

TROY BALDERSON
12TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

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April 21, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room 8-C453
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write in support of Third Street Community Clinic's application for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Since 1994, this community health center has provided accessible and affordable health care to my constituents most in need; this critical provider currently serves 20,000 patients as a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Third Street Community Clinic has been proactive in its response to the pandemic. Its health care professionals manage quarantined patients, ensure those who need it are tested, and maintain continuity of care for chronic care patients. Importantly, this clinic also provides care for patients who are displaced within the health system due to facility closures or loss of health insurance coverage during this economically unstable and unprecedented time.

If granted the award, Third Street Community Clinic will use these funds to fulfill an immediate need for video conference equipment. This alone will drastically improve access to care in my district. Additional funding would support building out telehealth infrastructure capacity and fully integrating a telehealth platform that could expand care to the highest risk populations in Ohio's 12th Congressional District. Not only would this equipment mean health care providers could reach new populations, it would reduce the burden on hospitals and emergency rooms – a critical piece of minimizing community spread of the coronavirus.

It is vital to support facilities like Third Street Community Clinic, which continues to serve the community I represent during the pandemic. Increased telehealth capabilities will ensure access to care for my constituents while minimizing patient exposure to the coronavirus. I am confident that Third Street Family Community Clinic will continue to lift up the communities in Ohio's 12th Congressional District and help flatten the curve, particularly if it is granted this important opportunity by the FCC.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Brittany Madni in Congressman Balderson's office at madni@mail.house.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Balderson". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and "B".

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress