



February 15, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

I appreciate the time that your staff spent with Dr. Jim Turner, Dr. Joe Biggs and Hicham Rahmouni last month reviewing issues of importance to Union Hospital. As was discussed in their meeting with you, I respectfully submit the following Fiscal Year 2011 initiative for your consideration:

Clinical Simulation Laboratory

Union Hospital and its Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health, Indiana University School of Medicine – Terre Haute (IUSOM-TH), Indiana State University (ISU), and Ivy Tech Community College Wabash Valley each have successful programs to recruit students into health care focused careers and particularly to prepare them for service in rural areas. Building on this nationally-recognized record of success, these institutions together with the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation and the City of Terre Haute are jointly developing a Rural Health Innovation Collaborative (RHIC) in Terre Haute, Indiana, to respond to the current and worsening health care worker shortages. In addition to addressing workforce needs, the development of the RHIC will result in neighborhood revitalization and economic development, including physical infrastructure build-out, business expansion and attraction, and the increase of rural health care services, training and research.

In order to bring trainees together and to support the growth of the RHIC member institutions, additional space and equipment is required. The proposed clinical simulation laboratory would allow future physicians in concert with other types of providers to train for a variety of real-life situations. We are grateful for your efforts to ensure that Union Hospital received \$100,000 through the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill to support the establishment of a clinical simulation lab. This funding will be helpful in supporting the advancement of rural-focused medical training capabilities in Terre Haute. To help us complete the project, Union Hospital respectfully requests \$250,000 through the Health Resources and Services Administration account in the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill to advance the clinical simulation lab.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to Union Hospital. If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Doerr".

David R. Doerr
President and CEO

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