

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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October 24, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

This letter is intended to be a public comment and included as part of the administrative record of Docket No. 16-290. In doing so, we write to ask that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acts expediently when considering making additional spectrum available in the 1.4 GHz band for Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS). Wireless Medical Telemetry Services are critical to ensuring that patients receive the best available treatment. Many healthcare facilities across the country are experiencing WMTS saturation and any alternative use of 1.4 GHz spectrum could risk interference to these critical systems. Most WMTS devices operate in this band and making additional spectrum available will ensure that hospitals and medical personnel in both rural and urban areas can continue to provide critical services.

WMTS has become an essential tool that enables doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers to remotely monitor critical indicators of a patient's health, such as cardiac monitoring, fetal monitoring and basic vital signs such as respiration rates or pulse. These devices are widespread and used for important, life-saving care regimens that allow doctors and nurses to detect changes in a patient's condition and respond quickly and efficiently based off the patient data these devices provide. One of the most striking examples of the crucial benefits of WMTS is that the odds of surviving an in-hospital cardiac arrest are twice as high for patients being monitored by a WMTS device.

Positive patient outcomes aided by WMTS are not just limited to patients residing in hospitals and healthcare facilities. Remote patient monitoring is truly changing the lives of rural Americans. The Commission recently stated that "[i]t's becoming harder to recruit doctors to serve rural communities. It's becoming harder to keep rural hospitals afloat. And so it's becoming harder for many rural patients to get health care." Remote patient monitoring is already facilitating better patient outcomes in rural communities by allowing patients to stay in their homes while simultaneously being connected to their primary care doctor. And data shows that by giving patients more mobility and keeping them out of emergency rooms, WMTS is also helping to lower the healthcare costs of those patients.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands of patients in hospitals, healthcare facilities across the country being monitored by devices that only operate properly if the 1.4 GHz spectrum is free of

interference. Making additional spectrum available will ensure this is the case, while also unlocking additional monitoring capacity and driving innovation in health care. As Members of Congress whose constituents are directly impacted by the lack of available spectrum in this area, we ask, within all applicable rules and regulations, that the Commission swiftly considers Docket No. 16-290 in regards to spectrum availability for the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS). Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

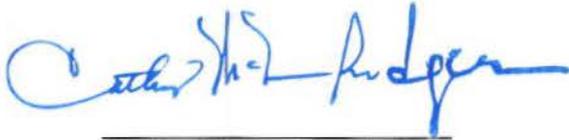
Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



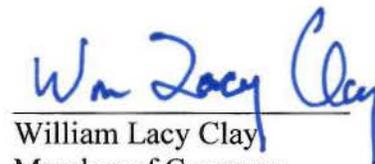
Joe Barton
Member of Congress



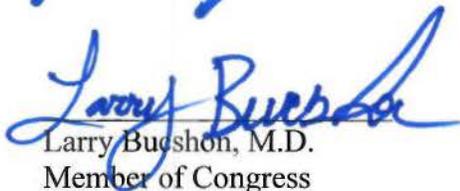
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Tom Rice

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

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Paul Cook

Paul Cook
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