



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501    PHONE: (707) 476-2390

February 4, 2020

Office of the Attorney General, State of California  
c/o The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
455 Golden Gate Avenue #11000  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to ask for your support in improving workforce opportunities in health careers, and specifically maintaining the Women and Children's Health Services currently offered at Redwood Memorial Hospital, located in Fortuna, California.

The Board of Supervisors has been made aware of recent community concerns regarding the continuation of Women and Children's services currently offered at Redwood Memorial Hospital. These services not only provide care for the residents of the Eel River Valley, but also the vast majority of Southern Humboldt.

Women's and children's services throughout Humboldt County are facing physician shortages and the challenge of recruiting to a rural community. The Board of Supervisors has concerns regarding the future of these services given the challenges to recruit and retain professionals in our area. The county has long advocated for state incentives that would improve employment opportunities and local health outcomes, such as building education pathways to health careers, increasing training and lowering career barriers for qualified health professionals.

We are fortunate that the Humboldt County healthcare leaders meet regularly and have worked together to address many community challenges, such as substance use disorder. Similar collaboration, including with state leaders, will be needed to address women's and children's services across the county.

We appreciate the important work being done to develop the healthcare workforce and the ongoing investment to enhance healthcare in our community. Considering our unique challenges as a rural community facing critical physician shortages, we respectfully request

that your office continue to engage with Humboldt County healthcare leaders to improve workforce opportunities in health careers and continue to support Women and Children's services currently offered at Redwood Memorial Hospital beyond 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Estelle Fennell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Estelle" and last name "Fennell" clearly distinguishable.

Estelle Fennell, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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