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May 1, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing in support of Saint Francis Health System's grant application under the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

Saint Francis Health System, Inc. (Saint Francis) is a not-for-profit health system wholly owned and operated in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is the largest healthcare provider in the state of Oklahoma. Saint Francis employs over 417 physicians and 121 advanced practice providers which serves the region with over 90 locations throughout eastern Oklahoma. The Saint Francis Health System primary service area covers Cherokee County, Craig County, Creek County, Haskell County, Mayes County, McIntosh County, Muskogee County, Okmulgee County, Rogers County, Sequoyah County, Tulsa County and Wagoner County. All of these counties are either a primary care healthcare provider shortage area, a mental healthcare provider shortage area or both.

Eastern Oklahoma, already with health provider shortage areas in all of the counties listed above and with several rural hospitals closing in the last 24 months, has been extremely challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic. Saint Francis has been providing a vital service by rapidly scaling up virtual visits through video and telephone to allow the citizens of Oklahoma to seek appropriate care while following CDC and State guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. In the first two weeks of April alone, Saint Francis provided over 8,400 video visits to patients across Eastern Oklahoma. Over 98% of Saint Francis' patients using video visits for Behavioral Health or Primary Care video visits are living in a healthcare provider short area. 58% of patients utilizing Saint Francis' video visits have one or more risk factors for COVID-19. Saint Francis is also providing iPads to COVID positive patients in their hospitals to allow them to communicate with their caregivers and family members. These are essential services to vulnerable populations and must be supported.

The FCC's assistance in covering some the costs of the tools and infrastructure necessary to support this service through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program would provide Saint Francis

additional resources to continue to expand services for patients. I ask that you strongly consider the application from Saint Francis Health System as they continue their innovative work to respond to this national emergency. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Lankford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

James Lankford
United States Senator