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Congress of the United States
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CO-CHAIRMAN

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for In-Room Sensor Technology for The Valley Hospital in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is The Valley Hospital located at 223 N Van Dien Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey, 07450.

The funding would be used to purchase in-room sensor technology, called AUGi, which leverages artificial intelligence to monitor patient movement and behavior to predict high-risk for falls, and pushes warnings directly to the front-line caregiver. The Valley Hospital, a non-profit community hospital located in Bergen County, NJ, launched a 28-bed pilot project in October 2021 employing AUGi devices, an innovative technology, combining a state of the art in-room sensor, which leverages artificial intelligence to monitor patient movement and behavior within their environment. It predicts high-risk behavior and pushes warnings directly to the front-line caregiver.

This project addresses a significant public health concern in Bergen County. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, falls are the leading cause of injury-related death for adults over 65, and Bergen has one of the greatest population percentages of those over 65 when compared to the state as a whole and other NJ counties, and therefore one of the highest-risk cohorts for falls. Fall deaths in this age group rose 30 percent from 2009 to 2018. Older adults who experience a fall event while hospitalized have many secondary effects, anxiety, depression, fear, loss of independence, and post-fall syndrome. The United States spends as much as \$50 billion on the medical related costs of falls, including \$1.3 billion spent in New Jersey each year.

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

Sincerely,

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress