



10:10 AM #1 (23-1121)

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Dear Members of the Fresno City Council,

When Pinedale Elementary School Principal Debra Bolls and Pinedale Community Advocate Linda Amparano shared with me that Valley Health Team was interested in and willing to open a clinic in Pinedale I was thrilled. What an amazing opportunity for this community!

I have such a heart for the students and families of our Pinedale Elementary School. I watch as Principal Bolls and every single person on her staff, both certificated teachers and classified support staff, show up to work every day ready to help our kids in any way possible, providing assistance well beyond classroom education. Knowing we would have a community partner in Valley Health Team devoted to improving the health and well-being of our students gives me comfort and hope that the stress and struggles of this community in need can be further alleviated.

The simple truth is that healthy students are able to attend school. Education is the key to a successful future, and when students must miss school due to illness, that impacts their success in the classroom. As a result, students fall behind and that affects confidence, which means students fall even further behind.

We find that many in the Pinedale community only seek medical care in emergencies and that preventative medicine isn't feasible or convenient for families. Many parents have to take their sick or hurt kids to Valley Children's Hospital which is seven miles away. That may not sound like a long distance but for some of our families it is a struggle, especially if they don't have a vehicle to safely get them from home, on the 41 freeway, and to the hospital. Having a clinic in their own backyard, within walking distance even, will be life-changing for many families. They will have the opportunity to provide their children with preventative medical care, which means getting ahead of illness; providing immunizations, needed medication and physicals; receiving guidance on best health practices; and assessing mental, physical and emotional health to provide parents with advice on next steps for parents to be able to best support their children.

In short, Valley Health Team's clinic will be a game-changer and lifesaver for our families in Pinedale, a community that Clovis Unified School District has wrapped its arms around time and again.

I implore all of you as members of the Fresno City Council to please vote to approve placing VHT's clinic in the Pinedale community.

I would love to discuss this further with you and encourage you to contact me with any questions at 559-327-9103 or corrinefolmer@cusd.com.

Respectfully,

Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District

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