

August 18, 2022

Mayor Paul Deasy  
Flagstaff City Council  
211 W Aspen Avenue  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Mayor Deasy and Flagstaff City Council:

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid agency, enthusiastically expresses its support for Northern Arizona Healthcare's (NAH's) proposal to construct a new hospital and ambulatory care center to replace Flagstaff Medical Center.

Flagstaff and northern Arizona have grown quickly in recent decades and are virtually certain to continue drawing new residents in the years ahead. Flagstaff Medical Center is not well-suited to meet these increased needs in its current downtown location. NAH has wisely proposed constructing a new hospital, ambulatory care facility and Level 1 trauma center, which will be accessible via I-17 and I-40 and convenient to patients across Flagstaff and throughout the region, including tribal communities.

This new complex will ensure patients and clinicians have access to a state-of-the-art facility that integrates under one roof the medical, surgical, emergency, ambulatory and other healthcare services northern Arizona deserves. It will be a great relief to Flagstaff and regional patients to have local access to specialty services and treatments that currently require travel to Phoenix. This is especially true for low-income Arizonans, such as AHCCCS members, who may face financial hardship if they need to stay multiple nights in a hotel while caring for a loved one undergoing a medical procedure.

Better access to care means improved health outcomes for patients. That's a win for all of us.

On behalf of AHCCCS, I respectfully ask that you support the Northern Arizona Healthcare hospital proposal.

Sincerely,



Jami Snyder  
Director