

KATIE PORTER
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FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
AND CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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April 24, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I appreciate your leadership to quickly administer the \$200 million COVID-19 Telehealth grant program created in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As you know, that funding is intended to immediately support health care providers responding to the pandemic by delivering telehealth services. The grants may be used to purchase telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to enable the provision of telehealth services during this emergency period. Health systems continue to work on expanding telehealth services, and I am writing in support of Memorial Health Services (MHS) COVID-19 telehealth grant application submitted on April 17, 2020.

MHS is a non-profit 501(C)(3) integrated health care delivery system that provides medical services to over one million patients throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties each year. With over 200 sites of care and four hospitals, one of which I am proud is in my district, their mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and our communities through innovation and the pursuit of excellence. They serve a critical role in Orange County, and it is essential that we do all we can to support their work during this time.

Our community needs to be able to access care in their homes, and our providers need the tools necessary to make this possible. In response to the need to increase telehealth and with flexibility from CMS waivers, MHS started to expand telehealth from both their medical offices and hospitals.

The telehealth funding program will assist in expanding on the success of the current telehealth program at MHS in response to COVID-19 pandemic. I thank you for your consideration of the Memorial Health Services submission FRN 0029406451_Memorial Health Services_04172020, and I want to discuss what this program could do for MHS and for Orange County patients: MHS providers are now performing over 500 telehealth exams and consults each day when they went live in March 2020 with telehealth. More appointments would be possible if MHS could provide updated technologies, such as tablets, further integrated into their electronic medical record system. This would reduce administrative time, increase patient access to appointments, and reduce patients needing to cancel due to logistical issues. Requested funds would be put towards additional security licenses and software to protect patient information for devices, as well IT platforms for the intake of patient symptoms to organize for a provider to quickly

process. All together, the application further demonstrates developing efficiency in managing patients in a virtual care model and growing telehealth access to more patients.

It is essential that we support our providers during this difficult time, and I thank you for taking the time to consider MHS' request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Porter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress