

April 17, 2020

Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Kris Monteith
Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai and Ms. Monteith,

I have been alerted that West Virginia University (WVU) Medicine has submitted a grant application for funding through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. This letter is a written expression of my support for their application.

As you are already aware, rural communities like those across the state of West Virginia have unique challenges when it comes to accessing healthcare services. This funding would go far to help the caring staff at West Virginia University (WVU) Medicine bridge the existing gaps and provide healthcare services to even the most rural West Virginias through telehealth.

With the unprecedented necessity to distance ourselves from one another at this time, telehealth services will be vital to keeping our rural communities healthy and safe.

I sincerely appreciate you noting my interest in this application and affording it a full and fair review. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

cc: Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks