

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4323**

April 28, 2021

Disclosure of Financial Interest

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Bridging the Gap to Essential Behavioral Health Services in Rural and Frontier South Central and West Texas Through an Inpatient Psychiatric Facility in Uvalde, Texas in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Hill Country Mental Health and Development Disabilities Centers, located at 819 Water St., Ste. 300, Kerrville, Texas 78028.

The funding would be used to construct a state-of-the-art psychiatric hospital in Uvalde, Texas (Texas U.S. Congressional District 23) to address the absence of inpatient psychiatric beds and services for a significant portion of rural and frontier Texas that stretches from the Bexar County line (San Antonio) to the Texas/Mexico border spanning from Del Rio, Texas to Laredo. The hospital will consist of a total of three 16-bed wings with two 32-bed wings dedicated to serving adults ages 18 and older, and one 16-bed wing serving youth ages 12-17. The facility is designed to add an additional fourth 16-bed wing if the need exists and funding becomes available.

This hospital is intended to serve at least 33 Texas counties of which 12 are in U.S. House District 23 and are adjacent to or immediately surrounding Uvalde County. It will have the capacity to provide short-term crisis stabilization services (1-14 days) and, for persons with more severe psychiatric needs, longer term (15-90 day) psychiatric treatment. With the participation and input of Certified Peer Specialists who themselves have been diagnosed with a mental illness and have experienced involuntary commitments to inpatient psychiatric facilities, it has been designed to be trauma-informed and person-centered from admission to discharge. It will provide evidence-based continuity of services to reduce future crises and recidivism.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress