

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
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May 27, 2020

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

RE: Augusta University's Grant Application for the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing in support of Augusta University's application for the Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program Grant. With the requested funding, Augusta University will be able to use point-of-care ultrasound equipment (POCUS) with broadband connectivity to diagnose and treat patients with COVID-19 in real time. This will allow for immediate review of the ultrasound imagery and consultation with experts at Augusta University's main campus.

Georgia faces health care disparities and telemedicine is one promising advancement. The proposed project would deploy ultrasound technology operated by students from the Medical College of Georgia into communities that have a disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases. Through these telemedicine and diagnostic components, Augusta University can make great progress in rural healthcare, enhancing the skill of our healthcare workforce while preventing the spread of COVID-19.

I respectfully request that you provide their application your full consideration and I thank you for your continued work to expand telehealth services.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

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RE: Augusta University's Grant Application for the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing in support of Augusta University's application for the Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program Grant. With the requested funding, Augusta University will expand its telemedicine program to include patients most at risk for COVID-19 within its Chronic Disease Management program.

Georgia faces health care disparities and telemedicine can be deployed to reach underserved populations. The proposed project would utilize internet connected devices to monitor patients' blood oxygenation, pulse rates and respiratory rates remotely. This will assist with the overall health of the patient and help to detect the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. Since launching its app-based COVID-19 telemedicine system in March, this research institution has screened more than 14,000 Georgians.

By harnessing technological innovation, this initiative furthers the mission to empower rural communities by improving the quality of life for residents throughout the state. Therefore, I respectfully request that you provide the application your full consideration and I thank you for your continued work in telehealth.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress