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Assemblymember Steve Bennett delivers $6 Million in State Funding for Westminster Free Clinic

SANTA PAULA, Calif.— Assemblymember Steve Bennett convened leaders from the City of Santa Paula, Santa Paula Unified School District students and staff members, and community healthcare advocates at Westminster Free Clinic's Santa Paula site to celebrate the delivery of $6 million in state funding secured for Westminster Free Clinic.

"I am so proud of our students in training who are helping uninsured people in Ventura County have access to free healthcare and health supporting services as they work alongside amazing volunteer medical practitioners. Our volunteer healthcare practitioners mentor the youth, support their growth and show them the joy of making a meaningful difference. We all feel so inspired and grateful for the wonderful people in our county who choose to help others," said **Lisa Safaeinili, Executive Director of Westminster Free Clinic**. "We are so very grateful for this financial support to keep fulfilling our mission of helping people stay well and offering a career pathway and great future for our local youth," she emphasized.

The ceremonial check presentation highlighted state-backed investments designed to support public health infrastructure and workforce development. The funds will enable Westminster Free Clinic to strengthen its facilities, expand critical, cost-free healthcare services for underinsured and low-income residents, and invest in its youth healthcare career training program for local Ventura County students.

"Access to quality healthcare and economic opportunity go hand in hand," said **Assemblymember Steve Bennett**. "By investing $6 million in Westminster Free Clinic, we are not only expanding immediate, free medical care for residents who need it most, but we are also investing in Ventura County's youth. Training local high school students creates a direct pipeline of future healthcare professionals who will stay, practice, and serve right here in our local communities."

Through its two-year internship program, Westminster Free Clinic provides high school students with hands-on clinical experience, working alongside volunteer doctors, nurses, and specialists. The program acts as a vital workforce development pipeline, preparing many first-generation college students for high-demand careers in nursing, medicine, and public health.

"No one should have to put their health aside because of financial circumstances. That is why our clinic is so important," shared **Santa Paula High School student and Westminster Free Clinic intern, Giselle Alvarez.** "It's about compassion, dignity, and making people feel cared for. This internship has inspired me to pursue a career in healthcare, where I hope to continue helping others and giving back to our community."

The event featured remarks from Assemblymember Bennett, Westminster leadership and board members, and Santa Paula Unified School District students and staff members.

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Media Resources:

- Available for download via:
    - https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/9dsx65p6408l8o338w7xk/AM_3DbTTXW0oquRmfNptPM0?rlkey=by5q7nqt93toqur0u5wc3c8lf&dl=0