

TOM RICE
7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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556

June 26th, 2020

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my interest in CareSouth Carolina, Inc.'s application for the COVID-19 FCC - Telehealth funding opportunity. This funding will allow CareSouth Carolina to enhance its telehealth infrastructure and expand patient access.

Since 1980, CareSouth Carolina has provided healthcare access to local residents. CareSouth Carolina is a federally qualified healthcare center that provides primary care, preventive services, and integrated behavioral health care to medically underserved residents in the rural, northeastern Pee Dee region of South Carolina. Counties served include Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Lee, and Marlboro. The services CareSouth Carolina provides are essential due to the high poverty rate in these rural areas. CareSouth Carolina plays a key role in improving the health and overall well-being for those in the area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CareSouth Carolina conducted approximately 41% of patient visits via telehealth. Such use is projected to continue. With this funding, CareSouth Carolina will be able to enhance its telehealth capacity and expand patient access by distributing smart phones with internet connectivity. This expansion is estimated to reach 14,951 patients across twelve sites and five counties.

I look forward to seeing the positive impacts telehealth will provide to the residents in the Seventh District of South Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

GRAND STRAND REGIONAL OFFICE:
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I would request that the Federal Communications Commission give the application full and careful consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Specialists, Brittany Ferrigno, at (843) 445 – 6459.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "R".

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

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