yvcc.edu](http://www.yvcc.edu)

April 6, 2021

Representative Dan Newhouse  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Representative Dan Newhouse:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support as for the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission's application for Community Project Funding. Yakima Valley College is excited to participate in the exciting work of planning and implementing a licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program for wider replication across the state.

A licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program supports successful educational and career advancement of racially and ethnically diverse long-term care workers from certified home care aide (HCA) and/or nursing assistant (NAC) positions to licensed practical nurse (LPN) positions. The impact of creating an LPN apprenticeship pathway is significant in terms of advancing the economic stability of the HCA and NAC population—for example, an NAC who advances to to an LPN role in Washington gains a 68.5% annual salary increase from \$32,567 to \$54,869.

Yakima Valley College's nursing program has a longstanding history of excellence and innovation and enjoys strong relationships with surrounding long-term care (LTC) facilities. Indeed, an LPN apprenticeship pathway has significant potential to address staffing challenges within our partnering LTC facilities to better support the healthcare needs of care recipients. Currently, we have three LTC facilities with expressed interest in partnering with us on the LPN apprenticeship program pilot project; those LTC facilities are Garden Village, Landmark, and Living Care.

We at Yakima Valley College will be a strong partner in planning and implementing the LPN apprenticeship program pathway with Community Project Funding and, ultimately, we hope to see it replicated across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Linda J. Kaminski'.

Linda Kaminski, Ed.D  
President



A Partnership of  
Comprehensive Healthcare and  
Virginia Mason Memorial

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Daniel Newhouse  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support as for the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission's application for Community Project Funding. "*Garden Village*" is excited to partner with Yakima Valley College in the exciting work of planning and implementing a licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program for wider replication across the state.

A licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program supports successful educational and career advancement of racially and ethnically diverse long-term care workers from certified home care aide (HCA) and/or nursing assistant (NAC) positions to licensed practical nurse (LPN) positions. The impact of creating an LPN apprenticeship pathway is significant in terms of advancing the economic stability of the HCA and NAC population—for example, an NAC who advances to to an LPN role in Washington gains a 68.5% annual salary increase from \$32,567 to \$54,869. Our LTC facility has served as a clinical practice site for YVC nursing students for many years and we employ many Nursing Assistants with the interest and capacity to aspire into the nursing profession. This long-standing relationship with Yakima Valley College positions us as strong LTC partners and we are excited to do so. Long-term care facilities have difficulty recruiting and retaining appropriate LTC workforce and this challenge has only been exacerbated during the ongoing pandemic. The proposed LPN apprenticeship pathway significant potential to address these ongoing staffing challenges and ultimately provide better support the healthcare needs of care recipients.

We at *Garden Village* will be a strong partner in planning and implementing the LPN apprenticeship program pathway with Yakima Valley College and hope that this initiative will be supported with Community Project Funding and, ultimately, we hope to see it replicated across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Valerie Blanco RN ADNS*

Valerie Blanco RN ADNS

# **Hyattcenters-Landmark, Inc.**

5102 Scenic Drive  
Yakima, WA 98908  
(509) 248-7379

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

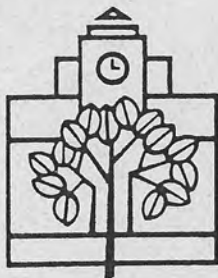
I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.

YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people working in the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.



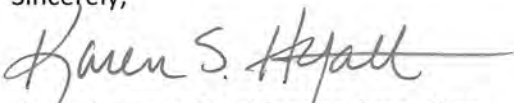
The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address. Several of these facilities already collaborate with Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, YVC

School of Nursing, WSU School of Nursing and WSU Pharmacy program to educate and rotate their students. Our staff can competently teach student learners and provide an excellent experience.

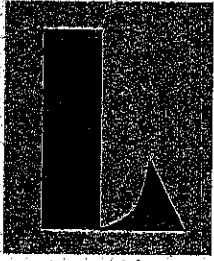
This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current longterm care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

I hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen S. Hyatt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen S. Hyatt, President and member  
Hyattcenters-Landmark, Inc – (Landmark Care Center)  
Hyattcenters-Crescent, LLC – (Crescent Health Care)



**LANDMARK**

CARE & REHABILITATION

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Daniel Newhouse  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

I am writing with enthusiastic support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for a long-term care (LTC) career pathway from certified home care aide (HCA) and/or nursing assistant (NAC) to licensed practical nurse (LPN).

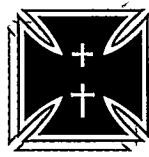
Our LTC facility has served as a clinical practice site for YVC nursing students for many years and we employ many Nursing Assistants with the interest and capacity to aspire into the nursing profession. This long-standing relationship with Yakima Valley College positions us as strong LTC partners and we are excited to do so. Long-term care facilities have difficulty recruiting and retaining appropriate LTC workforce and this challenge has only been exacerbated during the ongoing pandemic. The proposed LPN apprenticeship pathway significant potential to address these ongoing staffing challenges and ultimately provide better support the healthcare needs of care recipients.

We at Landmark Care & Rehabilitation Center will be a strong partner in planning and implementing the LPN apprenticeship program pathway with Yakima Valley College and hope that this initiative will be supported with Community Project Funding and, ultimately, we hope to see it replicated across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane E. Davis  
Administrator



*Living Care*  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

3801 SUMMITVIEW AVENUE • YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98902-2794  
PHONE (509) 966-6240 • FAX (509) 965-5261 • [www.livingcarecenters.com](http://www.livingcarecenters.com)

*Celebrating 55 Years – 1958 to 2013*  
*Remembering our Past – Celebrating our Present – Looking to our Future*

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Daniel Newhouse  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission's application for Community Project Funding. Summitview Healthcare Center is excited to partner with Yakima Valley College in the exciting work of planning and implementing a licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program for wider replication across the state.

A licensed practical nursing (LPN) apprenticeship pathway program supports successful educational and career advancement of racially and ethnically diverse long-term care workers from certified home care aide (HCA) and/or nursing assistant certified (NAC) positions to licensed practical nurse (LPN) positions. Many of these workers are unable to advance due to the financial need to work. This program could give them an opportunity that they may otherwise not have been given. The impact of creating an LPN apprenticeship pathway is significant in terms of advancing the economic stability of the HCA and NAC population—for example, an NAC who advances to an LPN role in Washington gains a 68.5% annual salary increase from \$32,567 to \$54,869.

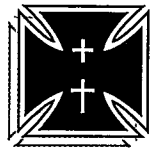
Our LTC facility has served as a clinical practice site for YVC nursing students for many years and we train and employ many Nursing Assistants with the interest and capacity to aspire into the nursing profession. This long-standing relationship with Yakima Valley College positions us as strong LTC partners and we are excited to do so. Long-term care facilities have difficulty recruiting and retaining appropriate LTC workforce and this challenge has only been exacerbated during the ongoing pandemic. The proposed LPN apprenticeship pathway gives significant potential to address the ongoing staffing challenges and ultimately better support the healthcare needs of care recipients.

We at Summitview Healthcare Center will be a strong partner in planning and implementing the LPN apprenticeship program pathway with Yakima Valley College and hope that this initiative

Retirement Apartments - VALLEY VIEW, GABLE VIEW, LIVING VIEW, LIVING COURT, SENIOR VIEW

Assisted Living - HILLCREST AT SUMMITVIEW Skilled Nursing - SUMMITVIEW HEALTHCARE CENTER

*A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to the Care of Our Senior Citizens*



*Living Care*  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

3801 SUMMITVIEW AVENUE • YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98902-2794  
PHONE (509) 966-6240 • FAX (509) 965-5261 • [www.livingcarecenters.com](http://www.livingcarecenters.com)

*Celebrating 50 Years – 1958 to 2008*

*Remembering our Past – Celebrating our Present – Looking to our Future*

will be supported with Community Project Funding and, ultimately, we hope to see it replicated across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Ford*  
Jenny Ford RN, DNS

Retirement Apartments - VALLEY VIEW, GABLE VIEW, LIVING VIEW, LIVING COURT, SENIOR VIEW

Assisted Living - HILLCREST AT SUMMITVIEW Skilled Nursing - SUMMITVIEW HEALTHCARE CENTER

