



November 29, 2008

TO:

Durango City Council &  
Ron LeBlanc, City Manager

Dear Councilors and Mr. LeBlanc:

The League of Women Voters has long believed that “a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents”. The current Health Services Clinic has been relatively successful at doing just that for residents of Durango and La Plata County – and is presently operating at a loss. If on-going efforts by local groups such as the Citizens Health Advisory Council, the Health Services Steering Committee and Mercy Regional Medical Center are successful, the clinic should become self-supporting within the next couple of years.

Meantime, the Clinic is sorely needed, and sorely needs temporary support. There is currently no other primary care facility accepting new Medicare patients, and the Clinic helps to provide care for at least some of the uninsured and underinsured in our community, a much better alternative than the emergency rooms.

We realize that in the present economic climate, you, the City, have tough calls to make as you prepare your budget. However, we would request that you do your utmost to find a way to maintain support for this valuable community asset.

Thank you,

Jill Patton  
Healthcare Committee Chair  
LWV of La Plata County