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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas

51st District, California

April 27, 2022

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,  
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the "UC San Diego Health CommUnity Mobile" project in fiscal year 2023, in the amount of \$1,094,000. The entity to receive the funding is the Regents of the University of California; University of California San Diego, located at 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA, 92093.

Working in partnership, UC San Diego Health (UCSDH) and UCSD Center for Community Health propose use of a CommUnity Mobile Unit (MU) to increase healthcare access, improve preventative healthcare services delivery, and build capacity for local community-based organizations (CBOs) serving San Diego residents in California's 51st District.

CA-51 has one of the lowest life expectancy ranges, indicating extreme health disparities and significant health risks. To help advance health equity and address these disparities, this project proposes to implement a scalable healthcare mobile unit that adds capacity to existing local community-based organizations. In this model, services would be a la carte and selected by the CBO for monthly scheduled events that serve the gaps in care that are locally most important to address. Based on needs and priorities expressed by community partners, it is anticipated some initial offerings would include; preventive healthcare inclusive of primary and secondary prevention efforts (diabetes, blood pressure screening, cancer screening, memory care), mental health and wellness; nutrition and health; and access to a broad range of health educational resources (with attention to the needs of low literacy individuals), including information about clinical research opportunities and ongoing and timely information.

Experiences delivering vaccines in the COVID-19 Mobile Vaccine Unit over the past year taught them the importance of taking healthcare to those who need it and helping to increase capacity of our community-based service organizations who have trusted relationships, culturally inclusive approaches, and proximity to the communities served.

Expected outcomes for improved healthcare access include but are not limited to positive impact to the economy, savings to health systems, and quality health outcomes.

This project would leverage San Diego's only academic medical center, and designated public hospital for San Diego County, to increase existing CBOs capacity and address previously unidentified health needs and concerns. Those assets include the workforce (e.g., physicians, nurses, medical assistants,

public health practitioners, medical students, public health students, pharmacy students), infrastructure (e.g., vaccine, supplies, etc.), and depth of knowledge and expertise (multi-lingual patient education, clinical and preventive care, access to clinical research studies, etc.).

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because CA-51 includes 79,870 uninsured individuals who are more likely to suffer from extreme health disparities and significant health risks. If funded, this project will increase healthcare access and improve preventative healthcare services delivery for these individuals and build capacity for local community-based organizations (CBOs) serving San Diego residents in California's 51st District.

This project has received written support from Assemblymember Akila Weber and Lemon Grove Mayor Racquel Vasquez.

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

Sincerely,



JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress