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October 7, 2016

Mr. Scott McFarland  
Chief Executive Officer  
Western Sierra Medical Clinic  
844 Old Tunnel Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Support for Western Sierra Health Clinic's Section 330(e) Service Area Competition Application (HRSA-17-054)

Dear Mr. McFarland,

I am pleased to offer ongoing support to Western Sierra Medical Clinic, Inc. (WSMC) as you continue to provide quality health care services to residents of rural Sierra, Nevada, Placer and Yuba counties in northeastern California. We also support your continuation funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Community Health Center program.

WSMC currently operates four health clinics, and a mobile clinic, which provide primary health care to the medically underserved rural and frontier areas of northeastern California and is a vital safety-net provider. In addition, WSMC will be adding three new sites – including one in Penn Valley/Nevada County – during the next project period that will expand the region's access to needed health care services to an additional 3,000 patients, accounting for 7,000 patient care visits, based on conservative projections.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including expanded Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and the Health Insurance Exchange (Covered California) have greatly challenged the health care providers in our rural communities. Ongoing financial support provided to WSMC through the Service Area Competition grant, HRSA-17-054, will assist in securing health care for the region's most vulnerable residents.

For more than 40 years, WSMC has been a strong partner in all areas of health and wellness in the region. Western Sierra and believes strongly that outreach, education, and coordination of care are crucial to sustaining access to health care for the residents of the communities they serve. In fulfilling its commitment to the community, WSMC worked closely with the County of Nevada to take over the county-run health clinics. WSMC also played a leadership role in establishing the Nevada County Health Collaborative.

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Letter to Western Seirra Health Clinic

Re: HRSA-17-054

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I urge HRSA to continue your financial support of the organization as they continue their vital work as a safety-net health services provider, regional leader and community partner.

Sincerely,



Dan Miller  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Copied to: Cheryl Rubin, Western Sierra Medical Group