

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Geoffrey Starks
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Michael O’Rielly
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

To the Federal Communications Commissioners:

The bipartisan Nevada Congressional delegation realizes the imperative state of emergency our country is in and the necessary means that must be implemented in the state of Nevada to successfully conquer the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States Center for Disease Control reported on March 18, 2020 that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had spread throughout China, with 191,127 confirmed cases and approximately 7807 deaths globally, putting a huge demand on hospitals, clinics, alternative resources and health care processes, in particular, telehealth demands, both urban and rural locations. Today with almost 2 million confirmed cases and 120,000 deaths, the strain on our health care facilities is extraordinary and extremely burdensome.

According to ResearchandMarkets.com the telehealth industry is experiencing unprecedented demand amid the COVID-19 outbreak and as a result of lockdown regulations. Because of this mounting public urgency, health care providers are experiencing increased volumes of both sick and worried-well patients that is straining hospital care units and medical equipment supply chains. Telemedicine systems can be used to prevent overcrowding while preventing human exposures and facilitating high-quality care.

By implementing telehealth systems, Renown Health can focus on addressing the needs of low-acuity patients with disease exposure concerns and can mitigate and prevent overcrowding in emergency departments, urgent care clinics, and primary care clinics while providing the

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

reassurance and guidance that patients are seeking. Telemedicine can also be used to address the ongoing health care needs of patients with chronic illnesses to reduce in-person clinic visits. Such uses of telemedicine reduce human exposures (among health care workers and patients) to a range of infectious diseases and ensure that medical supplies are reserved for patients who need them.

Aside from addressing the needs of low-acuity patients, Renown can also bring specialty care services to patients being cared for in areas without access to such care. Telemedicine systems will significantly improve the triage, treatment, and coordination of care for patients with confirmed COVID-19, especially in low resource areas.

The FCC funding opportunity will allow Renown Health to expand on the existing telemedicine program it has in order to provide virtual services for all patients and providers across the care settings. The funding will provide telemedicine access in various settings including but not limited to: Emergency Departments, Intensive Care, Skilled Nursing, Home Health, Hospice, Primary Care, Specialty Care, and home. The funding will go towards required equipment, infrastructure, and technology to expand the virtual care offering in Northern Nevada (remote monitoring devices, virtual platform expansion and licensing, broadband connectivity, laptops, iPads, and other telemedicine technology).

Renown will use the federal funding to:

- stand up a virtual COVID-19 screening portal for patients staffed by licensed physicians;
- implement remote monitoring for in-home settings as well as within the acute setting; with connected vitals being actively monitored by care team;
- implement telemedicine across all service settings to convert in-person outpatient clinics to consumer virtual appointments; and
- purchase equipment and devices in order to support an influx of care providers and allow the technology for them to deliver virtual care from any setting (including home if they are exposed and need to be isolated).

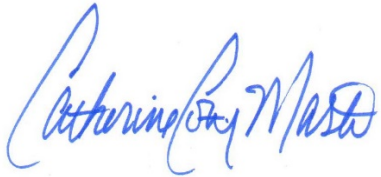
This will support the expansion of care that can be provided to our community and will work in alignment with Renown Health's current alternate care destination project which is converting the Renown parking garage into a 1,400 bed facility to be used for the COVID-19 response. The FCC funding would be extremely valuable to ensure all patients in the community have access to appropriate care.

The Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology also supports these efforts.

We appreciate your consideration of FCC funding to further the efforts so necessary to our communities and the families in need of medical care and assistance. Please reach out to us, or our staffs, if you have any questions.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United State Senate



Mark Amodei
United State House of Representatives