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February 10, 2010

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

Dear Congresswoman Giffords,

I, Ann English, Cochise County Supervisor, District 2, support Southeast Arizona Medical Centers (SAMC) endeavors to solicit public funding to relocate and build a new hospital in Douglas.

SAMC was built in 1910 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary. SAMC is a not for profit critical access hospital providing services desperately needed in the Douglas community. SAMC's Primary Service Area (PSA) not only includes Douglas but the southwest corner of New Mexico as well as Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

For the hospital to continue to provide quality health care, SAMC must expand and modernize its facilities to keep up with the advancements of new technology and be in compliance. SAMC is prohibited from doing so due to the location of the hospital which sits in a flood plain and was originally constructed in 1910 by Cochise County.

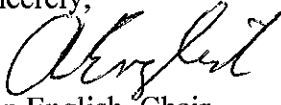
The hospital is a critical component to this community allowing them to seek quality care without the expense of traveling to other cities, creating a financial hardship for most families.

Approximately 64% of the Douglas PSA population is living below or at the Federal Poverty Level, a higher percentage than the county and state. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services Community Profile of 2000, 50.6% of the children in the Douglas area are living in poverty. This is dramatic compared to the county rate of 23.5% and the states 20.0%.

A new facility located in Douglas would be a great asset to the community not only as a modernized hospital but as a draw for new businesses, retirees and families.

Thank you for your support of Southeast Arizona Medical Center efforts to bring a new facility to the Douglas community which will allow the hospital to provide quality healthcare to its citizens,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann English".

Ann English, Chair
Cochise County Board of Supervisors