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CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

March 23, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Astria Toppenish Hospital Behavioral Health Program in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Astria Toppenish Hospital, located at 502 West 4th Street, Toppenish, WA 98948.

The funding would be used to construct a new 14-bed civil commitment psychiatric unit and remodel an existing 15-bed civil commitment psychiatric unit to meet state construction review regulatory standards for a 90/180-day inpatient civil commitment beds. Once completed, the two units will meet all safety standards for court-ordered civilly committed patients, including anti-ligature safety standards. Both units will have a secured courtyard with a secure entrance to allow for discrete entry and separation from other hospital patients.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Washington state faces an ongoing shortage of civil commitment beds. The Astria Toppenish Hospital project will add 14 new beds to the state's capacity and upgrade 15 existing beds to state standards. This new unit will add at least 29 full-time jobs to the Toppenish community and serve 126 additional psychiatric patients with court-ordered civil commitments.

This investment of $2.75 million in federal dollars, combined with local and state funding, will return an annual contribution of $4.5 million back to the Toppenish community.

Federal funding is needed to complete the construction of this project to combine with state and local resources already secured for the project.

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,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress