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November 10, 2022

VNS Health  
107 East 70th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Friends:

I congratulate VNS Health on 129 years of providing compassionate care to New Yorkers on the occasion of your 2022 Gala. The largest not-for-profit provider of home- and community-based health care in the nation, VNS Health does an outstanding job providing invaluable service to nearly 43,000 individuals and families throughout New York State every day.

VNS Health has provided a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our society since its founding on Manhattan's Lower East Side in 1893 by Lillian Wald, a pioneer in the fields of social reform, nursing, and public health. As chair of the Assembly Health Committee, I know its work well. It has been an innovator in nursing care; prenatal, maternal and child health; elder care; chronic disease care; physical therapy; behavioral health care; home health services; and hospice and palliative care.

Last year, VNS Health proved again how vital it is to the health of New York. VNS provided almost one million clinical visits to 104,922 patients. The care provided has led to greater health equity, outcomes, and allowed so many New Yorkers to remain safe and healthy in their homes and communities. VNS Health played a vital role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and will be essential to the response for any future public health emergency.

I join the friends, supporters, and employees of VNS Health in recognizing the achievements of this year's distinguished Lillian D. Wald Awardees Eugenie F. Doyle, MD, Board Member Emerita, VNS Health and Stephen A. Warnke, Partner, Ropes & Gray LLP in recognition of their significant contributions to the health and welfare of others.

Congratulations to VNS Health on another great year fulfilling your mission, and my best wishes for an enjoyable evening!

Very truly yours,

Richard N. Gottfried  
Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health