

ED PASTOR
4TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA



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E REPLY TO:

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0304
(202) 225-4065

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

CHIEF DEPUTY DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

411 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 150
PHOENIX, AZ 85004
(602) 256-0551

May 24, 2010

T-00000A-10-0017

ORIGINAL

Commissioner Kristin K. Mayes
Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Arizona Corporation Commission

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MAY 26 2010

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

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Dear Commissioner Mayes:

I am writing to express my support for Community Information & Referral's request that the Arizona Corporation Commission designate CIR as the lead 2-1-1 entity in Arizona (the "Lead 2-1-1 Entity"). This designation may ultimately make CIR eligible for federal funding, which is needed to increase CIR's capacity to accept the increase in calls that would result from CIR's promotion of its 2-1-1 number.

As I am sure you know from the information CIR has provided to you, CIR has been providing information and referral services to the residents of Arizona since 1964. Just this year, CIR acquired the operations of Tucson's local information and referral agency. CIR is now operating statewide.

Information and referral services, like those provided by CIR, are critical to Arizona's communities. People call CIR not knowing exactly where to turn for help. Trained CIR operators assess the needs of callers and help them find the assistance they need. I encourage you tour of IR's facilities and listen to a few calls. You would quickly see the value of the service that CIR provides.

Arizona is one of only three states that do not have a functioning 2-1-1 dialing system in their communities. CIR handles thousands of calls each month from individuals throughout the state. In March, CIR's 24-hour helpline answered 22,695 calls for help. With the designation as the Lead 2-1-1 Entity in Arizona, CIR would have taken an important step toward building a 2-1-1 system here. People would easily learn to dial 2-1-1 when they need any health or human services. This easy access would be the single most important advancement the Commission can make to help people in need of social services. When trying to feed a hungry family, a parent could do without the stress of searching for the right number to dial. 2-1-1, like 9-1-1 and 4-1-1, is easy to remember, even in a time of great stress.

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By _____

Community Information & Referral is well positioned to act as the Lead 2-1-1 Entity. CIR is an existing, experienced, and respected non-profit, community-based organization. CIR has been doing the work of a 2-1-1 system for more than 45 years, is currently operating across the state, is a nationally accredited information and referral agency and has been active in discussing and promoting the development of a 2-1-1 system in Arizona through community meetings statewide and with many well-respected community partners. All of this groundwork makes CIR the best candidate for Lead 2-1-1 Entity in Arizona.

I fully support CIR's application to be designed the Lead 2-1-1 Entity in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pastor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

EP/msc