



**Office of the County Manager**  
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March 28, 2024

Senator Michael Bennet  
Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building  
1244 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80204

Senator John Hickenlooper  
Byron Rogers Federal Building  
1961 Stout Street  
Suite 12-300  
Denver, CO 80294

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper,

On behalf of Eagle County, I strongly support Vail Health's application for Congressionally Directed Support to implement an enterprise Electronic Health Records (EHR) platform. By providing greater hospital interoperability, this system will transform their ability to provide physical and behavioral health care across the rural Western Slope of Colorado and the State.

The 28-bed Precourt Healing Center inpatient psychiatric facility will open in 2025 as the only psychiatric facility between Grand Junction and the Front Range. It will serve both adults and adolescents, and will be the second-largest adolescent facility in Colorado. Vail Health's regional leadership in cancer care, emergency medicine, and orthopedics, as well as their statewide leadership in behavioral health, make interoperability of their EHR an important tool for patient safety and care.

As you are aware, independent hospitals and healthcare systems across the rural United States are facing unprecedented challenges. The increasing costs to provide care, update equipment and infrastructure, and recruit and retain physical and behavioral health providers are causing many hospitals to close or be taken over by large out-of-state conglomerates such as Intermountain, Common Spirit, and HCA. Research has shown that this consolidation often increases costs and reduces the level of care. Rural residents are forced to travel long distances to receive services.



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Eagle County greatly appreciates the work that you do at the Federal level on behalf of our community. We believe that funding the *“Enterprise Electronic Health Record Platform Consolidation to Improve Local, Regional, and State Interoperability of Health and Behavioral Health Care and Decrease the Likelihood of Independent Hospital Consolidation and Loss of Services”* project will greatly benefit our community by providing the best in personal and population health analytics and by creating efficiencies that decrease the likelihood of our independent health system of being consolidated into a large out-of-state system that reduces the services available in our rural community. Thank you for your consideration of Vail Health’s request. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shroll

County Manager