

JACK REED
RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS

ARMED SERVICES

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

May 29, 2020

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Washington, DC:

728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3903
(202) 224-4642

Rhode Island:

1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920-3074
(401) 943-3100

One Exchange Terrace, Room 408
Providence, RI 02903-1773
(401) 528-5200

1 (800) 284-4200

TDD Relay Rhode Island
1 (800) 745-5555

<http://reed.senate.gov>

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

RE: FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program Application GRA0007837

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write in support of Brown Emergency Medicine's (BEM) application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused concern among patients that are afraid to come to the hospital to seek medical care. Emergency department volumes have decreased locally and nationally, and these delays in seeking care can result in avoidable complications, particularly among the most vulnerable patient populations.

BEM is working to develop a new emergency medicine telehealth service to provide physician expertise to patients of all ages, across even the most remote parts of the state. Funding through the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program would help expedite this effort by helping to underwrite equipment costs, including computers, tablets, headsets, and hardware devices that would allow BEM to care for patients virtually. With this investment, BEM would develop this novel emergency medicine telemedicine program to better serve patients and improve health outcomes throughout the state.

I support BEM's proposal and its continued efforts to enhance its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ask that you thoroughly consider this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator