



Dear Flagstaff Mayor and City Council,

My name is Will Humble. I am the former Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, and currently serve as Executive Director of the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA). Our grassroots, public-health advocacy organization is made up of nearly 1,000 healthcare members with a single focus: to foster healthy communities across Arizona.

The pandemic has exposed real inequities in the healthcare system in Arizona and across the country. These inequities are disproportionately felt by the underserved, including communities of color, low-income patients, and Tribal areas.

Investment in high-quality, accessible healthcare is one way to help alleviate these disparities, which is why I write today in support of Northern Arizona Healthcare's proposed Health and Wellness Village.

After five decades and repeated expansion to meet the needs of the community, the Flagstaff Medical Center has reached a turning point, and the time has come to reboot if they are going to be able to continue to meet northern Arizona's growing needs. Now is the time for Flagstaff to plan a new hospital and ambulatory care center built for the rigors of modern healthcare and with this community's future needs in mind.

A new, Level I trauma center, hospital and ambulatory care center will ensure residents of Flagstaff and the surrounding region continue to receive the high level of medical care they need and deserve. The Health and Wellness Village will improve local access to a host of specialty services and treatments that often requires travel to Phoenix.

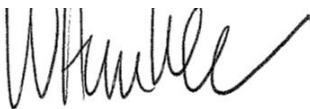
This travel – sometimes requiring an overnight stay – represents a hardship for low-income northern Arizonans and discourages patients from seeking critical care. We're especially mindful of the benefits of this new Health and Wellness Village to the Navajo and Hopi communities, which rely on Flagstaff Medical Center for many of their trauma and acute care needs.

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Sustainability, social justice, inclusion, and equity are values long championed by the people of Flagstaff. AzPHA believes the Health and Wellness Village is consistent with these principles and – via improved access to a wider array of treatments and services – can play an important role in closing gaps in access to medical care and equalizing health outcomes across the community.

The Arizona Public Health Association supports Northern Arizona Healthcare's proposed Health and Wellness Village, and we respectfully ask that you do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Humble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Will Humble, MPH
Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association
Director, Arizona Department of Health Services (2009-2015)