

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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April 24, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write in support of the COVID-19 telehealth grant application submitted by Memorial Health Services (MHS) on April 17, 2020. During this public health crisis, this funding, as provided by the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is critical to assist eligible providers in purchasing the necessary telecommunications services, information services, and devices to enable telehealth services.

MHS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) integrated health care delivery system that provides medical services to more than one million patients throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties each year. With more than 200 sites of care and four hospitals, including many in my congressional district, their mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and our communities through innovation and the pursuit of excellence.

The State of California declared a state of emergency on March 4, 2020. Furthermore, Governor Newsom issued a statewide stay home order on March 19, 2020 without a specified end date. Due to the high population density of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, there is an increased risk of COVID-19 community transmission. In response to this heightened risk and the resulting need to ensure public safety by transitioning toward greater utilization of telehealth services, MHS has already started to expand telehealth from their hospitals and medical offices.

The requested telehealth grant program funding would help MHS expand their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, MHS providers are performing more than 500 telehealth exams and consults each day. It is my understanding that more appointments could be serviced each week through further integration of updated technology into their electronic medical record system to reduce administrative time, increase patient access to appointments, and reduce patient cancellations due to logistical issues. Additionally, the requested funds would include additional security licenses and software upgrades to protect patient information and technology platforms to facilitate the efficient intake and organization of patient symptoms.

I appreciate your leadership in administering the \$200 million appropriated by the CARES Act to provide immediate support to health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. I ask that you give MHS's application full and fair consideration consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress