

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

Dear Friends at VNS Health,

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to VNS Health on the occasion of your 2026 Benefit and to recognize more than 130 years of extraordinary service to New Yorkers. Since Lillian D. Wald founded VNS Health in 1893, the organization has remained true to her vision of ensuring that every New Yorker, especially our most vulnerable neighbors, has access to compassionate, high-quality care. Today, that mission is stronger than ever. VNS Health serves more than 100,000 patients, members, and clients each day, helping New Yorkers live, age, and heal in the comfort and dignity of their own homes and connected to their families and communities.

The scale and impact of their work is remarkable. With more than 11,000 dedicated employees, VNS Health provides care across 55 counties in New York State, delivering millions of hours of home health care and serving New Yorkers of every generation and background. From home health and behavioral health services to care for veterans, older adults, new parents, and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, VNS Health demonstrates what it means to put people and communities first. I am especially proud of VNS Health's commitment to the Bronx and the communities I represent. Your Nurse-Family Partnership supports first-time parents in the Bronx, while your behavioral health and community-based programs ensure that New Yorkers who too often fall through the cracks can access the care and support they deserve. Your commitment to serving transgender and nonbinary New Yorkers through the GAP Program is another powerful example of meeting people where they are with dignity and compassion.

The more than \$66 million in support provided in 2025 through VNS Health's Charitable Care and Community Impact Programs is a testament to what can be accomplished when an organization, its supporters, and community partners come together to invest in New York's most vulnerable residents. I also congratulate Richard Park, MD, on receiving the Lillian D. Wald Award. Named for the visionary founder of VNS Health, this award honors individuals who embody a commitment to improving the health and welfare of others.

I hope you take pride in knowing that VNS Health continues to carry Lillian Wald's vision forward more than a century later. Your work makes New York healthier, stronger, and more compassionate. Congratulations to VNS Health, Dr. Richard Park, and everyone who has contributed to this extraordinary organization and its enduring mission. I wish you a successful and memorable 2026 Benefit.

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress