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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 HOMELAND SECURITY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE  
COMMUNIST PARTY

May 3, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Relief for the Rural Health Workforce Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Coulee Medical Center, located at 411 Fortuyn Rd, Grand Coulee, WA 99133.

The funding would be used for an innovative project to accommodate the needs of the hospital's existing workforce, while also promoting recruitment and retention in an area of Central Washington that is in dire need of additional health professionals. The Coulee Medical Center (CMC) is a 25-bed Trauma Level IV Critical Access Hospital serving residents in Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, and Okanogan Counties in Central Washington. This sprawling, rural region also includes portions of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and for many residents is the only hospital system within an hour's drive of their home.

This region is extremely rural and sparsely populated, with Grant County having a population density of 37 people per square mile, far below the rate for Washington. These metrics are indicative of the conditions experienced by families seeking healthcare in the region, with patients having to drive more than 60 minutes to reach the closest hospitals or more the 90 minutes to reach the next higher level service hospital.

Providing critical care in this large service area takes a unique toll on the health care providers and medical professionals that often have multi-hour commutes, necessitating a designated space for staff to rest and recuperate in between shifts. CMC proposes an innovative and conscientious expansion to provide a safe, clean, and dependable accommodations for staff that care for the residents in my district – a highly anticipated and welcomed change from the current dilapidated facility built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1930's.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

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

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress