

Letter to the Editors—

My name is Andrew Pirotte. I am a fourth year medical student at the University of Kansas in Kansas City, Kansas. During my recent stay in Tribune, I had the opportunity to attend the community meeting regarding your April 5th vote on the mill levy. I will leave any thorough discussion of the proposition to the hospital and committee boards, but would like to add my voice of support to Greeley County Health Services. I also offer you this column in gratitude for my time in Tribune.

I first visited Tribune for a six-week period in the winter of 2009. I was a third year medical student rotating for my family medicine clerkship. During my time here, I was amazed at the positive community interactions, the clinical skill of my professors, the excellent educational opportunities, and the cohesion of the healthcare system.

My clinical experience during my third year in medical school was outstanding. It led me to see Tribune as a jewel in the educational mission of KUMC. Then, as a fourth year student, I requested another four weeks in Tribune in order to maximize my clinical education during my final year in medical school. Tribune offers one of the best rotations available to KU medical students, and the people are

welcoming and warm. I was offered countless homemade dinners, complimentary housing, and many simple kindnesses by the citizens of Tribune.

Regarding the value of this environment for a student familiar with the urban medical environment: it was eye opening to see rural healthcare up front. I was pleased to find the quality of care in Tribune is outstanding. Greeley County Health Services clearly provides care on par with larger, urban hospitals. The providers are incredibly well versed in up-to-date, evidence-based medicine. The nursing staff is knowledgeable and efficient. The ancillary staff is diligent and helpful. And it seemed to me, with rare exception, that the patient satisfaction was high because the providers display a deep dedication to their patients and their community. As a doctor in training, it is inspiring to see such an example, and motivates me to better myself, my devotion to my profession, and my support of my community.

Regardless of how the vote goes on this particular funding issue, please accept my thanks. I am forever grateful for the opportunity your community provided me.

— Andrew Patrick Pirotte, Senior Medical Student, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Class of 2011