

City of Forney
101 E Main St.
Forney, Texas 75126



May 2nd, 2023

To Senator Bob Hall and Representative Keith Bell,

We are writing to express our strong support for the allocation of state funds to construct a new facility to replace Terrell State Hospital. The aging buildings at the hospital have been a matter of concern for decades, and a 2004 physical assessment revealed that 76 percent of the campus buildings were in critical or poor condition. Additionally, the 2014 CannonDesign Report on all state hospitals recommended the replacement of the hospital.

With most of the campus buildings dating from the 1920s through the 1970s, the hospital is faced with excessive maintenance costs and high energy consumption, which are significant financial burdens. Furthermore, the current layout of buildings across a large area of the 160-acre campus necessitates the need for additional staffing and supplies, resulting in unnecessary operational costs.

Since its opening in 1885 as the second mental health facility in the state, Terrell State Hospital has been providing a wide range of essential services. The hospital offers a dedicated veteran's unit and is the only facility in the state that serves children and adolescents from 31 counties.

Given the increasing construction costs each year, we firmly believe that a new state hospital in Terrell is a critical need. It is imperative that the project receives the necessary funding to commence the planning and construction of a replacement facility. While state funding is available, we urge you to lead the charge for a new facility that will enable Terrell State Hospital to continue its long legacy of providing progressive and compassionate care to the mentally ill.

Respectfully,
Forney City Council

Amanda Lewis, Mayor

Zahnd Schlensker, Mayor Pro Tem

Cecil Chambers

Daniel Efthimiou

Sandi Primous

Sarah Salgado

James Traylor
