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CHAIRMAN  
CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Heritage Heights at Lake Chelan in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Heritage Heights at Lake Chelan, located at 505 E Highland Ave., Chelan, WA 98816.

The funding would be used for The purpose of this request is to fund a renovation and conversion project for Heritage Heights at Lake Chelan (HH). The facility currently provides assisted living services to Douglas County residents; however, the facility is not designed to provide memory care services. The problem is there are no other memory care services offered locally. The next closest facilities offering memory care are located 57 miles away from Douglas County in Wenatchee, WA. Only one of the four of the Wenatchee facilities accepts Medicaid for memory care, and they are at capacity. As a result, seniors must move 57+ miles away to receive memory care. In addition, there is documented evidence that when an older adult is suffering from dementia and is moved, a decline in physical, mental, behavioral, and functional well-being is reported. HH understands that the aging process is unpredictable and fluid and to fully meet the growing need for seniors and their families, they must provide a continuum of care to include memory care.

The need for memory care is growing and providing a continuum of care will be crucial in addressing the urgent community need for more senior housing, including memory care. HH understands that the aging process is fluid and dynamic. They don't want families pulled apart having to leave the area for memory care just when they need their families the most. HH plans to convert 11 of the 30 current assisted living units to memory care; with a potential for double occupancy.

Another major issue is the age and state of the facility. HH has been serving area seniors and those needing assisted living services since 1996. The facility currently serves 86% Medicaid residents. Serving low-income residents has been a priority for HH; however, the reimbursement provided from Medicaid has not been sufficient to upgrade and modernize this facility and it is in great need of repair and improvement.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Newhouse".

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress