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DISTRICT 28

February 18, 2010

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

Dear Congresswoman Giffords,

There has been much debate about healthcare reform. A key problem in our healthcare system is the high-cost of prescription drugs. A related problem is the inability of many low-income patients to get to a pharmacy which provides affordable pharmaceuticals. As a result, many patients fail to maintain their prescribed regimen, exacerbating their condition and increasing the cost of their healthcare.

MHC Healthcare (MHC) provides low-cost pharmaceuticals as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and through the 340B drug pricing enabling sliding fee scale patients to receive drugs at prices they can reasonably afford. Many low-income residents on the East side of Tucson are reliant on public transportation. Since the only pharmacy services currently available in the TMC vicinity are commercial pharmacies, there is not an accessible option for low-cost prescription drugs for many of these patients.

MHC is requesting funds to establish a telepharmacy at the MHC Primary Care Health Center/TMC Campus (MHCPC). It is my understanding the proposed telepharmacy will provide comprehensive low-cost prescription drug service to patients served by six MHC satellites encompassing over 145,000 patients. I support MHC Healthcare's request for funding for the telepharmacy and ask for your support of this worthwhile project. MHC's proposed telepharmacy will provide easy and affordable access for patients on Tucson's east side, improving their health and reducing overall healthcare costs as diseases are better managed.

Thank you for your careful consideration of healthcare reform and for your review and support of MHC Healthcare's proposal.

Sincerely,

David Bradley  
State Representative  
District 28