April 24, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We are writing in support of Chaddock Attachment and Trauma Services’ (CATS) application for COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding from the Federal Communications Commission. This federal funding will enable Chaddock to create a telehealth Virtual Care Center (VCC) to reach the rural underserved counties of Adams, Brown, Hancock and Pike, located in western Illinois, with a combined population of 105,282.

CATS is proposing to provide direct services to over 400 clients daily thorough a variety of mental health and child welfare programs. CATS currently has 45 youth residing in its residential congregate care environment, who could be connected to their primary care physicians virtually for treatment. This initiative would enable the community to comply with the state’s stay at home order and avoid in-person visits to medical clinics, while lowering the burden being placed on the health care system.

The VCC would also be used by Chaddock caseworkers to support youth in care with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Through the system CATS will be able to visually monitor youth for signs of abuse and neglect, provide therapy related to the trauma of the pandemic, and support parents in maintaining contact with their children through virtual visits.

Please give full and fair consideration to Chaddock Attachment and Trauma Services’ application. If you require additional information, please contact Senator Durbin’s Chicago Director, Clarisol Duque, at Clarisol_Duque@durbin.senate.gov and Senator Duckworth’s Chicago Director, Loren Harris at Loren_Harris@duckworth.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator