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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
Hart Senate Office Building #112
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for Kern County Hospital Authority (Kern Medical) in their congressional spending proposal to fund renovations of existing facilities to include clinical suite upgrades, administrative space conversion, exterior improvements, equipment acquisition, and a lobby remodel, ensuring a welcoming and accessible environment for patients and families. We understand the critical importance of ensuring that our healthcare facilities are both accessible and welcoming to the communities they serve, especially those that are most vulnerable.

The proposed improvements are a vital step in enhancing the quality of care and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. Currently, the exterior and parking lot at Columbus Clinics fail to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), presenting barriers to patients seeking essential healthcare services. The proposed repaving, updating of parking spaces, and the beautification of the facility's exterior would not only improve accessibility but also foster a more inviting and comfortable environment for all patients.

Additionally, the proposed remodeling of the remaining interior spaces at Columbus Clinics would help ensure that the clinic operates at full capacity and offers a safe, efficient, and modern environment for patients and staff alike. These renovations are essential for maintaining the highest standards of patient care and operational efficiency. The Kern Medical lobby has not been refreshed since its original construction. The lobby serves as the primary gateway for patients, visitors, and families. It significantly impacts the perception of care, efficiency of patient intake, and ADA accessibility.

Investing in Kern Medical is an investment in the health and well-being of our entire community. By addressing these physical barriers and upgrading the facility's infrastructure, we are demonstrating our commitment to health equity, mobility, and the long-term success of our healthcare system. These improvements will directly benefit residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, helping to provide equitable access to the care they need.

The County of Kern strongly urges you to support Kern Medical's proposal and advocate for the funding necessary to make these critical improvements a reality. I believe that with your leadership, we can ensure that Kern Medical continues to serve as a vital community asset for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Should you need further information or wish to discuss this proposal in more detail, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' or 'L Perez', written in a cursive style.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors