



March 25, 2010

Hon. Brian Higgins  
US House of Representatives – 27<sup>th</sup> District  
431 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

I write in support of Kaleida Health's appropriation request to purchase a *da Vinci*® robot for cardiothoracic surgery on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. The equipment will be part of the organization's new heart and vascular institute, which is currently under construction next to Buffalo General Hospital. Investment of federal dollars would be a major boost to health care as well as economic development for the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Unfortunately, Western New York has the highest incidence of heart disease in New York State and one of the five highest incidence rates in the United States. The new facility – along with its equipment – is designed to improve quality and outcomes for the residents of Western New York.

The heart and vascular institute will bring together Kaleida Health physicians and University at Buffalo researchers in a collaborative effort to deliver state-of-the-art clinical care, produce major breakthroughs on the causes and treatment of vascular disease and spin-off new biotechnology businesses and jobs.

The *da Vinci*® surgical system will provide surgeons and patients with what may be the most effective, least invasive treatment option for even the most complex cardiothoracic procedures. Among the benefits of *da Vinci*® cardiothoracic surgery are: reduced risk of infection, shorter hospital stay, less pain and scarring, faster recovery and return to normal activities.

With your help, Kaleida Health can continue to build on their previous successes and provide a healthy future for our community. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this worthy request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen DiPirro', written in a cursive style.

Colleen C. DiPirro  
President/CEO  
Amherst Chamber of Commerce