



UTAH NAVAJO HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

1478 East Highway 162
Montezuma Creek, Utah 84534

1/18/22

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Representative Ward,

My name is Rick Hendy, LCSW, and I am the Director of Behavioral Health at Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. UNHS is a 501 (c) (3) private not-for-profit healthcare system that has four clinic sites in rural Utah (Blanding, Montezuma Creek, Monument Valley, and Navajo Mountain). Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. and the Navajo Nation have created a partnership and an agreement in which UNHS would lease the Gentle Ironhawk Shelter building and open and operate the shelter. Gentle Ironhawk Shelter opened its doors on October 27th, 2021. This shelter is located in Blanding, Utah and is the only domestic violence shelter in San Juan County, Utah. Gentle Ironhawk Shelter is open to all women and children in need of a safe place to stay.

We have operated a community-based victim advocacy program funded through VOCA for the last five years. The only funding we currently have for the shelter is VOCA funding, which is about a third of what Gentle Ironhawk Shelter needs for continued operation. I am writing to encourage you to support the Domestic Violence Shelter Grant Program appropriations request. This \$4.2 million request for shelters in Utah will help to sustain shelters that have seen an increase of requests for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will immensely help Gentle Ironhawk Shelter continue to operate as we are in the first year of opening and have yet to establish a Department of Human Services contract, which will be critical to sustain the operation of the shelter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Rick Hendy, LCSW
UNHS Director of Behavioral Health
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Blanding Family Practice Community Health Center 910 S. 300 W. Blanding, UT 84511 Ph (435) 678-0700 Fax 678-3610	Monument Valley Community Health Center PO Box 360-005 Monument Valley, UT 84536 Ph (435) 727-3000 Fax 727-3001	Montezuma Creek Community Health Center 1478 East HWY 162 PO Box 130 Montezuma Creek, UT 84534 Ph (435) 678-0530 Fax 651-3189	Navajo Mountain Community Health Center PO Box 10100 Tonalea, AZ 86044 Ph (928) 672-2494 Fax 672-2839	San Juan Family Dental 217 S. 100 W. Monticello, UT 84535 Ph (435) 587-2528 Fax 587-3585
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