

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

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a New Rural Health Clinic in Aumsville. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Santiam Memorial Hospital located at 1401 N 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stayton, Oregon 97383.

The funding would be used to construct a new, modern Rural Health Clinic in Aumsville, Oregon, to replace the community's existing primary care facility, which is no longer adequate to meet current or future needs. The proposed clinic will be located at 410 Main Street, Aumsville, OR 97325, across from the current site, and will consist of an approximately 7,500-square-foot building with 10 exam rooms, 2 procedure rooms, and 6 clinical support spaces.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Aumsville's population has grown steadily over the past two decades, by 41 percent between 2000 and 2020, driving increased demand for primary care services. In 2024 alone, the clinic supported 10,746 patient encounters. The current facility's limited footprint constrains appointment capacity, disrupts interdisciplinary care delivery, and creates challenges related to patient privacy, accessibility, and staff workflow. These limitations also hinder provider recruitment and retention in a highly competitive rural healthcare workforce environment.

The new clinic will support an integrated primary care medical home model, including chronic disease management, behavioral health services, clinical pharmacy, community health worker support, and telehealth. Approximately 65 percent of patients rely on Medicare or Medicaid, underscoring the importance of stable public investment to ensure continued access to care.

Funding this project is in the interest of taxpayers because it strengthens preventive care, reduces reliance on higher-cost emergency services, and supports long-term community health and economic stability. Project performance will be measured through increased appointment capacity, improved patient flow, enhanced care coordination, provider recruitment and retention, and sustained utilization of local primary care services.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Salinas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS