

Bryan Carleton D.N.P. PMHNP  
Vineland National Center  
Independence, MN 55357

April 2, 2021

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Emmer:

I am a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. I specialize in the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness and comorbid neurocognitive disorders such as traumatic brain injuries and intellectual disability. I recently started serving on the board of Vineland National Center because I would like to see this organization continue to provide vital resources to this vulnerable population. Vineland National Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing treatment for chemical dependency and cognitive disabilities, located in Independence, MN (Hennepin County). Vineland is the only provider in Minnesota that specializes in treating individuals with substance use disorder and brain injuries, serious and persistent mental illness, learning disabilities and other cognitive deficits.

“Vinland National Center requests Community Project Funding for **\$500,000 to enhance long term lifestyle infrastructure** for patients.”

Vinland has continued to operate throughout the pandemic, but at a reduced census due to pandemic related restrictions, burdening our budget for capital improvements. Typically, Vinland serves 55 to 61 patients at a time, but, during the pandemic the census fell into the 20’s, causing a huge budget shortfall. People struggling with mental health and substance use disorder have increasingly relapsed over the last year, further increasing the demand for our services, making the timing for this investment critical.

For over the past 40 years Vinland has served Minnesotans from all over the state and has an extensive list of state, local and private sector advocates. I fully support this investment and your championship of this Community Project Funding request will help Minnesotans struggling with substance use disorder and brain injuries recover and transition back into our post-pandemic society.

Yours kindly,

*Bryan R. Carleton*

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