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Hansell and Barreto Bring Home Funding for Elgin Health Clinic

Salem, OR – Friday, July 3, the Oregon Joint Legislative Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction proposed the amendment for HB 5005, the Capitol Construction Lottery Funding Bill, which awards the bonding funds. This amendment listed construction projects around the state that would be awarded funding from the state of Oregon. Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) and Representative Greg Barreto (R-Cove), along with four members of the Elgin community, appeared before the Joint Capital Construction Subcommittee on April 1st to ask for \$1.25 million to fund a new Health Clinic in the community of Elgin. Friday, their request was granted.

“I am very excited about the inclusion of funding for Elgin’s Health Clinic in HB 5005,” Sen. Hansell said. “When Greg and I were invited to come to the clinic in Elgin and tour the facility, we could tell a bigger clinic was needed. The current facility was crowded and lacked adequate space to accommodate the growing health needs of not only Elgin but the surrounding communities. Rep. Barreto and I, along with four members of the health district, testified on the importance of this project. The Committee heard our request and agreed it was worthy of funding. This proposal of \$1,250,000 will go towards construction, site work, and the planning of the new facility.”

With these funds, Elgin will be able to expand the clinic to 8,000 square feet and will house five dental chairs; a dental lab; a sterilization room for two dentists and hygienists; four exam rooms; a procedure room with a blood draw area; a medical lab for medical providers; a new large room for physical therapy; a pharmacy room (something Elgin has not had in over ten years) with drive through window for easy and quick access; a room designated for mental and behavior health; an area for x-ray work; a larger waiting area with a place for children; added office space for medical assistants and billing; as well as an area for increased storage.

“This is a great project for the county and especially for those in Elgin and a great win for rural Oregon. It is impressive to see the way Elgin has modified and used the existing facility for years,

looking forward and hoping for better facilities to service the health needs of the community,” said Rep. Barreto. “It is also extremely encouraging to see the homegrown nurses, practitioners and doctors that have come back to serve the communities they grew up in and in their chosen field of medicine. I want to thank my colleagues Sen. Bill Hansell, Rep. John Huffman and Rep. Greg Smith who all put in a great amount of work to make this happen.”

HB 5005, the bill dealing with Capital Construction projects, had a series of hearings related to different sources of money (school bonds, general obligation bonds, and lottery bonds). Elgin Health District, a voter-created non-profit, was established in 2008 with the purpose of building a new Health Clinic. The project totals \$2,500,000; however, through foundation grants and community resources, the panel only needed to seek half the funding.

Elgin’s Health Clinic was one of ninety-five projects funded this session and was one of over three hundred projects proposed.

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