

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

January 29, 2021

Ms. Diana Espinosa  
Acting Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I am writing today in support of Pittsburg State University's application to the HRSA Advance Nursing Education-Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Grant Program. As a former OB/GYN and sexual assault examiner serving in a rural community, I can attest to the necessity of having trained medical staff to produce a sexual offense evidence collection kit. Accurate preservation of sexual assault forensic evidence lead to justice. Also, well trained health providers are the first step for victims on their road to physical and mental recovery.

The Pittsburg State Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing has a strong history of educating students and benefitting communities in Southeast Kansas. This grant would allow the PSU Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners will extend these services to community health centers across the entire state through a robust academic-practice-community partnership. Collaboration with the multi-disciplinary professionals involved in the reporting and care of sexual assault victims is critical to the success of this comprehensive, statewide initiative. Unfortunately, the majority of Kansas counties do not currently have immediate access sexual assault exams or services. This grant will fulfill a very critical need to rural and underserved counties.

This is a very unfortunate issue that I know very well, and it remains near and dear to my own heart. During my time in Congress, I have been a champion of the *Violence against Women Act* and have hosted roundtables on emphasizing the work of the SOAR to Health and Wellness Training program offered by the Office on Trafficking in Persons at the Administration of Children & Families. I whole-heartedly believe that we need to improve and expand services to victims and educate health care providers. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, M.D.