

May 6, 2021

Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
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

RE: Support for Minnie Hamilton Health System COVID-19 Telehealth Program Grant Application

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Ms. Monteith,

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for Minnie Hamilton Health System's COVID-19 Telehealth Program grant application.

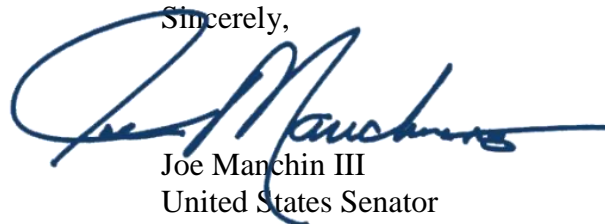
For over a year, health professionals have been fighting the pandemic on the front lines, and they have had to innovate quickly to protect the health and well-being of all Americans. This investment would make a significant contribution to reducing emerging health disparities and provide quality healthcare in West Virginia's rural communities.

West Virginia is a wonderful place to live with vibrant, caring communities that value connection. However, the lack of broadband access is providing an obstacle for our health providers to furnish telehealth services. Ironically, the same things that attract people to live and work in my beautiful state – our tall mountains, lush forests, rolling hills and roaring rapids – make broadband deployment astronomically expensive. This grant will help Minnie Hamilton Health System overcome these obstacles and better serve the health and wellbeing of their patients.

Minnie Hamilton Health System should be a priority for this grant. They serve a rural community, operate a Critical Access Hospital and Federally Qualified Health Center, and are a Round 1 unfunded applicant. Additionally, they serve a low income population with Calhoun County having an over 21% poverty rate.

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 feel free to contact me, or Audrey Smith (audrey_smith@manchin.senate.gov) from my staff, if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

cc: Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks
Commissioner Nathan Simington

JMIII/ph