*A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to the Care of Our Seniors*

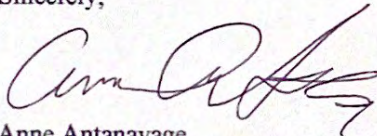


The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway. As a student in the YVC LPN program myself I can see the irreplaceable value in supporting a program such as this for several reasons. As I went through my first quarter of clinical at a long-term care facility in Yakima, we were told within the first briefing that they would be more than willing to hire us as newly graduated LPNs at the end of the year but that was over 10 months away. The staff at this long-term care facility expressed a great interest and need in having us join their team because they repeatedly implied that they did not have enough properly trained staff of their own from the area to provide premium care to their residents. Us being there as students allowed for us to not only receive high-end training within the work field but also help out the community that we so strive to make a difference in. The need for health care workers in long-term care facilities within the Yakima Valley is something that I have come to realize is almost a second pandemic in its self. I was a CNA before I was accepted into the LPN program here at YVC and I knew that as much as there was a need for nurses, there was one just as great for lower level aids that truly are at the forefront of patient care. I had often wondered if there was any training that I could have taken to increase my skill level and had researched it many times. Yet there was nothing that would allow me to not only stay in the position that I was in at my current facility, be within commuting distance but also allow me to train to a higher level without going to a university or 2 year college program. This program would give others the opportunity that I never had for a community that is in great need of it. I implore you to consider Yakima Valley College for this funding as I could not think of a way that would impact the community more positively than providing a program to better serve its residents right here in the heart of the valley.

Sincerely,



Anne Antanavage  
LPN Student  
Yakima Valley College

# **Legislator/Government Support Letters**

*LPN Registered Apprenticeship Program*



April 16, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.

YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.

The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremie Dufault", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeremie Dufault



**Olympia Office:**  
112 Irv Newhouse Building  
PO Box 40415  
Olympia, WA 98504-0415  
Phone: (360) 786-7684  
E-mail: Jim.Honeyford@leg.wa.gov  
Web: jimhoneyford.src.wastateleg.org

## Washington State Senate

**Senator Jim Honeyford**  
15th Legislative District

**Eastern Yakima County**  
Including the towns of:  
Buena Glead Grandview  
Granger Mabton Moxee  
Selah Sunnyside Toppenish  
Union Gap Wapato  
Yakima and Zillah

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

*COUSIN DAN*  
Dear Representative Newhouse

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.

This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current long-term care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services Funding request.

Sincerely

Senator Jim Honeyford



## Washington State Senate

**Olympia Address:**  
PO Box 40414  
Olympia, WA 98504-0414  
E-mail: [curtis.king@leg.wa.gov](mailto:curtis.king@leg.wa.gov)

**Senator Curtis King**  
14th Legislative District

**Telephone:**  
(360) 786-7626  
Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6000

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession, but also creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.

I hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

Curtis King  
State Senator  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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**Committees:** Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs, Ranking Member • Transportation, Ranking Member • Rules

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

YVC is an ideal place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, home care aides. These workers currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled throughout the state, without need for more Congressional Committee Project funding.

The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.

In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession, but also creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,



*LaDon Linde*

Commissioner District 3  
Board of Yakima County Commissioners  
509-574-1500

[www.yakimacounty.us](http://www.yakimacounty.us)

*This email is subject to disclosure as a public record under the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter 42.56*

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.

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This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.

The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.



In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession, but also creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current longterm care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

*Holly Cousens*

Holly Cousens, MBA  
Assistant Mayor, Yakima  
District 7

# **Workforce Development Support Letters**

*LPN Registered Apprenticeship Program*



815 N. Kellogg Street, Suite C  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-734-5980  
Fax 509-734-5999  
www.Bentonfranklinwdc.com

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Todd Samuel**  
Board Chair  
Technical Group Manager  
PNNL

**Melanie Olson**  
Director  
Lourdes Counseling Center

**Dennis Williamson**  
Training Director  
Electricians Union IBEW

**Amanda Jones**  
Vice President  
Community First Bank

**Adolfo de León**  
CSO Administrator  
DSHS

**COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Benton County  
**Commissioner Will McKay**

Franklin County  
**Commissioner Clint Didier**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

**Tiffany Scott**

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

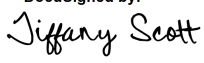
Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve Yakima and the Tri-Cities.

- YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside, and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.
- This program will create a critically needed career pathway and lead to self-sufficient wage jobs.
- These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state without additional Congressional Committee Project funding.
- The Tri-Cities area (Benton and Franklin Counties) has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.
- In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long-term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to identifying an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession but also creates upward career mobility opportunities for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current long-term care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding requests.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
106F8228497947F...

Tiffany A. Scott, CEO  
Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council  
[tscott@bf-wdc.org](mailto:tscott@bf-wdc.org)  
509-734-5993

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Newhouse:

People For People strongly support the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long-term care (LTC) career pathway. In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long-term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to identifying an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism creates a workforce for the nursing profession and creates upward career mobility opportunities for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

Since 1965, People For People has successfully provided Employment and Training services. People For People serves over 1,700 individuals annually through the following programs:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult
- WIOA Dislocated Worker
- WIOA Youth
- Community Jobs
- Diversion Program
- Basic Food Employment & Training
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Opportunity Partnership (connects YVC students with mentors and internships in their field of study)

People For People work closely with YVC to provide education, training, and mentoring opportunities to help individuals pursue their career goals. This program will create a critically needed career pathway for individuals entering the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist with their career advancement.

YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside, and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

We hope you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madelyn Carlson".

Madelyn Carlson, CEO

SERVING KITTITAS, KLICKITAT,  
SKAMANIA AND YAKIMA COUNTIES



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

The South Central Workforce Council is writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway. As the local Workforce Development Board for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania and Yakima counties, we are aware of the need for this program to create critically needed career pathways to meet the critical workforce needs.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy M. Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy M. Martinez, CEO

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

We are writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for development of a long term care (LTC) career pathway.

Our research at the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies has long supported creating career development opportunities for LTC workers. Home care aides, along with other “entry level” LTC occupations, are in high demand and should be a target of federal job investment programs. The apprenticeship model seems ideally suited for providing an attainable pathway that can lead workers such as home care aides to higher-wage jobs, such as a licensed practical nurse (LPNs).

The current lack of a defined path for education and skill attainment for low skilled workers such as home care aides hinders their ability to increase their earnings and meet the rapidly growing need for skilled LTC workers. YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only LPN program on the east side of the state and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program. The areas served by YVC draw from a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.

In addition, the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) is an ideal partner for this program. Their recent work identified problems due to a growing shortfall of LPNs available for LTC patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In considering ways to address the current LTC workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the NCQAC arrived at this solution.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aides and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and NCQAC request for Department of Health and Human Services funding.

Sincerely,



Bianca K. Frogner, PhD, Director and Associate Professor  
Susan M. Skillman, Senior Deputy Director and Research Scientist  
Center for Health Workforce Studies  
University of Washington



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

128 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, S.W. • PO Box 43105 • Olympia, WA 98504-3105

Phone: (360) 709-4600 • Fax: (360) 586-5862 • Web: [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov) • Email: [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov)

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

It is with great pleasure that I offer the strong support of the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Apprenticeship Pathway proposal from the Nursing Commission and Yakima Valley College. Washington's Workforce Board is the only tri-partite state workforce development board in the country. Membership is equally represented by business, labor and government.

The Workforce Board's mission is to support the economic vitality, equity, and resiliency of Washington's people, businesses and communities. The availability of high-quality long-term care is an important economic driver that has been hampered by workforce shortages and high turn-over rates of our home care aides (HCAs) and nursing assistants (NACs). But the issues that this proposal addresses go well beyond the availability of care. The creation of an apprenticeship pathway will help to ameliorate the structural barriers to economic justice and prosperity for opportunity populations that serve as caregivers for our vulnerable elderly and people with disabilities. We see great diversity in the entry-level healthcare occupations, but as the cost of education and time spent in training increases, our healthcare workforce becomes less diverse. This proposal would provide the critical earn-as-you-learn opportunities for our diverse caregivers to allow them to progress to higher-wage, higher-responsibility jobs, while staying in long-term care settings that desperately need workers, especially now.

We've been both impressed and heartened to see the incredible work of the Nursing Commission and Long-term Care Workforce Task Force, which included a broad range of LTC stakeholders, to develop this model. The creation of a new tier on the pathway to LPN, the LPN-Tech position, is an elegant solution. It enables the LTC employer to bill third-party payers, especially Medicaid, at a higher rate than they can for the work of an HCA or NAC. The added reimbursement allows the employer to pay a higher wage for those in the LPN-Tech role. The addition of this interim tier is what now allows Washington to create a Registered Apprenticeship program in long-term care. I am certain that this will become a model for the nation.

The Workforce Board has supported the development of this concept, and in fact, included it as a recommendation in the state's economic recovery plan for workforce development. The Board will

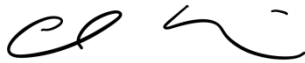


continue its support as the pilot is being developed and implemented and commits to help co-create the business model for sustainability. We are quite confident that the new financial aid structure established by the Legislature in 2019 (first in the nation to include apprenticeship program participation), and federal fund support from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Carl Perkins, and Higher Education Acts will collectively enable the program to continue on at Yakima Valley College, and scaled across the state through the community and technical college system.

I am happy to provide more information or answer any questions about our support.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and for all the work you do to support Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleni', written in a cursive style.

Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director  
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

# **Education Support Letters**

***LPN Registered Apprenticeship Program***



# *Big Bend*

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Transforming lives through excellence in teaching & learning*

Learning and Student Success

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for Long Term Care (LTC) career pathway. In 2018, the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)s available for long-term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession but also creates upward career mobility opportunities for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.

This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment, which will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model which can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. As the project becomes established, Big Bend Community College is interested in exploring partnering with YVC for developing a local career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

We hope you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

Bryce Humpherys, EdD  
Vice President of Learning and Student Success  
Big Bend Community College

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

- Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.
- YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.
- This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.
- These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.
- YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.

- The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.
- In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession, but also creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system.
- This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current longterm care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Hughes. MAE-CI, CSFA, CST, CRCST  
Dean for Health Sciences  
Columbia Basin College

Superintendent  
Kevin Chase

Board of Directors  
J.P. Enderby,  
Chair

Karen Blankenship  
Wayne Nelson  
Connie Davis  
Mark Grassel  
Paulette Lopez  
James Sebree

Associate Counties  
Yakima  
Kittitas  
Grant  
Klickitat



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

- Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.
- This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.
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- YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.
- The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities for partnering; these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address.

33 South Second Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98902  
509.575.2885  
Fax 509.575.2918  
[www.esd105.org](http://www.esd105.org)

*ESD 105 is an Equal  
Opportunity Employer*

**Superintendent**  
Kevin Chase

**Board of Directors**  
J.P. Enderby,  
*Chair*

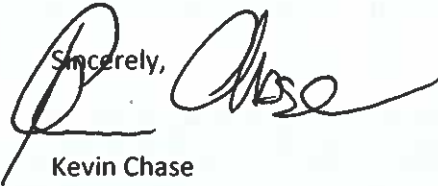
Karen Blankenship  
Wayne Nelson  
Connie Davis  
Mark Grassel  
Paulette Lopez  
James Sebree

**Associate Counties**  
Yakima  
Kittitas  
Grant  
Klickitat



- This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current long-term care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,  


Kevin Chase  
Superintendent

33 South Second Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98902  
509.575.2885  
Fax 509.575.2918  
[www.esd105.org](http://www.esd105.org)

*ESD 105 is an Equal  
Opportunity Employer*



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

- Yakima is an ideal location to lead the state in this unique and program for these one-time funds provided by your office and the Community Projects Congressional appropriation process. Its central location in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District allows participants in the program to serve not only Yakima, but also Omak, the Tri-Cities, Moses Lake, and other Central Washington communities. The area also serves a diverse population, which is important for reaching all sectors of the society.
- YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.
- This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.
- These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.



Re: Support for the YVC

Page 2

April 14, 2021

- YVC will become a state and national model for upskilling home care aides and to develop for them a career pathway to the nursing profession, complete with digital credentials and a digital roadmap to assist their career advancement.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Richardson". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Richardson, Ph.D.

President

# **Health Care Support Letters**

***LPN Registered Apprenticeship Program***

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse,

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

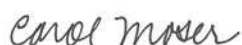
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This program creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aids, an entry-level position in today's health care system. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

This program stems from a bill passed by the Washington State legislature in 2018 to address certain critical workforce needs in the state. After a diligent and thorough analysis which considered ways to address the current long-term care (LTC) workforce shortage needs in the state as well as to meet the looming worker-shortage crisis, the working group in charge of this problem arrived at this program guided by the NCQAC and launched and piloted at YVC.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,



Executive Director, Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health

**From the desk of  
Don Hinman**

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Newhouse,

I am writing to express my strong support of Yakima Valley College and the Nursing Quality Assurance Commission partnership to strengthen the career path for long term workers.

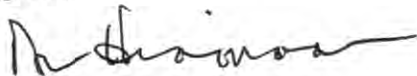
There is a shortage of Licensed Nurse Practitioners. These entry-level workers to advance their careers are handicapped by a minimum amount of education opportunities and low wages. As the baby boomer generation ages the shortage of LPN's will be an increasing. LPN's can be an important resource filling future needs and strengthening our healthcare system.

Yakima Valley College is the perfect place to use the one time funds to launch a new state and national educational model. It already has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner education program on the east-side of the state. It is centrally located to attract students from Moses Lake, Tri-Cities and all the communities in between. Education will make it possible for LPN's to up their pay and stay in their profession.

With Covid Yakima has many long-term facilities with staffing challenges that can use this partnership.

We hope you will strongly consider this funding request put forward by Yakima Valley College and Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission.

Regards,



Don Hinman, Chairman of the Board  
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

**1-509-949-4911**

**Yakima Neighborhood Health Services  
PO Box 2608  
Yakima, Washington**



Yakima Neighborhood Health Services  
12 South 8<sup>th</sup> St, PO Box 2605  
Yakima WA 98907-2605  
Phone (509) 454-4143 Fax (509) 454-3651  
[www.ynhs.org](http://www.ynhs.org)

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services supports the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

In 2018 the Washington State legislature directed NCQAC to establish a steering committee to address the growing shortfall of LPNs available for long term care patients, a looming crisis as the boomer generation ages. In looking specifically at this LPN shortfall, this work led to the identification of an apprenticeship career pathway for home care aides to progress to nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. This mechanism not only creates a workforce for the nursing profession, but also creates upward career mobility opportunity for home care aides, an entry-level position in today's health care system. This program will create a critically needed career pathway for people and the most entry-level positions in health care, which are home care aides. These workers earn the least, are typically least skilled, and currently lack a defined path for education and skill attainment that will allow them to increase their earnings and meet the need for skilled LTC workers.

YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence. YVC is also home to the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, which has been an active participant in the workgroup that conceived the program.

The Yakima area has many long-term care facilities, and these facilities were hit hard during COVID-19, making LTC staffing challenges more visible as an issue to address. We saw these facilities particularly struggle when staff members were not able to cover shifts between facilities (due to the threat of Covid contamination), and facilities struggled to maintain adequate staffing.

Please consider supporting this partnership between Yakima Valley College and the Nursing Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Hauff".

Rhonda Hauff, Chief Executive Officer  
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services



Accredited by the Joint Commission



Patient Centered Medical Home Level 3



2811 Tieton Drive | Yakima, WA 98902  
509-575-8000 | yakimamemorial.org

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
United States House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

I am writing in strong support of the Yakima Valley College (YVC) and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) partnership for long term care (LTC) career pathway.

YVC is the perfect place to launch this new state and national model. YVC has the only Licensed Nurse Practitioner program on the eastside and its nursing program has a history of excellence.

These one-time funds will allow this project to launch at YVC and provide a centrally located model that can be scaled to other parts of the state, without the need for additional Congressional Committee Project funding. This project will make YVC a state and national model for developing a career pathway for home care aids and meeting current and upcoming shortfalls in LTC workers for our growing senior populations.

We hope that you will strongly consider the Yakima Valley College and Nursing Commission Department of Health and Human Services funding request.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Green

VP COO/CNO

Yakima Valley Memorial