



City of Maryville, Missouri

415 North Market Street • P.O. Box 438 • 64468-0438

Tele. (660) 562-8001 • Fax (660) 562-3895

March 15, 2023

Congressman Sam Graves
1135 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Graves:

I am writing today to offer support for Northwest Missouri State University's appropriations request for transforming Martindale Hall into the Allied Health Sciences Building. The City of Maryville, like many rural communities in the Sixth District, has long struggled with recruiting and retaining an adequate number of healthcare professionals. This gap, however, has grown substantially since the COVID-19 global pandemic. Leadership of our primary community healthcare provider, Mosaic Life Care, has often remarked that the next pandemic is already here – the mental health pandemic. Now more than ever, Maryville is seeking mental health, behavioral, and population healthcare specialists to help our vulnerable populations recover from an unprecedented two years of societal duress and general uncertainty stemming from the coronavirus emergency.

One way that we can begin to fill the occupational gap in healthcare services is by supporting the efforts of Northwest Missouri State University to educate and graduate the next generation of mental and behavioral health specialists. Students from across the Sixth Congressional District attend Northwest to earn a degree in one of several in-demand healthcare professions, and these areas are growing. This increased demand, however, coupled with years of shrinking state budgets and deferred maintenance, has stretched academic facilities to their breaking point. I understand the State of Missouri has recognized this deficit and budgeted \$8.5 million to rehabilitate Martindale Hall into the Allied Health Sciences Building. To complete the project financing package and help Northwest bring additional healthcare professionals to the region, please consider supporting the proposed project with some level of federal assistance, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Tye Parsons
Mayor

Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville
2016 South Main Street
Maryville, MO 64468-2693
myMLC.com/Maryville
660-562-2600

April 20, 2022


Congressman Sam Graves
1135 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

Rural Missouri is facing a new pandemic – a mental and behavioral health crisis unlike anything we have witnessed before. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing the effects of two years of stress, isolation, and general insecurity throughout our northwest Missouri population. Compounding the problem is a sizeable gap in the regional healthcare professional labor market. Our need for healthcare professionals – and particularly mental and population health specialists – is simply outpacing the number of trained, certified personnel available in the northwest Missouri region.

To help close this gap, Mosaic Life Care fully supports Northwest Missouri State University's project to build the Allied Health Sciences Building in Maryville. By adding capacity to its academic healthcare facilities, Northwest will be able to grow a successful program, confer additional degrees, and ultimately train the next generation of mental, emotional, and behavioral health professionals. This project is critical for the wellbeing of northwest Missouri, and we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nate Blackford
President

NB:lse