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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request funding for the Curry Health Network Chemotherapy Treatment Project – Gold Beach, OR in the amount of \$2,500,000 within the Committee’s Community Project Funding effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Curry General Hospital, located at 94220 4th Street, Gold Beach, OR, 97444. The funding would be used for a project that consists of construction of a new chemotherapy clinic at Curry General Hospital in Gold Beach, as well as purchase of related equipment.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because chemotherapy is currently not available in Curry County, OR, a coastal region which spans 1,988 square miles and is traversed by 79 miles of U.S. Highway 101. Patients need access to basic chemotherapy care as a part of their cancer treatment, and because it is not offered locally, patients must travel up to 7 hours for treatment. Chemotherapy is often a daily requirement for many weeks, and many patients face significant barriers to accessing care. Twice since 2019, landslides have closed Highway 101, the single route connecting this remote region north and south, leaving chemotherapy patients completely isolated when they need care the most.

Local chemotherapy services are one of the most significant healthcare needs currently affecting Curry County residents. County-wide health inequity faced by residents is exacerbated by disability, age, poverty, isolation, lack of social and emotional support, food insecurity, low education levels, a high Veteran population, insufficient access to care, and long commutes by patients seeking specialist care. The extremely rural nature and elderly population of Curry County create barriers to accessing chemotherapy care when patients need to

travel for services. According to Curry Health Network's Community Health Needs Assessment, 38.3% of patients state that transportation is a barrier to accessing health care. The project will support an estimated more than 1,000 annual patient visits and employ a hematologist oncologist, two registered nurses, and staff and administrative support. Funding appropriated for this project will only be used for construction and equipment costs, and will not be used for the employment of personnel. The result will be improved patient outcomes from an accessible chemotherapy services program and a reduction of patients forgoing care when they need it the most.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a). As specified in 7 CFR 3570.53, any Community Facilities project must serve a rural area (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents). In addition, this request is subject to cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val T. Hoyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

Val T. Hoyle

Member of Congress