

United States Senate

September 29, 2022

Dear Mayor Deasy and members of the Flagstaff City Council:

I write in support of Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH)'s proposed construction of a new hospital and ambulatory care center in Flagstaff. On a recent tour of NAH's existing hospital facilities, I saw firsthand how critical medical services provided in the ICU could be modernized and improved for residents of Flagstaff and surrounding communities. In meeting with local health care, tribal, and community leaders, it was clear that NAH's new hospital facilities and their larger plans for a Health and Wellness Village would expand access to the highest level of care in northern Arizona and create a new health care destination.


During the pandemic, NAH served as a critical hub for northern Arizonans seeking care, including the most vulnerable patients from our tribal communities and medically underserved areas. New hospital facilities, including an upgraded Level 1 trauma center, will strengthen northern Arizona's preparedness for future pandemics and disasters by creating spaces that can be used for normal hospital operations and quickly adapted to meet emergency needs.

The new facilities will permit NAH to offer expanded clinical care options locally so patients, caregivers, and their families can receive state-of-the-art care right here in Flagstaff, rather than seeking care hours away. For example, members of my staff are working with congressional appropriators to secure federal resources to build an advanced wound care and hyperbaric clinic. Medically underserved communities in northern Arizona, especially Native American tribes, face disproportionately higher rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which can lead to untreated wounds becoming severely infected and necessitating amputations. This new clinic aims to serve thousands of wound patients a year, closer to where patients live in northern Arizona and the Navajo Nation.

I also support NAH's plans to build a new Health and Wellness Village that integrates a holistic approach to health care, housing, business, and recreation to meet the growing needs of the region. Adjacent to I-17 and I-40, the new development will be convenient and accessible to all of northern Arizona, serving as a destination focused on wellness. The Health and Wellness Village is expected to become an important economic engine. At a privately financed cost of \$800 million, the project represents NAH's largest investment in the region's future. Upon its completion in 2045, it is estimated the village will generate \$389 million per year in economic benefit for Flagstaff, including an additional \$4.5 million per year in local tax revenues to fund entities like the Flagstaff Unified School District and Coconino Community College.

I am committed to working with the city to engage federal and state officials to help develop Flagstaff's ability to meet the growing health, transportation, and infrastructure needs of the region. I look forward to working with you to support this important project.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator