

## To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of continued County funding for the **American Diversity Group (ADG) Free Medical Clinic** and the renewal of its contract with **Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services** for Fiscal Year 2027. My perspective comes not as an outside observer, but as a student volunteer whose academic and professional path has been profoundly shaped by time spent serving patients at ADG. When I first began volunteering, I was searching for meaningful exposure to patient care. What I found was far more impactful than I expected. At ADG, I have assisted with patient intake, triage, vital sign collection, chronic disease screenings, and health education while working alongside dedicated physicians, nurses, and healthcare staff. These responsibilities were not observational; they required attentiveness, accountability, and compassion in real

clinical situations.

More importantly, ADG taught me lessons that cannot be learned in a classroom. I learned how to approach care with cultural humility and empathy while serving uninsured families, immigrants, refugees, and individuals managing complex chronic conditions. Many patients arrive with limited access to consistent healthcare, language barriers, and understandable hesitation.

Building trust in those moments showed me that medicine is not only about clinical knowledge, but about dignity, patience, and human connection.

This experience has played a defining role in shaping my goals in healthcare. As a student pursuing a future in medicine, ADG has helped me develop the core competencies expected of future physicians:

communication, ethical responsibility, teamwork, and a deep understanding of health equity. The clinic's structured

environment and mentorship from licensed professionals make it a true training ground for students who are serious about serving their communities.

Beyond my own growth, ADG serves as an essential academic and professional pipeline. Its partnerships with universities and its hands-on training model create opportunities that are rare and invaluable for students seeking real clinical experience. Many volunteers go on to competitive medical and health professional programs, not simply because they accumulated hours, but because ADG prepared them for the realities of modern healthcare and instilled a service-first mindset.

At the same time, ADG remains a lifeline for vulnerable residents of Montgomery County who would otherwise face significant barriers to care. The clinic reduces strain on emergency services, provides preventative care and education, and ensures that

members of our community are not left without support due to financial or systemic limitations. Its impact reaches far beyond the walls of the clinic.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge County leadership to renew ADG's contract and restore its FY27 funding. Losing this program would mean losing both a critical healthcare resource for underserved populations and a transformative training environment for students committed to health equity and service.

I believe deeply in ADG's mission and impact because I have witnessed it firsthand. I hope you will continue to support the work that allows both patients and future healthcare providers to thrive.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Aman Verma