



**PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
130 WEST CONGRESS, 11TH FLOOR  
TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317  
(520)740-8126

**RAMÓN VALADEZ**  
COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
DISTRICT 2

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Giffords:

Pima County supports the federal budget appropriations requests being made by University Medical Center (UMC). Specifically, Pima County supports a federal funding appropriation to enable UMC to upgrade its nurse call system. Funding to upgrade UMC's nurse call system for two floors that encompass pediatric patient care, bone marrow transplant patient care and cardiac patient care is essential for Pima County residents. The current system on those patient floors outmoded and can no longer be serviced. Upgrading the system will improve patient care, patient safety and patient security.

UMC is an essential and invaluable community asset in Pima County. Our residents look to UMC to provide vital medical care. In addition, UMC is a disproportionate share hospital—providing care for uninsured and indigent patients. A federal budget appropriation will help ensure that the residents of Pima County and the Arizona's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District receive the medical care they need.

A federal budget appropriation will also help support UMC's profound positive economic impact in Pima County as well. The Economic Impact Study conducted by Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc concludes that the combined operations of UMC, its Diamond Children's Medical Center and the Steele Children's Research Center will create an economic impact of \$5.5 billion over the next five years. On an ongoing basis, these medical and research facilities will create an annual economic impact of \$1.3 billion on Pima County's economy—supporting more than 9,100 jobs and \$486.9 million in annual payroll.

UMC, its Diamond Children's Medical Center, and the Steele Children's Research Center not only provide high quality health care services to residents of southern Arizona and

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
Re: University Medical Center (UMC) Nurse Call System  
March 12, 2010  
Page 2

numerous jobs for local workers, they play an important role in helping the region achieve its economic development goals by creating quality jobs, enhancing local medical research capabilities and enhancing the region's reputation as a great place to live and work.

Pima County residents deserve and have the right to effective and safe medical care at all times. Upgrading the nurse call system at UMC will help ensure that is possible in Pima County and in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Pima County urges you to actively support a federal budget appropriation to enable UMC to upgrade its nurse call system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramón Valadez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R'.

Ramón Valadez, Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors