



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

April 28, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Newton Medical Center's Behavioral Health Department Renovations Project for fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Atlantic Health System, located at 475 South St, Morristown, NJ 07962. The entity is a non-profit. The project location is at 175 High Street, Newton, NJ 07860.

The funding would be used to add a \$1.83 million state of the science emergency department behavioral health suite that includes 5 private rooms in a secure area, with an adjacent overflow area to accommodate surges. The rooms will be designed to meet the increasing volume and lengths of stay in the ED. The rooms are designed to reduce ligature risks and other methods for individuals to harm themselves or others. In-room toilets and sinks need to meet strict safety standards. The entire behavioral zone will be secured with a sally port that has double locked doors to prevent patients from eloping or mixing with the Main ED. This zone will also have sound attenuation, helping maintain a quiet environment. The clinical teams will have better visualization of each room through workstations with glass dividers for direct visibility to rooms, and satellite sitter stations outside rooms for direct suicide prevention. This project will also improve safety for staff by providing a safe zone within the nurse station.

Funding for this project is essential and is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds to assist the Medical Center in constructing a dedicated behavioral health suite according to best practices in order to deliver the highest standard of care to the community.

I certify that neither I, nor my immediate family, has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Gottheimer".

Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS